

Carver County Mental Health Advisory Council

Minutes of May 8, 2018 Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Leader: Derek Gunderson

Redorder: Caroline Beise

Attendance

Council Members Present:

Absent:

Liason Members Present:

Caroline Beise

Karrie Schroyer

Sam Deweese

Lisa Gjerde

Beth Fagin

Derek Gunderson

Guests:

Michelle Faith

Sue Kunitz

Lindsay Juricek

Melissa Hanson

Ana Macias

Jill Willems

Angie Laschinger

Sandra Menzel

Mary Myss

Jenna Rodenz

Becky Sorenson

Eddie Tipton

Virginia Wright

Agenda Item:

1. Derek called the meeting to order.
2. Motion by _____ to amend agenda to include Transportation, second by Eddie Tipton. Approved.
3. Motion by Derek to amend April minutes to show Derek, not Eddie, called the meeting to order. Second by Sue Kunitz. Approved.
4. Guest Speakers from Carver County Health and Human Services - Lindsay Juricek, Office of Aging Program Specialist
Jill Willems, Home & Community Based Care Department Supervisor
Their roles overlap in working with seniors and our aging population. They gave us excellent information:
Dementia is defined as a broad category of brain diseases causing cognitive changes within the brain.
Included within the definition are Alzheimers, Lewy Body, Parkinsons. Specialists are diagnosing Alzheimers with a 90% accuracy rate; this formerly could be

done only on autopsy.

Schizophrenia is seen early and late in life. Patients who can communicate, who still have verbal skills, can be helpful in treatment of their disease.

Jill handed out flyers highlighting the work of TRIAD, a partnership of law enforcement, the public and senior citizens, designed to keep our seniors safe.

Sandy Menzel asked whether programs are available to help support caregivers. Chanhassen is the first community in the country to become dementia friendly. Program was started in the UK. Every police officer in Chan has been trained in dementia friendly response. Supported by faith-based community at present. Host various programs. Hoping to receive a grant to hire a Master Social Worker. Other programs are Encore Adult Support in Waconia, Sojourn in Chaska and Eden Prairie. Ridgeview is resurrecting some support groups for people with dementia.

Question on affordable housing. Staffing a problem as well as funding. Watertown

looking at funding for senior/family friendly housing. Norwood/Young America has

a lot of senior housing but affordability is a problem. Carver County is healthiest and

wealthiest county, however 12,000 people here live in poverty.

Poverty seen as a

county gap. Barriers because of "not in my backyard."

Mary Myss said we need to encourage financial incentives for family caregivers so they can keep their senior loved ones at home.

Folks in eastern Carver County have better access to healthcare opportunities.

Needs in Carver County for assisted living and memory care.

People with severe mental health disorders are at higher risk for developing dementia. Those with dementia at higher risk for developing depression.

5. Chair's Report -

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Derek encouraged us to volunteer.

Sent letter of support for HF501/SF776 to _____?

Published in _____ (newspapers). Heard back from Senator Jensen and Gayle Degler. Derek will email LAC members a copy of the letter.

6. New Business - Discuss strategic plan from April

Derek suggested we should occasionally hold our regular monthly meeting at various

venues within the county. Suggested locations: senior facility, public library, community center. Following the meeting there would be a time for public input.

7. Old Business - Community Education Event
"Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Public Event"

Thursday, May 17th - 5 - 8 p.m.

Chaska Community Center

Lisa, Sue, Sandy and Caroline volunteered to help at the resource table. There will be information on the LAC and a drawing for two \$10 gift certificates. Questionnaires will hopefully give us feedback as well as recipe cards on which attendees can write their questions, concerns. Suggestion made for inclusion of a tent card advertising our fall listening session.

Eddie told us of a transportation alternative to Uber and Lyft, which can only be accessed by Smartphone. GoGoGrandparents makes it easier for seniors who don't use Smartphones to access a ride. Telephone number is 855-464-6872.

8. Upcoming Events -

The Science Museum of Minnesota is featuring an exhibit, "Mind Matters" - to raise awareness of mental health and help increase understanding that mental illnesses are real, common and treatable. Included in general admission. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Runs through January 6, 2019.

9. Announcements -

Jenna informed us that Scott County has approved a \$1.4 million mental health crisis center to be located in Savage.

10. Open Forum: Mobile Crisis Units, Letters to the editor (county and city papers), Cambria Hills (or similar facility)
Suggestion to have our monthly LAC meeting listed (one week prior) in weekly calendar of local papers.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Derek, second by Sandy. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Beise, Recorder