

# MALHEUR COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, LOCAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG AND DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes: February 08, 2023

## Attendees:

Tammy Cortright, Melissa Williams, Michelle Belnap, Leanne Swetland, Jenn Susuki, David Goldthorpe, Christine Phillips, Michael Menges, Nancy Menges, Ron VanAusdal, Jim St Michell Steve Jensen, Amanda Martinez

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- Review of previous meeting minutes
  - Meeting Minutes approved as presented.

- **PUBLIC INPUT** -please limit remarks to 5 minutes – some public input from new members as listed below.

- **LIFEWAYS**

Lifeways has been working on expanding trainings and education services. Leanne and Ron have been working on reducing gap between CDDP and MH services and how to work better with that population. SUDS program has went from nearly nonexistent to one of the best.

Lifeways has purchased a separate building in Malheur County to provide children services.

Lifeways continues to struggle with staffing. Skills and peer services are exploding right now. Currently a lot of vacancy. Ron defined for the group what the WRAP program is and does.

Access measure – currently expanding mobile crisis. Will have 24-hour mobile crisis and be able to respond with law enforcement or without.

Steve updated the group on housing. Lifeways is purchasing a duplex and will help house the SUD population with upwards 8 – 10 beds for individuals who need SUDS services. Also looking at building another 10 units to increase housing with grant funds. Plan to build adjacent to our Sunset facility. Have met with city to determine next steps. Hope by this time next year to have additional supported housing units available. That would be 18 beds.

Lifeways is also expanding their internship program. This is a paid position. Multiple avenues available with great benefits. This will be determined for availability to work with NNU.

Lifeways is now working with DHS piloting a new program for parents who are struggling and need to be reunited with children. Looking for a neutral party that can host. Have looked at a few places. This will teach parenting, dealing with specific behaviors.

Lifeways will provide in office MAT services which is safer. This is for individuals looking to detox from certain drugs. Completed first induction last week, successfully.

At the last meeting DD had voiced they were going to branch off and create an independent meeting. Being that they have clients accessing both DD and MH, Leanne and Steve J thought it would be a good idea to continue in this forum and work toward bringing in new members who are accessing the IDD Program in the future. The CDDP would like to hear more from individuals who are receiving services and what we can provide them with, what they want and what they need.

Michelle Belnap is attending and representing as a parent. She has 10 children with some of them being adopted. Michelle found this committee looking out and reaching out to see what is available in the area. She would like to be an advocate for families that need these services.

Some ideas were shared, 15 year old, with 3-5 year old mentality; services being received through Lifeways are limited. Have been told by IIBHT that they do not have people that are trained for those specific circumstances. Hard to find people trained, even PSW's who can help. Have been told to send him away to Portland because that is where the services are. She would like to see some of the services brought here.

Michael and Nancy – Nancy is the organizer of basketball event from Seattle, based off Pack the Gym Night in Seattle. She moved back to area 6 years ago, grew up in Nyssa. Organized in 2019. The event this year will be March 21 in Nyssa for young adults. Basketball game – Nyssa, Vale and Ontario students. Her boss is Melissa Williams. Name of event is Support the Court.

Nancy shared that she understands the desire for more services and echoes that. Her son's main issue is speech. Need to bring services to Malheur County.

Kiersten Reed is the contact for this event at the high school.

The bylaws were shared with the group and were emailed.

Long waits to get into services sometimes 8-9 months. That is too long.

Leanne S (CDDP) - The one update I did forget to send out is: I am now serving as member of the Diversity Advisory Committee for the City of Ontario. I hope to assist with contributing on behalf of our IDD population as well as all disabilities in general.

Michelle asked if there were any support groups for people who live with someone with BH or alcohol issues. Ron believes this is something that is needed. Michelle would be happy to assist as needed. Leanne would also like to be involved with the IDD side of things.

Jenn does not believe she is getting all the notifications happening at Lifeways and would like to see this. Ron will get a calendar sent out and will get the notifications out.

Lifeways is currently rebuilding the website and would like to see more activities notifications sent out to the community. Ron and Steve to work on this.

#### ◆ **ROUNDTABLE**

##### ○ Updates/Review of Services

Jenn S –Starting a screener for kids. Doing a pilot project. This will help them catch kids warning signs. Just had a postvention training yesterday – good partnership. Good reports.

Jim St. Michell – P&P – Talking with Kristie at Lifeways about providing services at the jail as well as something after hours. Have talked about access times for treatment for clients who are with P&P. Jail Diversion is going well.

Melissa W – Ontario SD – They are now fully staffed in counseling and special education departments and have added a few extra staff members. Planning a big event in May. Do not think Lifeways has come to it, but would love to have them. Students create simulation of a drug overdose. Students are the actors and creators. Will have 30 – 40 breakout sessions. This will be a full morning as well as breakout sessions. Will also have staff available for students who need support. That day and next. Altruistic has been coming into the high school. Melissa to send Ron invite again for this event. Invites will come from Jodi Elizondo.

- **Questions/ Discussion**

- Adjourn
- With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm MT.