# Southern St. Louis County LAC

## Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021

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| Present: | Andrea Rose, Bert Brandt, Carly Hiti, Ina Newton, Justin England-Sullivan, Liz Strohmayer, Roger Raymond, Sonja Wildwood\*, Tawna Schilling\*- Facilitator |
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1. Opening, addition of agenda items
* Patty Whelan will be attending future meeting along with her mental health officer partner
* Sonja has been in contact with Cloquet LAC- they have been around a few years and have seen success- Sonja will continue to seek guidance from them. Contact is Jan Ashborne, Carlton Clounty LAC liason (similar to role Rochelle has with SLC LAC)
1. Check-in-resource sharing, new concerns, successes:
* Group members reported status of lives, personal and professional
* Wellness in the Woods provides a Warm Line and Virtual Peer Support for individuals, both of which have been very successful and individuals dealing with mental health challenges are encouraged to utilize theses resources (information available on Google Doc)
* Noted that COVID continues to be hard on children, especially those in placement who have been unable to touch or sometimes even speak to parents for months. Also challenging for kids to have so many online assignments
* Noted that situation is also challenging for the homeless whose resources have been limited and who have been struggling with cold temperatures- any suggestions for helping out the homeless community welcome
* Noted that there has been an increase in need for mental health services and wait lists are getting longer; there is a need for more outpatient services
* Neighborhood Youth Services reopened in May
* Health Equity Northland’s African Heritage COVID-19 Needs Assessment completed to assess the needs of the African Heritage Community in Duluth and surrounding communities completed in Findings presentation available online-- Ina will view and report back on information at next meeting
1. Review of Bylaws, amendment and approval:
* Revisions made to the rough draft of the bylaws created by Lynn- final approval to take place at the March meeting when there should be more members present
* Discussion on clarification of who the LAC informs; more than SLC Board and PHHS? Can recommendations be made to community organizations? Rochelle will follow up with PHHS leadership
* Discussion on whether or not LAC meetings should be open to the public (Sonja was asked about this from a staff member at HDC) Per Liz, Hennepin County meetings are not open to the public. General consensus is that meetings should not be open to the public due to information of a personal nature being shared at meetings and the potential for complications and attention being taken away from LAC goals- Sonja will follow up with HDC staff member to further explore her interest in attending the meetings
* From discussion on open nature of meetings- idea proposed to have a location on the SLC website for community members to bring issues to the attention of the LAC- Carly will work on a Google Form to utilize-this way all information and data can be compiled in one focused location long-term so that it will not be lost in emails
* Discussion on Terms of Office- decided that members will serve an appointment of two years with the possibility of a second 2 year appointment pending council approval need to have staggered terms in order to maintain historical information noted—vote will be held at next meeting to decide on final process
* Amended bylaw to address resignations
* Discussion of member application process- drafted bylaws indicate application process is handled by Behavioral Health Director, council would like role in selecting new members; council would like a larger role in member selection, but acknowledges having more people involved could hinder the process and reveal private information to more people than necessary-- idea proposed to have a small sub-committee to work with the Behavioral Health Director on selecting applicants
* Agreed by all members that decision making should be guided by general consensus; Robert’s Rules will not be applied
* Bylaws can still be reviewed and revised on the Google Drive, if anyone is having trouble accessing Google Drive contact Moira, Sonja, or Rochelle

4. Sub-committee and focus 2021

* Not enough time to address

**5. Justin England-Sullivan, Residential Services Inc.**

* Not enough time to address

6. Check-out and Action Items for Next Meeting:

* Patty, Harmony Club Clarity Project, and Birch Tree lined up for next meeting, general decision made that this is too much and group would prefer to hear from Harmony Club and Patty
* Sonja has learned that the North LAC has chosen three major topics for the year 2021, including mental health training and bias, which they will be delving into while still holding space for other topics – members present at the meeting shared a desire to pursue something similar- selecting a few topics to ground meetings and narrow focus going forward
* Google Drive and sharing emails between meetings is not happening, possible that people are burned out on tech— interaction between meetings might improve with creation of sub-committees
* Participants enjoyed check-in and check-out and would like to continue at future meetings

Action items:

* Review and revise bylaws in order to vote on finalized draft at March meeting
* Ina will review African Heritage COVID-19 Needs Assessment findings and report back to group
* Liz and Sonja will continue receiving input from Hennepin and Carlton County LACs
* Rochelle will discuss LAC recommendations/information sharing with county
* Rochelle will inquire about adding suggestion form to SLC LAC web page
* Carly will complete draft of community member inquiry form to be sent to the rest of the group for review

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| **Next meeting:** | **March 18, 2021 - 4:30p.m.- 6:00p.m., via Zoom** |