Local Advisory Council (LAC) – North

St. Louis County

April 15, 2021

Present: Claudia Skalko, Michelle Long, Jeff McNickle, Tod Swenson, Daniel Triestman, Ann Marie Lubovich, Jennifer Rich

Absent: Wendy Dickhausen, Lacy Podlogar, Jessica Meyer

Approved the meeting minutes from February and March 2021

Claudia read the values of the LAC

Sandy introduced Melanie Smith to the meeting. Melanie will be taking over for Sandy in September taking notes, etc. She will be the note taker for the next 1 year term. Sandy will remain as back up if Melanie cannot attend.

Sandy told the LAC that we were working on the website to get it up and running. Sandy wanted to know if instead of having Tod’s email address for the contact person, set up an email address like the South has then this way Tod and Claudia can both access the account. When their terms are up as co-facilitators, then the next facilitators could access the same email address. Tod and Claudia were ok with getting that set up. Sandy said she would check with the South LAC and see how they have the email set up as I would think you would need to have a password to access the email account.

Sandy also wanted to know if everyone would be ok with their names listed on the LAC Web page. It would only include the members name and no other identifying information.

Sandy also told the Council that we are working on getting the applications on the website too in order for people to start applying for the 4 positions that are vacant at this time. Wanted to know how long we should keep the application open (1 or 2 months)?? Want to give enough time for people to apply and actually know that there is openings on the North LAC Council

Sandy will email all the members to ask if they want their name to be included on the website and how long everyone thinks we should keep the application open on the website. Once all the members respond, we will get that information on to the person setting up the website and also include the information in the minutes.

Council members wanted Sandy to ask in the next LAC Follow-Up Meeting if we would be able to meet in person. Wondering if they could meet in the Conference Room at the GSC in Virginia. If not there Daniel said we could meet at his church. There would be enough space to social distance. If not all members are comfortable in meeting in person, would need to have to make sure others could meet by zoom. Sandy will follow up on that request.

Tod started to talk about the recommendations – he did a word document and he did send out all this information to the Council tonight.

Looking at urgent care and maybe not so much long term inpatient beds as long term beds are not sustainable and would have a hard time finding people to work at those facilities.

Buildings recommended for places for urgent care – Mesabi Academy and possibly some other buildings like the Virginia or Eveleth Schools once Rock Ridge School is built. Eveleth Fitzgerald Nursing Home might be another possibility.

Duluth Clarity Project won’t necessarily be a fit for people on the Range due to the distance and being able to get people transportation to Duluth.

How do we fund this? Anne Marie mentioned that there are funds for mental health and wasn’t sure if maybe those were through the CARES fund?

Could we possibly request some of the $2 million in funding for mental health services for this project? These services would cover all the Range Cities.

Maybe check with the IRRRB and see if they would have money to give to us to fund these services. Claudia will approach IRRRB to see about funding and what they would need from us to make this happen.

OTHER ITEMS:

There are no places for people to go due to COVID. Libraries and churches are still closed. People were utilizing these places. People no longer feel like a part of the community. Loneliness is leading to depression.

Tod will do up the recommendations and send to the group. Group can work on it together.

Melanie offered to have Commissioner Jugovich come to our meeting and so we would be able to have him speak to us about recommendations and how we could make these recommendations. Melanie said she would put him on for our next meeting in May. She has access to his calendar. After some emails, Commissioner Jugovich will attend the August 19th meeting.

SCHOOLS:

Have ADAPT or Special Ed Teacher come in and talk with us to share where they think are gaps in the system.

Michelle Long shared her family story about son and the school system not knowing how to deal with son being in crisis. Most schools do not know how to deal with kids having a mental health crisis.

Unless it is a school like the NLC, they are not equipped to handle issues.

Most school personnel can recognize a problem, but not sure how they are able to get the help the child will need.

It was suggested to have Mental Health Counselors in the schools in addition to the School Counselors.

Tod will email form to Anne Marie so she can send get the survey together and send to the group for feedback. We would want to get the survey out before the end of the school year.

Tod will ask the ADAPT person at Range Mental Health Center to come and speak to the group.

Next Meeting May 20th - Tod set up the ADAPT Clinical Supervisor from Range Mental Health to come and speak at the meeting.

June and July 2021 – No meetings (Off for the summer)

August - Commissioner Jugovich is scheduled to attend the LAC