

Southern St. Louis County LAC

Meeting Minutes

9/15/2022

Present: Ali Gronholz, Ali Shulstad, Carly Hiti*, Kathy Wilson, MaKenzie Johnson, Rochelle Koehne, Roger Raymond Jr, Sonja Wildwood*, Taylor Soghigian
*- Facilitator
**- Guest

1. Welcome and check-in

- Extended welcome and check-in discussing what brought members to the group, what mental health topics they are passionate about, and projects currently involved in.

2. St. Louis County Projects/Focus Updates from Chris Heazlett, Children & Family Services Division Director, and Anjie Dreiling, Adult Mental Health Supervisor

- Chris discussed that the county is collaborating with Northwoods Children's Services hoping to help with crisis stabilization for children. Working to establish two short-term beds for kids who are having difficulties stabilizing in other settings. Her division is also working with Bethany Crisis Shelter on helping to keep kids stabilized - Bethany Crisis Shelter opened their new center this year, and capacity will be 17 when fully staffed. Intensive Treatment in Foster Care is a new certification program for kids in foster care or at risk of out-of-home placement who require intensive levels of intervention; it bundles psychotherapy, psychoeducation, crisis assistance, and collaboration/consultation services. The county's long-term/existing services include county children's mental health case management and contracted children's mental health case management with the Human Development Center.
- Anjie discussed the possibility of several new mental health provider agencies coming to the Duluth area: ACCRA has been established for some time in northern St. Louis County and will possibly be opening a Duluth office; Stride Services, an ARMHS provider based in the metro area who provides culturally-based services, may be expanding to our area and SLC is hoping to possibly contract with them; and SLC is having discussions with Compass North, a Grand Rapids-based company, regarding providing rapid-access DA services (hoping for expanded hours with this). Anjie also discussed expansion of the CORE Team, which follows a co-responder model (patrol officer and embedded social worker) in addressing mental health calls; the county took advantage of a newly filled mental health social worker position to delegate one day per week to doing follow-up and case management for select CORE Team calls.
- Members asked whether there would be children's services included in the Clarity Project; Chris responded that it remains to be seen as to who the collaborative team will include.

She is hoping family resource center programs may eventually be involved; grants are currently being applied for. Things are in early stages right now. She also discussed hoping parent mentors/peer supports from Minnesota One-Stop may be a participant, working towards earlier interventions and practical supports. Anjie noted that the current Clarity Project model is not as robust as original plans. Timelines are unclear at this point, but the project is still moving forward. Planners are looking at partnerships with UMD School of Pharmacy and CSS Nursing Program. Providers who remain involved and hopefully will be onsite include HDC, housing coordinators, possibly ACT and T-ACT teams, possibly the CORE Team. The hospitals have pulled back somewhat. We are still hoping to see it develop into a one-stop hub with varied spokes & providers.

3. Business

- New members – Sonja and Carly will be reaching out to members to clarify length of time commitments, and we will be open to new member applications through November 4th. Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to apply. Sonja & Carly will reach out to the county regarding publicizing; we would like to see a FB post and highlighting on the SLC website. Email template will also be sent to members to share widely as they see fit.
- Co-chair nominations – both South LAC co-chair positions for 2022-2023 are open for nomination. An anonymous nomination form will be uploaded to the Google drive; please utilize the form or send co-chair nominations to Carly or Deanna. Carly, Sonja, and/or Deanna will reach out to verify whether those nominated are interested in the position prior to the vote. Voting will take place during the October meeting.
- PPHS Conference Tabling – the county extended an invitation to the LAC to share a table at the SLC Health & Human Service Conference scheduled for October 12-14 at the DECC in Duluth, should we be interested. Members discussed; it was suggested that this might be a good opportunity to continue promoting the survey with QR code as well as paper copies and also to encourage membership application. Members wanted to know a bit more about the logistics (whether specific hours are needed or if it can be rather open-ended) and if conference registration could be included for volunteers. Taylor and Deanna may be able to help with tabling. It was suggested that members not present at tonight's meeting be sent an email & see if anyone else is interested in assisting.
- Future Focus – brief initial discussion about LAC South's focus for the upcoming year. Several members remain interested in prioritizing community engagement and hearing from those with lived experience. It was also suggested that we might focus on one of the projects discussed by SLC supervisory staff earlier in tonight's meeting, maybe the Clarity Center Project; LAC could complete a new survey designed to contribute to the planning stages of the project. Members also voiced interest in a meeting with legislators and higher-level hospital management staff to discuss our 2021-2022 Yearly Report, community needs identified, and LAC recommendations. Deanna will check with Gena as to who would be best to include/invite; Rochelle volunteered to assist with coordination.

4. Check-out and action items for next meeting

Action Items:

- Please make nominations for the co-chair positions either via the anonymous form in the Google drive or email Carly or Deanna.
- Current co-chairs and/or Deanna will reach out to individuals nominated to verify interest in candidacy. Voting will take place during our October meeting.
- Sonja will draft an email template for new member application information and send to all members – feel free to personalize and share widely within our community. Co-chairs will contact Gena & request the county's help in getting the word out. This round of applications will close 11/4/22 at 12PM. Members with other media contacts will work on getting the word out, as well.
- Deanna will contact Gena to verify PHHS Conference tabling specifics and ask about possible free conference registration for tabling volunteers.
- Deanna will reach out to Gena and Commissioner Boyle to compile a list of names of recommended attendees from area hospitals, foundations and legislators for a future meeting to discuss the 2021-2022 LAC Yearly Report findings and LAC recommendations.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM

Next meeting: October 20, 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 via Webex invite**