



## **Meeting Summary**

### **Lewis and Clark BH Local Advisory Council**

#### **Meeting summary for LCC BH Local Advisory Council (10/01/2024)**

#### **Quick recap**

The Local Advisory Council (LAC) held a meeting in October, where Matt presented on the Central Service Area authority and its connection to the LAC. The team also discussed the structure and function of the LAC, the role of service area authorities, and the importance of collaboration and stakeholder input in service implementation. Plans were made for an upcoming legislative forum, with a focus on sustainable funding for services and the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion.

#### **Next steps**

- Matt and Carrie to identify a potential Legislative Forum event format, date, time, and location by December.
- Matt to recruit additional volunteers to help plan the Legislative Forum.
- Drenda to explore reserving Health Department spaces for the Legislative Forum if needed.
- Continuum of Care work group to identify and prepare individuals who have benefited from Medicaid expansion to speak at the Legislative Forum.
- Jolene to send past Legislative Forum planning documents to Matt and Carrie.
- LAC members to reach out to Matt if interested in helping plan the Legislative Forum

#### **Summary**

##### **Local Advisory Council October Meeting**

Jolene, Jadin, Matt, and other members of the Local Advisory Council (LAC) convened for their October meeting. Jolene checked with Matt about presenting his slides, which he agreed to do. Introductions were made, including a new staff member, Rachel. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Matt was scheduled to present on the Central Service Area authority and its connection to the LAC. A conversation about an unspecified topic was postponed since Jadin was on call. Jolene thanked Matt for his planned presentation.

##### **Lewis and Clark County Local Advisory Council Discussion**

Matt discussed his involvement in the Lewis and Clark County Local Advisory Council, which he joined after experiencing difficulties with the behavioral health system for his family members. He praised the council's diverse representation from various support services and law enforcement, and highlighted the council's resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic. Matt also mentioned the Central Service Area Authority, a law passed in 2006 to create a conduit between the local and state levels for service management. He noted that the model has since shifted, requiring the authority to adapt as well.

## **Local Advisory Council Structure and Function**

Matt discussed the structure and function of the Local Advisory Council, emphasizing its role as a stakeholder board with a majority of members having a behavioral health challenge or being family members. He highlighted the council's collaboration with the county and the Behavioral Health Advisory Council, which manages funding for behavioral health services across the state. Matt also explained the division of the state into three service areas, each responsible for coordinating services in their respective regions. He clarified that the Behavioral Health Advisory Council provides input on how funds are distributed, but the service area authorities are the direct conduit to the Department of Public Health Division. Jolene was tasked with sending out a list of the counties and tribal nations in each region for further reference.

## **Service Area Authorities and Collaboration Challenges**

Matt discussed the role and function of service area authorities in collaboration with the Department and local advisory councils. He highlighted their responsibilities in planning, implementing, and evaluating regional public mental health care within budget constraints, as well as promoting consumer and family leadership within the public mental health system. Matt also emphasized the importance of collaboration, voting power, and the provision of information and training. He discussed the challenges faced by community program officers due to the recommissioning of local advisory councils and the need for a dedicated person to reinvigorate struggling councils. Matt also emphasized the importance of behavioral health grant recipients engaging with the Service Area Authorities to ensure consumer and family member input in service implementation. He concluded by discussing the need for state recognition of mental health service needs, funding for the local Advisory Council, and the Mental Health Block Party.

## **Staff Support, Involuntary Admissions, and Legislative Forum**

Matt expressed gratitude towards the staff support provided by the county, particularly highlighting Jolene's advocacy and the contributions of Jess Hegstrom, Julie, Drenda, and Jill Steely. Jolene then discussed the presentation on involuntary admissions that was found to be used as a guide by DPH, emphasizing the importance of sharing it widely. Matt and Carrie discussed the upcoming legislative forum, seeking help from others on the local Advisory Council to invite people and develop an agenda. They also mentioned the need to express their needs and hopes for legislation to their elected officials. Matt proposed a meeting format similar to the past, which had been successful. The meeting was initially planned for 7:30 in the morning, in the first or second week of December, at a neutral and friendly location for all stakeholders. Matt questioned whether this time and date would be suitable, and if another date would be more appropriate. Jolene clarified that December 3rd, a Tuesday, was the proposed date, which coincided with their regular meeting day. Carrie suggested holding the meeting earlier in December to avoid the holiday season.

## **Exploring Venues and Priorities for Upcoming Event**

The team discussed potential venues for an upcoming event, with Matt suggesting the St. Pete's Public Library or the College of Technology. Carrie emphasized the need for good parking at the venue. They also discussed the need for facilitation and support for invitations, with Matt suggesting the involvement of individuals with lived experience. Jolene offered to share her past agenda and planning documents for guidance. Drenda proposed two spaces at the Health Department for the event but noted that they could only accommodate up to 30 people. She also offered to assist with invitations and other aspects of the event. The team also discussed the work group's focus on sustainable funding for services, particularly the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion. They planned to identify and prepare community members who have benefited from Medicaid expansion to

share their stories at the Legislative Forum in December and during the session. Matt agreed on the importance of maintaining Medicaid expansion and the potential impact on people. Jolene suggested that the work groups could focus on one priority topic each year.

## **Upcoming Event, Personal Stories, and Planning Groups**

Jolene discussed the upcoming event and asked Carrie to share her personal story. Carrie mentioned she would not attend the next policy and advocacy workgroup meeting due to training and encouraged others to join that group. Matt was tasked with recruiting members for the legislative forum planning group, which will likely be held in December. Jolene offered to provide documentation but couldn't lead the planning efforts again this year due to existing commitments with work at the Public Health.

Drenda reminded everyone about the upcoming screening of the documentary "**Invisible Shield**" on **October 8th at the Myrna Loy, and encouraged everyone to consider attending a viewing or two taking place on 10/8, 11/12/2024 and final viewing with future focus on 1/7/2025**

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## **No November General LAC Meeting-**

**\*Next General LAC Meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

**Remote Meeting on Zoom**