

Dawson County MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 16, 2015 – MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Gina Whittle, new Psychology and Addictions Professor at DCC joined in for the first time.

Brief Old Business:

Purposes and Objectives of LAC were handed out and reviewed

2015 Survey of Membership results that were approved last meeting were reviewed. We have about 20 regular invitees. When needed we also may invite others such as our Mayor and Sheriff. NAMI did not yet have Support Group Leader Training in Billings (or Helena?) so we are still waiting to launch.

New Business Round Robin:

- After adding discussing adding to next month's agenda moving ALL future LAC meetings to the Mental Health Center public meeting room, Chair initiated Round Robin.
- Antonia brought up pending funding request for local crisis beds/services—we should know more in October—and training opportunities.
- Al brought up Dr. Swarney leaving and three nurses who are helping with Rx. *Also brought up huge issue of pain management lack of services in any reasonable distance from us.* Also brought up issue regarding an inmate's discharge and lack of service plan.
- Cindy asked about where we are with the desired NAMI support group and Pete reported after much going back and forth with NAMI leadership that this year they did not provide leader training required to become a NAMI Support Group. She also brought up that Day Treatment participants are concerned about not being treated with professional courtesy by unspecified providers. Pete asked for Who, What, Where and especially When information as the last time he approached law enforcement on a similar concern, investigation found that the incident that was reported as if it happened last month was actually 15 years ago. Al pointed out that without resolution; to clients it is still as real as if it were yesterday. Pete pledged to assist if there are a few more details.
- Gina brought up that she is considering starting a TORCH program as it seems there are huge needs in eastern Montana.
- Tim will leave for his new life in Minnesota at some unspecified time in the future. From his workplace he sees a rise in addiction to some opiates. Responded to questions about MCDC in Butte with about a 4 week wait for admission and also mentioned there are two 'state beds' at Rimrock but the wait time for them is often 8 weeks.

Adjournment

On adjourning we set the next meeting for 3rd Wednesday of October (21st) at EMCMHC.

As mentioned, at that meeting we will decide if all future meetings would best be held there?