Local Advisory Council (LAC) North

St. Louis County

February 17, 2022 4:30 – 6:00 Via Teams

**Present**: Melanie Smith, Jennifer Rich, Nicole Stone, Michelle Long, Brenda Shafer- Pellinen, Ann Marie Lubovich, Todd Swenson

**Absent**: Marjorie Holmstrom-Sabo, Jeff McNickle, Lacy Podlogar, Daniel Triestman

**Guest Speaker**: No guest speaker this month.

* Meeting starts at 4:30. Todd Swenson opens the meeting. Both co-chairs are not in attendance; Todd volunteered to run the meeting. January minutes are approved.
* Melanie informs the council of an email sent to them today regarding the Clarity Project in Duluth, finding a suitable location. Melanie also informs the council that Deputy Director of PHHS in St Louis County, Paula Stocke, would like to be a guest speaker in March. It was agreed she would come in and answer any questions they may have.
* Ann Marie informed the council that she sent over a rough draft, that she put together, regarding mental health needs for children and schools. We should have this ready to present to the County Board in June. Ann Marie asked if anyone has any changes to this list, please contact her. Ann Marie explained that it is apparent the highest priorities currently are:
	+ Availability to providers in schools and local communities.
	+ Expanding access to mental health services in schools for all students and have it not based on just insurance eligibility or special education diagnoses.
	+ Continue to provide adequate and sufficient mental health training to teachers and staff.
	+ Some additional priorities are providing beds in local hospitals for children and working with Alanon groups to provide Alateen programs for youth in the area.
* Todd spoke regarding having anti-stigma programs in schools. Nichole made a suggestion regarding the NAMI program and how it could work well with schools.
* Todd spoke to a billboard that he had seen with the web site ADULTMENTALHEALTH.ORG. Todd said that he would investigate this site further.
* The council discussed our 10 new applicants for the council. Everyone sent Melanie their top 5 picks and a decision was made based on the top five votes received. Melanie will extend an invitation to candidates 1,4,6,8, and 10.

5:55 Meeting adjourned.