Local Advisory Council (LAC) - North

St. Louis County

February 18, 2021

Present: Claudia Skalko, Michelle Long, Jeff McNickle, Jessica Meyer, Tod Swenson, Wendy Dickhausen, Daniel Triestman, Ann Marie Lubovich, Jennifer Rich, Lacy Podlogar

Tod said Bill Jacobson will no longer be on the LAC Council due to time constraints. Claudia did reach out to Robin Laulenen and Christina Gunderson but no response from either member. According to By-Laws, two missed absences without notification is reviewed and voted on by LAC members to terminate their membership. All present members voted to terminate their membership. All three will be removed from the membership list.

Any time you will miss a meeting, please contact Sandy Tuin by email to let her know you cannot make the meeting. tuins@stlouiscountymn.gov

Claudia asked about using the last list to replace the members that were terminated. Sandy Tuin said she would ask at the meeting with County staff on Monday, February 22nd if we could use the old list or if a new one was needed. Sandy explained the website was being worked on and people would be able to apply through the website when new members are needed. We are down 4 members.

Minutes approved.

Claudia read the values of the LAC

Clarity Project was presented by Gena Bossert (St. Louis County), Diane Holliday-Welsch (working with SLC) and Julie Wilson (Human Development Center)

Information was provided about the Clarity Project that is in the works in Duluth. The State funded 3.6 million in bonding and then an additional 1.6 million was received in funding for this project. This sounds like a lot of money, but is not a lot when you are building a new structure to include everything you want to see in the project.

The County would own the building but there would be other service providers that would occupy the building and provide the services. There may be a few financial workers at the building to assist clients when they need help with applying for benefits. The funding would not need to be paid back as long as the building is used for 30 years and services are being provided.

Gena's contact info: BossertG@StLouisCountyMN.gov (218) 726-2085.

Hoping to have the building ready in 2022 but lots of work needs to go into this before the building can be built. The County is looking at 4 different properties in Duluth right now that could be potential sites for this building.

Slide Presentation attached regarding the Clarity Project.

Tod talked about the MN DHS LAC website. It has a guidebook on their website that we could use. https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/mental-health/resources/lac.jsp

Scroll down to the LAC Resources – click on Local Mental Health Advisory Council Guidebook Page 35 is Creating Recommendations – use this to guide us when we are tackling one of the priorities we talked about like Police/Law Enforcement.

Tod asked how to help improve treatment of people with mental illness by laws enforcement.

Discussion on what it takes to do this:

Money, policy, education with law enforcement, partner with someone to help guide the situation when there is someone with mental health needs.

Told spoke to Chief Scott Johnson from Grand Rapids Police Department (email was sent to LAC members by Tod) and Chief states they treat a mental health situation like a medical issue and not a criminal issue.

Tod showed us the website of the Barbara Schneider Foundation and the training that they do with Law Enforcement, but it is very costly to send Law Enforcement to these trainings.

http://thebarbaraschneiderfoundation.org/

Question was asked about how much training does the police departments need to have. 48 hours of training every 3 years. 16 hours are for crisis intervention and mental health.

Next steps:

Tod will come up with a survey and send out to all members to approve before the next meeting. Survey will be sent to all local Law Enforcement Agencies to find out where each Department is having issues and see if the Council can work with the Departments on finding a solution. This will also let the local agencies know that the LAC Council exists and that they are willing to work together to make things better.

Tod will call Chief Estey of the Hibbing Police Department and see if he would be willing to come and speak at the next meet on March 18th.