

Southern St. Louis County LAC

Meeting Minutes

8/18/2022

Present: Ali Gronholz, Ali Shulstad, Carly Hiti*, MaKenzie Johnson, Rochelle Koehne, Roger Raymond Jr, Shannon Jorgenson, Sonja Wildwood*, Taylor Soghigian, Traci Laughlin, Chris Heazlett**, Gena Bossert**, Commissioner Patrick Boyle**

*- Facilitator

** - Guest

1. Welcome and check-in

2. Business Items

- It is time to start thinking about and making nominations for co-facilitators. Voting will occur in October and the new co-facilitators will begin their duties in November. Sonja plans to be at the September meeting but is unsure about meetings after that & will be taking a few months off; Carly will be primary facilitator until November when the new co-facilitators take over their duties.
- We will be accepting new members again this Fall – please spread the word and let the co-facilitators know if you would like to be on the new member subcommittee (Carly and Rochelle are on this committee currently).
- Sonja brought up the possibility of a brief Zoom meeting for the most recent new members to give a quick tour of the LAC Google drive & its contents and go over LAC training information.
- We are working to get on the same page with county mental health supervisors and division directors, learning what is within their capacity with regards to making changes as well as what projects might be currently underway. We'd like to have supervisors from both Children & Family Services and the Adult Mental Health unit join us in upcoming meetings to share more information & conversation.
- MaKenzie suggested an update on Amberwing services as a topic for a future meeting.

3. 2022 Annual Report Presentation

- The 2022 Annual Report was presented by Sonja, Rochelle, and Taylor; submitted report is attached.
- Discussion followed. Gena stated that after reading the survey results, she called & spoke with several providers asking how recruitment is going for mental health workers, especially regarding more diverse populations. Recruiters are finding hiring difficult, we are in a

shortage area and finding workers has been a struggle. Employers she spoke with want what we want in terms of willingness & ability to work flexible/extended hours, diversity of workers, and priority of collaboration amongst local providers. There are software systems that support this level of coordination of care/collaboration but all providers in the community need to agree to utilize. She notes that DHS is looking into these systems; we'll see what the future holds.

- Chris echoed what Gena stated and spoke a little more to the staffing difficulties local providers are experiencing. She sees how telehealth has expanded in the past couple of years and hopes that will continue to grow & provide more flexible, easily accessible, culturally appropriate mental health services in our area. The county has for some time been noting the lack of providers for children with high needs and is looking at developing an intensive treatment-type foster care (psychotherapy, care coordination, 24-hour crisis response) and crisis stabilization beds. Lengthy discussion followed regarding crisis response, especially for kids & families, and the importance of follow-up and stabilization services as well.
- Commissioner Boyle's question to the LAC: given the results of the survey, is there anything we saw in analyzing the results that is unique to south St. Louis County? Members responded with comments including that our hospitals spend money and effort on building, staffing, & promoting other medical specialties but not mental health; hospitals in other parts of our state have created better, more collaborative & effective service delivery systems; there is a huge need for a mental health training hub for providers in our area; we are lacking enough inclusive and culturally competent mental health services (what is available does not adequately represent the diversity in our community); and also the need for increased outreach and incentives. Commissioner Boyle suggested inviting local medical providers to hear results of the survey, perhaps pushing them a little harder to expand and promote mental health services & specialties. Later in discussion he suggested a meeting forum with both state legislators *and* hospital administration; LAC members added that extending invites to Lake Superior Community Health Center and CAIR in addition to St. Luke's and Essentia would be beneficial, also possibly the Miller Dwan and St. Luke's Foundations.

4. Check-out and action items for next meeting

Action Items:

- Please send nominations for co-facilitators to Sonja & Carly! Voting will take place in October.
- Please spread the word to your contacts in the community that we will be accepting new members again this Fall. If you are interested in being on the new member selection subcommittee, let Sonja & Carly know.

- Anjie Dreiling, Adult Mental Health Supervisor from St. Louis County, and Chris Heazlett, Children & Family Services Division Director from St. Louis County, will be joining us for our September meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**Next meeting: September 15, 2022
5:00pm-6:30pm
Duluth Gov't Services Center
320 W 2nd Street
Miller Creek Room (2nd floor)
Duluth, MN 55802
*option to attend virtually continues**