# Southern St. Louis County LAC

## Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022

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| Present: | Bert Brandt, Carly Hiti\*, Justin England-Sullivan, Kathy Wilson, MaKenzie Johnson, Moira Villiard, Roger Raymond Jr., Sonja Wildwood\*, Taylor Soghigian, Traci Laughlin  \*- Facilitator |
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1. Welcome and check-in
2. Business Items

* Carly summarized recent member poll results which had included questions regarding meeting time preference, barriers for attending monthly meetings, and suggestions/feedback. Group further discussed meeting times and agreed to keep the 5:00-6:30 PM time.
* Members are interested in in-person meetings beginning next month, hybrid meetings preferred. The county can host in-person, hybrid meetings at this time.
* Commissioner Boyle is interested in attending a meeting to hear the group’s report; Gena Bossert has asked about dates for this meeting. The group discussed & agreed the June meeting will include a run-through of the written report for LAC members and an August meeting will be held to present the report & recommendations to the Commissioner.
* The county has offered additional county participants at monthly meetings if desired by LAC groups, a social worker or supervisor who could offer detail/answer questions/provide additional support if needed; discussion followed as to whether this was seen as a need and how members felt about it overall. Consensus was that direct service providers may be helpful to have available on occasion when there are specific questions, but not at every meeting.
* Sonja received an email from Healthstar Home Health in Duluth, they have a BHH program that has current openings with no waitlist.

1. Annual Report

* Discussion regarding the agreed-upon importance of sharing narratives/qualitative lived-experience stories as opposed to only facts & figures. Narrative is seen as a powerful tool.
* Sub-committee has met, Taylor reported they talked about the survey and how to best make it available to people both online and in printed form. Carly and Kathy have volunteered to write the survey and volunteers have stepped forward for tables/events. Timeline: final draft of the survey will be brought to the next meeting for approval.
* Sonja reported that the county has requested the yearly report/recommendations be structured in a format of items the county needs to improve in terms of service provision; community needs; and what the group sees as legislative or bigger systems changes needed. Kathy suggested the survey design can facilitate this report format. Carly suggested further group discussions regarding legislative/bigger systems changes. Areas of concern brought up tonight included the need for therapists/services to be culturally relevant, insurance requirements as a barrier (to assessments and services), difficulty accessing resources & programs for adolescents with SUD diagnosis, and minors often not accessing care due to the requirement of parental consent.

**4. Check-out and action items for next meeting**

Action Items:

* Sub-committee to complete rough draft of survey and present for approval at next meeting
* Co-facilitators will let Gena know the group can meet with Commissioner Boyle to present report & recommendations at the August meeting
* Co-facilitators to let Gena know the group may be extending periodic invites to SLC direct service providers to address specific questions as needed
* Sonja will be forwarding the email from Healthstar Home Health to all members
* Sonja will bring the areas of concern discussed tonight regarding adolescents accessing mental health services to the ABHI sub-committee that she is a part of
* Next meeting will be hybrid virtual/in-person

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:22 PM**

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| **Next meeting:** | **4/21/2022**  **5:00pm-6:30pm**  **St. Louis County St. Louis River Room**  **Duluth GSC, 2nd Floor**  **320 W 2nd Street**  **Duluth, MN 55802**  **\*option to attend via Zoom continues** |