

Local Advisory Council (LAC) – North

St. Louis County

August 19, 2021

Present: Jeff McNickle, Jenn Wilson, Marjory Johnson Wood, Tod Swenson, Ann Marie Lubovich, Nicole Stone, Michelle Long, Claudia Skalko, Melanie Smith

Absent: Jennifer Rich, Daniel Triestman, Wendy Dickhausen, Jessica Meyer, Lacy Podlogar, Marjorie Holmstrom-Sabo

Tod and Claudia read the values of the LAC

Introductions were done as we had three of the four new members join us for the meeting. Sandy let the members know that this was her last meeting, and the Melanie would be taking over for the next year. Melanie will be the person now taking notes and sending the meeting invites to everyone. If any questions, please contact Melanie Smith at (218) 471-7393 or SmithM@StLouisCountyMN.gov

Sandy let the LAC know that these meetings will remain by Zoom until we get notification from the County that we can do meetings in person. We were able to get together in July when the Council chose the new members. When we are back in person, the County cannot provide food for the meetings like first thought, so if anyone would like to do it on their own, please feel free to do so.

Sandy let the members know that the By-Laws were approved by the South Council, but thought they were going to send them to the North for final approval. Sandy told the North Council to see if they had any changes and if so, she would ask at the next Follow Up Meeting with the County if we could still make changes. There is one change that needs to be made as the By-Laws state the meetings are not open to the public. That was before we were told these meetings had to be open to the public. Sandy was not able to get the meeting posted to the LAC website in time for August's meeting, but Melanie will be able to get that completed for the September meeting and ongoing meetings.

Co-Chairs Tod Swenson and Claudia Skalko terms will be up as Co-Chairs, so someone else will need to take over as the Co-Chairs for the next year.

Guest speaker was Commissioner Mike Jugovich – District 7 (Second largest district in SLC)
Commissioner Jugovich wanted to let the Council know that he is here to help in anyway that he can. He told the Council if we need anything that can let Melanie know and she can get him the information.

He mentioned that there will be a new clinic opening in Chisholm for Mental Health. SLC has a building that will be rented out to other providers.

Commissioner Jugovich said he wanted to learn more about what we are needing and asked for someone to give input. Jenn Wilson said that she works at the Virginia ER and how the ER is getting

people with mental health issues, and they are not able to help get these people to a hospital that has the behavioral health units due to no beds available. These people are having to sit in the ER for days until a bed is available. When they are in the ER, they are not getting mental health services or psych meds to help them while they are sitting there waiting for a bed. Also, many people are getting sent to North Dakota since there are no psych beds in the state of Minnesota.

Jenn suggests they need an urgent care for mental health. If something like this was available, then the Emergency Departments would be able to take emergency patients while mental health patients could be seen in an urgent care facility.

Nicole Stone mentioned that Greenview in Hibbing would be the perfect facility for a mental health urgent care unit. As there are four wings with 4 rooms in each wing. Maybe could double up on beds in each room. Since it was a locked facility before, then maybe one section could be utilized for adolescents and the other could be used for adults. Nicole could give Commissioner Jugovich the names of people to contact at Fairview. Jenn states maybe this could be used as a holding place until a hospital has an opening to send that person to.

Sandy brought up to the new members that the Clarity Project that is being done in Duluth has the Urgent Care component, but it is hard for people on the Range to get to Duluth to get the help and so a hub on the Range would be a good idea since transportation is a big issue to get folks to Duluth. This could take some of the pressure off our law enforcement agencies too.

Commissioner Jugovich was open to the idea of Greenview being used. Just need to talk to some folks and maybe look at funding. Anne Marie asked Commissioner Jugovich about getting funding for the IRRRB and he said that we could look at utilizing them as this would not just benefit Hibbing but the whole Iron Range.

Commissioner Jugovich's contact info – Cell (218) 969-4323 Office (218) 262-0201 and email: jugovichm@stlouiscountymn.gov Commissioner is open to anyone calling him at any time if it is needed. Commissioner asked if anyone would be interested to come to the next Commissioners meeting to give all the Commissioners info on what the North LAC is doing. He would get a schedule when the meetings will be local and let us know so we anyone from the Council could attend.

Tod will also email the Commissioner the recommendations to him since they have not yet been forwarded over to them.

Ann Marie gave an update on what she will be doing with the schools and sending out information and getting responses back from teachers on what they see is a need or a gap in services in their school.

Nicole mentioned about how she goes into the schools to team on Mental Health First Aid.

Next meeting will be September 16h. No speaker has been chosen at this time for the next meeting.