



Meeting Summary

Lewis and Clark BH Local Advisory Council

September 3, 2024 11:30-12:30 PM - Zoom ID: 860 8390 3845 : Passcode: 22425

Meeting summary for LCC BH Local Advisory Council (09/03/2024) [Video Link](#)

Quick recap

The meeting began with introductions and a discussion on the behavioral health continuum of care and the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion in Montana. The group also discussed the importance of Medicaid expansion, the need for advocacy efforts, and the work of the pillar work groups. Other topics included the utilization of mini grants, the policy and advocacy workgroup, an upcoming summit for service area authorities, and various events and announcements.

Summary

Organizational Introductions and Holiday Greetings

Jolene opened the meeting, wishing everyone a good holiday weekend, and mentioned that the meeting would start in a few minutes with more expected to join meeting. She handed over the meeting to Jadin, who welcomed everyone and invited introductions. Various organizations were represented, including Lewis and Clark Public Health, Jg. Research, Peer View, Rural Behavioral Health Institute, Aware, Mountain Pacific Quality Health, Family Promises, Behavioral Health Central Service Area Authority, Good Samaritan Ministries, and PureView Health Center. Jolene also mentioned that Drenda and Emily had some PowerPoint slides to share during the meeting.

Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Discussion

Jolene introduced the spotlight presenter, Drenda and Emily, who discussed the behavioral health continuum of care and the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion. Drenda explained the connection between insurance coverage and access to care, while Emily presented information from the Montana budget policy. The group's strategic work focused on engaging the community in the reauthorization efforts and understanding the current status of reauthorization for the upcoming legislative session.

Montana Medicaid Expansion and Rural Impact

Emily discussed the Medicaid expansion in Montana, which is set to sunset next year. She explained that the expansion, which covers about 90,000 people, was initially aimed at providing coverage for extremely low-income individuals but was later expanded to include moderately low-income people. The expansion has been a topic of conversation for several years, with some proposed requirements, such as enrollees having to report that they are working, never being implemented. Emily noted that the conversation around the expansion has become less dire as time goes on, with people feeling more confident that the expansion will not be lost entirely. She highlighted the importance of the expansion in increasing the use of mental health, chemical dependency, and behavioral health treatment, as well as keeping rural hospitals open. Emily also pointed out that two-thirds of the people on the expansion are in rural communities and that two-thirds of employers have

someone working for them who is on the expansion program. She concluded by noting that the Federal Government picks up 90% of the expansion cost.

Medicaid Expansion Advocacy and Grassroots Efforts

Emily and Drenda discussed the importance of Medicaid expansion and the need for advocacy efforts. Drenda highlighted the work group's efforts to identify individuals willing to share their stories or testify during the session. Jolene and Carrie S expressed interest in contributing to the advocacy efforts. Matt emphasized the importance of building relationships with legislators and stakeholders. Linda from Helena Indian Alliance shared her experience at a legislative forum and the concern about the possibility of Medicaid expansion not being renewed. Nikolas suggested Stacey Anderson from the Primary Care Association as the best point of contact for coordination efforts. Jolene then discussed the pillar work groups, including the community engagement group led by Todd, which aims to engage new providers and promote the work of the Lac. Todd elaborated on the group's plans, including educational meetings and grassroots efforts to engage with new providers.

Utilization of Mini-Grants and Reporting Discussion

Matt and Todd discussed the need for better reporting on the utilization of mini grants from the Central Service Area authority. They considered the possibility of splitting up work groups for easier reporting, but also acknowledged the potential complexity this might introduce. Jolene clarified that the funds were not from a specific treasurer, but from the Public Health, and that they had received \$2,400 in general funds, with \$700 remaining. She suggested that this remaining amount could be used for strategic planning and informational brochures. The team agreed to send out a communication outlining their intended use for the funds. Jolene also mentioned the possibility of applying for a separate mini grant under the Lac umbrella. The team decided to bring up the idea of a financial report once a year in the next meeting.

Policy Workgroup, Legislative Forum, and Congress Update

Jolene and Matt discussed the policy and advocacy workgroup, with Carrie S expressing her excitement for a meeting the following day. They also discussed the upcoming Legislative Forum, with Matt inviting others to join. Jolene emphasized the need for written funding requests for projects, with a suggested limit of \$50. Matt then provided an update on the Congress, which had recently concluded, and discussed the upcoming summit and the establishment of new local advisory councils within their region. He also mentioned that the Congress had reestablished their goals and celebrated their work.

Upcoming Summit and Behavioral Health Systems Report

Matt discussed an upcoming summit for service area authorities, scheduled for September 24-26, and encouraged participation. Jolene then presented the finalized report for the behavioral health systems for future generations, HB 872 Commission report, which was sent to the governor's office for approval. The report contained eleven near-term initiatives, with 9 approved and 22 recommendations for long-term behavioral health systems and disability services. Drenda offered to share the report on her screen to assist Jolene's presentation.

Discussing Document Review, Position Changes, and Events

Jolene discussed the importance of reading a 64-page document and advocating for changes. She also mentioned that Jess Hegstrom has moved on from her position at the public Health suicide prevention work, and Allie Mullen is taking over. Jolene encouraged everyone to share their events and challenges for September's suicide prevention month with Ali. Ali, who is taking over the calendar, requested that any events or activities be emailed to her. Erin announced two events hosted by the Montana peer network, and Matt suggested registering for free membership on the Montana peer network's website.

Public Health Role Announcement and Summit

Julie announced the open position at Public Health for Jess's role, with applications closing on September 13th. Drenda announced a series of screenings and facilitated discussions on public health hosted by Public Health on September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, and January 7th at the Myrna Loy Center. Emily from United Way promoted the upcoming Housing is Healthcare Summit from October 7th to 11th with various sessions available for registration. Jolene reminded everyone about the next LACHIP meeting on October 1st and encouraged registering for the Housing is Healthcare Summit sessions.

Next steps

- Lac members to identify individuals in the community who have benefited from Medicaid expansion and are willing to share their stories or testify.
- Carrie and Matt to meet and begin to plan the Legislative Forum slated for early December. More engagement needed to make happen contact Carrie Steere at carrie@goodsministries.org. or Matt Furlong -mhighlanderiii@msn.com.
- Work groups interested in funding to submit brief written proposals in email to Jolene for up to \$150 per workgroup use of remaining strategic planning funds from CSAA FY24 Operational Funds to LAC for Strategic Planning Process in FY24. Please note subject line in email as LAC Funds
- Ali Mullen to compile and distribute a calendar of suicide prevention events for September.
amullen@lccountymt.gov
- LAC members consider attending and registering for the Housing is Healthcare Summit in October-register thru St. Peter's Health website.

Thank you!!!

AI-generated content may be inaccurate or misleading-initial review/edits JJ..

Next Meeting: October 1, 2024 11:30am-12:30pm remote only via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86083903845?pwd=iHYrpvGAoqpaSIP8GCLbKySxaa5yFE.1>