

April 15, 2014 MINUTES FOR THE VALLEY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH LAC

Present: Colleen Forrester (NCILS), Melanie Fisher (Mental Health Center Case Manager), Bruce Peterson (County Commissioner), Renee Jones (Glasgow PD), Tyler Edwards (Glasgow PD), Karla Thompson (Public Health Nurse), Pam Lee (FMDH) and Libby Carter (Regional Manager for Children's Mental Health Bureau) via speaker phone.

Libby Carter explained part of what she does with the Children's Mental Health Bureau. Stated the 1915I program will be coming to an end and that the children and families involved in this program currently will be transitioned into other existing programs and resources. The Wraparound program that was being looked at for this area, will not come to be. If you have further questions regarding the discontinuation of this program, she asked that you contact Zoe Benard, the Bureau Chief. If you have other questions for Libby, she can be reached at 406-254-7028.

Tyler and Renee talked about a new program for troubled youth (up to 21 years old). A youth can be housed safely in a room at the LEC for up to 14 days while resources are put in place to help this child and family. These kids will be not under arrest, but under duress. Two people will be hired to staff the program and be on call around the clock. This program will work closely with law enforcement, Youth Dynamics, Hi-Line Homes, the schools, a local clergy who is being additionally trained, and other resources available.

The minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Tyler made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Melanie; carried.

Bruce informed us that a 20 bed facility is being looked into for somewhere in Eastern MT. This would be an extension of Warm Springs. He has gone to several meetings with the Governor's Office and is in the early stages of discussion. Funding is an issue. He will keep us informed.

Colleen handed out information on the "In Your Own Voice Program" from NAMI. This program consists of one-hour presentations by trained speakers who share their experiences of living with mental illness. The presentations include a brief video, and they are always offered at no charge to interested groups: providers, consumers, faith groups, schools, and community groups of all kinds. Please contact Jack Shifflett, Assistant State Coordinator at 406-543-6211 for further information.

Melanie noted that Drug Court is being looked at as an option here. Other communities have had success with this program.

Next ESAA Board meeting is on April 22, 2014.

The annual congress/conference will be in Billings on May 13th. If you are interested in attending contact Colleen ASAP as registrations are due the 22nd.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be July 15, 2014 at 12 Noon in the FMDH Board Room.

Submitted by: Pam Lee, RN