Local Advisory Council (LAC) – North

St. Louis County

August 17, 2023

Present: Tod Swenson, Jennifer Rich, Macy Viita, Samantha Stocco, Shaylee Erdman (for Joseph Laufeia), Katy Lofquist, Brenda Shafer-Pellinen, Colleen Davern, Linda O’Neil Deremee, Blair Smith, Lacy Podiogar,

Absent: Howard Anthony, Katrina Broten, Melissa Brusacoram, Dana Stroschein, Heather Kainz

Tod read the values from the By-Laws

May Meeting Minutes were approved.

* Group sharing, on something that made us smile this summer, and introductions of members.
* Discussion of online or hybrid meetings. Consensus was to have a hybrid format.
* Co-chair – Todd asked if anyone would volunteer to be a co-chair. Todd explained what this position entails. Blair Smith volunteered.
* Mental health forum planning. Gena Bossart spoke with John Ongaro, who is a lobbyist for the county. John suggested a smaller venue than the college. There was a suggestion of the Mt. Iron community center.
  + October 19th will be the agreed date.
  + We could split the forum to the three areas: youth, seniors and law enforcement. Allotted time would be 30 minutes per subject.
  + There was a suggestion about taking written statements and sharing them to protect anonymity.
  + Why have this forum…. presenting our recommendations and trying to get some insight from legislatures and government leaders.
  + Offering CEU would be a good way to get more participation. There was a discussion about how we could get this approved. This possibility will be investigated.
  + Time was discussed. 4:30 – 6:00. LAC board would be asked to show up 15-20 minutes early.
  + Limit to one lived experience per person and a 5 min time limit.
  + We would need a mediator.
  + Try to get a submission page set up on the LAC site that we can get input prior to forum and organize our questions.
  + Need to emphasize the importance of the need in NORTH SLC.
  + Discussion on whom to send out invites to. Some names mentioned were Sherif Ramsey, Jorden Metsa, Dave Shunk, Linnea Mirsch, State Representatives and SLC County Board members.
  + Present should be professionals and those with lived experience.
  + Intent will be to have this forum live streamed with a link on our website. Melanie will investigate how we can accomplish this. There will be no participation virtually.
  + Melanie will look into getting a form put on to the LAC website that participants can fill out to share their feelings prior to the forum. These can then be used to organize topics and questions that would be addressed.