



Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council

General LAC Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 8390 3845 | Passcode: 22425

Recorded Meeting [Link](#)

Quick Recap

The meeting opened with introductions from various participants and updates on recent activities, including an August in-person meeting that featured resilience skill-building exercises led by a PureView licensed clinical counselor, Grace H. The Steering Committee discussed importance of in-person meetings and intension of polling members again this year. Shelby from the Montana Nonprofit Association presented on topic of volunteer recruitment and engagement opportunities for community council and nonprofits; sharing insights on volunteer motivations, engagement strategies, and frameworks for matching volunteers with suitable opportunities. The discussion concluded with information about upcoming initiatives, events, and volunteer opportunities, including focus groups for early childhood education and law enforcement-assisted diversion programs, as well as plans for a Council membership and the September Fest event.

Next steps

- Jolene to send out information about using LAC funds for Montana Nonprofit Association membership or expanded program for voting members to access training.
- LAC voting members to vote within the next 30 days to use funds for Montana Nonprofit Association annual membership.
- Jillian to have Alyssa Spies to send out information about the two focus groups for Criminal Justice Services initiatives.
- LAC members to consider volunteering for Criminal Justice Services focus groups on early childhood education and law enforcement assisted diversion programs.
- LAC members to consider volunteering for United Way's September Fest on September 12th-14th.

SUMMARY

Steering Committee and Leadership Updates

The meeting began with introductions from various participants, including Jolene Jennings, Lieutenant Adam Shanks, Emily Dean, Julie Burr, Jillian Dani, Ashley Valley, Heather Huntuff, Jacob Miles, Annette Lockett, Shelby Regala, Drenda Neiman, and Aaron Olson. Jolene mentioned that Erin had been newly elected as the Lac vice chair and that the steering committee had met with him last week.

Nonprofit Engagement and Community Building

The meeting began with Jolene providing an update on the August in-person meeting, which included a licensed clinical counselor from PureView who led skill-building exercises and mindfulness practices. Jolene emphasized the importance of in-person meetings for building resilience and connection among community members. The group discussed plans for future in-person meetings, with a focus on polling members for their preferences. Erin then introduced Shelby from the Montana Nonprofit Association(MNA), who was asked to present on topic of

volunteer recruitment in addition to engagement opportunities for council and nonprofit organizations. Shelby conducted a brief survey of the audience's nonprofit experience and began her presentation on MNA's role in supporting the nonprofit sector.

Montana Nonprofit Association Overview

Shelby presented an overview of Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA), highlighting their role in supporting nonprofits through public policy advocacy, training, research, and networking. She explained MNA's membership benefits, including access to resources, discounts, and the Partner for Good Directory. Shelby also showcased MNA's website and emphasized their commitment to providing technical assistance to nonprofits across Montana.

Volunteer Experiences and Growth

The group discussed their favorite volunteer experiences, with participants sharing diverse activities including emergency preparedness drills, organizing eyeglass donations for children, hosting community events, and supporting educational programs. Shelby, the facilitator, shared her experience serving on a ski instructor association board's equity committee. The discussion highlighted how volunteer work can lead to personal growth, community impact, and professional development opportunities, with Jolene noting how her board position helped her complete a strategic plan while balancing work and graduate studies.

Volunteer Recruitment, Motivation and Retention Strategies

Shelby discussed volunteer motivations and engagement strategies, highlighting the importance of creating meaningful, fun, and relationship-building experiences. She presented research on volunteer motivations, including values, career development, social connections, self-enhancement, and protection, emphasizing the need to design opportunities that appeal to multiple motivations. Shelby noted that organizations across the state are struggling with volunteer recruitment and retention, particularly for board members, and asked attendees to share their experiences with volunteer recruitment in Lewis and Clark County.

Shelby discussed challenges in volunteer recruitment and retention, noting that many communities have shifted social norms since 2020, making it harder to engage people in in-person events. She introduced two frameworks to help match volunteers with suitable opportunities: understanding volunteer motivation and considering volunteer capacity. Shelby explained the capacity framework, which categorizes volunteers based on their time commitment and connection to the organization, emphasizing the importance of recognizing that volunteers can move between various levels of involvement over time.

Shelby presented a comprehensive overview of volunteer management, outlining four volunteer types: champions (high connection, high time), advocates (high connection, limited time), specialists (low connection, high time), and rookies (low connection, limited time). She emphasized the importance of creating diverse volunteer opportunities to accommodate different capacities and levels of engagement, while also highlighting key strategies for volunteer retention including meaningful impact, enjoyment, clear logistics, and personal connections. Shelby concluded by noting Montana's strong tradition of volunteering and encouraged organizations to focus on making volunteer experiences meaningful rather than viewing it as a generational challenge.

Nonprofit Opportunities and Volunteer Engagement

Shelby, a representative from a nonprofit organization, visited the meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities and answer any nonprofit-related questions. Jolene mentioned the possibility of

using remaining funds for a Council membership that would provide access to trainings, which will be voted on in the next 30 days. Jillian shared information about upcoming focus groups for initiatives related to early childhood education and a law enforcement-assisted diversion program and offered to provide more details via email. Emily from United Way promoted the upcoming September Fest event, seeking volunteers and highlighting various activities planned for the weekend.

Public Comments

- Two focus groups at Criminal Justice Services focus groups on early childhood education and law enforcement assisted diversion program-flyers and invite coming from Alyssa Spies, CJS.
- LAC members asked to consider volunteering or attending United Way's co-sponsored **September Fest** on September 12th-14th in downtown Helena.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 | [Zoom](#)

Participants:

Erin Olson, Jillian Danesi, Heather Irby, Heather Hundtoft, Suzanne Morgan, Drenda Niemann, Emily Dean, Emily McVey, Annette Lockett, Lt. Adam Shanks, Richard Miltenberger, Julie Bir, Ashley Valle, Jakob Miles, Jadin VanSteenwort.

Guest Presenter-Shelby Rogala, MNA. LCPH/LAC BH Staff-Jolene Jennings,

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