

January 16, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 16, 2018, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson.

10:00 AM **Mental Health:** Present were CMHP Coordinator Nancy Huus, Sarah Powell (Peer Support), Josh Nemeth and Marcia Boris (Lincoln County Attorney's Office), Amy Fantozzi (Lincoln County Public Health), John Blodgett (The Western News), Jay Maloney (Cabinet Peaks ER), Kayla Friss (Child Protective Services), Anita Kovy (Cabinet Peaks RN), Mavis Vaillancourt (private practice therapist), Joe McElmurry (Youth Court Services), Kindra Hageness (Youth Court Services), Rod Tempel, Doug Richardson (Certified Mental Health Professional), Sindy Filler (Randy Guinard's office), Liz Erickson (Libby Christian Church), Darren Short (Libby Police), Carl Leggins (Youth Court Services), Joan Christiansen (Counselor), John Thomas (Certified Mental Health Professional), Jen Huitron (ORI), Joe Nagle (Lincoln County), Randy Guinard (LCSW), Elaine Maggi (MSN), Maria Clemmons (Community Health Center), Allen Gerstenecker (Kootenai Valley Record), Abby Harnett (Western Montana Mental Health) and Rita Billow (Community Health Center).

McCully opened the meeting by asking for updates and a wish-list from those in attendance on the continued discussion of mental health. Richardson said 24-hour crisis management with immediate response times would be high on his wish list. Dr. Maloney said there have been many times at the hospital they did not have coverage and the problem will only get worse. He also felt when they send patients to Pathways it is unproductive. Huus disagreed stating that they get a brief evaluation, psychiatric care and 30 days of meds but she also agreed there needs to be more done on a local level. She also said there won't be a perfect system but it can be made much better than it is now using prevention and training. Deputy Sheriff Huff said transportation of nonvoluntary admits is difficult for them due to the staffing and the cost involved. Sheriff Bowe said with all the organizations and people involved it will be important to have structure in place. McCully said there will be a liaison/coordinator that will be involved with training and prevention.

County Attorney Boris said their office handles the adjudication so their primary concern is having a mental health professional to coordinate placement and added the importance of getting people's needs met before they are in crisis. Hagness said that the full extent of the fall out has not been seen yet. A huge loss for Youth Court Services is the loss of the case management aspect to not only the kids but their families. Huus agreed that is a great loss and pointed out the difficulty in finding beds in medical facilities for kids who are in crisis.

Filler said there is a definite need and benefit of having support available for parents and guardians of kids with mental health issues. She said having a child with mental illness is usually new for the parent or guardian and support for them helps all involved. Filler asked if it's possible to hire one of the mental health professional from Western Montana Mental Health as a permanent solution. Maggi stated that there needs to be more than one mental health professional to avoid burnout. Bowe said that it would seem there needs to be a plan for individuals in crisis and one that works on prevention and provides education. He also said it would be worthwhile to gather all the smaller groups and organizations and see if they can all work together to help facilitate a solution.

Dr. Maloney asked how the patients from Western Montana Mental Health are receiving medications during the transition. Harnett said they still have over 100 patients that are getting medication via telemed while they transition to other providers.

McCully said the biggest issue hanging over the whole thing is transportation. Huus said that it cost \$1,600 to transport a patient to Kalispell by ambulance but there needs to be multiple options.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board