

Meeting Minutes

Logan County Mental Health Advisory Council

Meeting Date: February 9, 2022

Meeting Location: Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois – Board Rm.

Present	Absent	Excused
Alison Rumler-Gomez	Dr. Hepler	
Don Cavi	Rod Boyd	
Villy Cone		
Dan Benedict		
Jeanette Harris		
Olivia Messina		

The meeting was convened at 9:05am. Roll call was taken by Chairman Rumler-Gomez. Six (6) members were present. Two (2) members were absent. Dr. David Hepler of the Logan County Board and Rod Boyd with the Logan County Sheriff’s Department.

Action Item #1: Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2021, were shared and discussed. No changes to the meeting minutes were made, and the minutes were approved. **The motion to approve was made by Dan Benedict and seconded by Villy Cone.**

Action Item #2: New Member Update

Don Cavi shared that there are two (2) new members on the Council. The County Board, at the recommendation of the Board of Health, approved the County Board liaison to the Board of Health be automatically included as an official member of the Mental Health Advisory Council. As the current Board of Health member/liaison to the County Board, Dr. Hepler is now a member of the Council. In addition, Jeanette Harris, Recovery Specialist, Chestnut Health Services, and a member of the ROSC, was also approved by the County Board to serve on the Council. Jeanette shared her background and what the ROSC is looking to accomplish by empowering the community to develop a its own coalition of partners and infrastructure to pave the way for greater access and assistance to those struggling with additions from treatment to recovery. This will be critical since substance abuse has strong ties to mental health. It is a pleasure to have both on the Council as we appreciate their knowledge and contributions. With an 8-member Council, the quorum total needed for meetings is 5 members.

Action Item #3: Members gave their Subject Matter Expert (SME) reports. Reports are as follows:

Olivia Messina, Villy Cone (Mental Health Maintenance) – Olivia reported that there is a huge upsurge in mental health needed services as caseloads are up about 130-150 per clinician. COVID -19 has also forced them to rethink operations. Memorial has been dealing with retention issues with their clinicians

as many are going to private practice or the state. New management at Memorial Health has led to many positive changes to reduce turnover. Such changes include pay increases, providing a means for upward mobility, changing the crisis model/hiring more FT crisis workers, offering greater scheduling flexibility to clinicians with higher pay options, analyzing new intake modes for clients, hiring paid interns with contractual commitments, increased use of telehealth. These are just some of the steps Memorial Health is taking to retain clinicians while improving their services. Memorial has also created an emotional support hotline to serve anyone in need. The number is 217-588-5509.

Villy Cone reported that she is now spending more time working with teens since mental health has a huge impact on this population. The quantity of hours spent on social virtual outlets like Tik-Tok have also impacted the mental health of teens. Her agency is small, and they have not hired additional clinicians. They are getting many church referrals and making referrals as substance abuse continues to be a problem. It was also suggested that DCFS and Youth and Family Services be invited to our meetings.

Don Cavi (Mental Health Promotion) – Don shared that he is working with Illinois Public Health Association (Dr. Tracey Smith) about proposals for trauma-informed training plans for his agency. Once he receives the proposal, he can determine his direction and can seek out grant dollars to fund the project. He last corresponded with Tracey yesterday and should be receiving her proposal this week. Don also shared that he is coming up with a plan of action this year to work on a county mental health database. He also will be seeking partners and would like to begin meetings by March 2023. The partners can discuss what type of data would be useful, what purpose it can serve and how to best obtain the data.

Dan Benedict (Mental Health Outreach) – Dan reported that in November 2021, in conjunction with SIU and the health department, the VAC conducted a “Stand Down.” A Stand Down is a period when veterans are having a high number of incidents and are most vulnerable. The “Stand Down” is a process of regrouping and having the veterans meet to get the help they need. Veterans were invited to the Stand Down event at the health department where they were provided food, provided access to free dental, medical and counselling care through SIU. The Salvation Army was also on hand to provide services. In addition, the VAC is involved in a program to build a house for an at-risk veteran. Veterans must apply and if chosen, they must agree to a stipulation that they stay in the home for 10 years. The next build will be in March and a subsequent build is planned for the fall. Dan continues making health referrals for veterans and family members and he is also doing bereavement work. Another program they

support is veteran's court which currently has 3 people enrolled. This applies to veterans who have had minor offenses. The program provides a mentor and transportation on an as-needed basis. If a veteran completes the program, his/her record will be expunged.

A motion was made to approve the SME reports by Villy Cone and seconded by Dan Benedict.

Action Item #4: Due to time limitations, discussion and Council actions moving forward was not addressed at this meeting.

Action Item #5: Don informed the Council of the 2022 meeting schedule. The next LCMHAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at CAPCIL (possible new time to be announced). The remaining meetings for 2022 will be held on August 10th and on November 9th.

Action Item #6: At approximately 10:25am, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. **Don Cavi made the motion to approve which was seconded by Dan Benedict.**

Respectfully Submitted
Don Cavi, Secretary