

Meeting Minutes

Logan County Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC)

Meeting Date: May 11, 2023 (11:30 a.m.)

Meeting Location: Logan County Department of Public Health, 109 Third St., Lincoln, IL

Present	Absent
Don Cavi	Dan Benedict
Gary Davis	Rod Boyd
Jeanette Davis	Keenan Leesman
Cassie Delaney	Olivia Messina
Beth Nestler	

The meeting convened at 11:33 a.m. Roll call was taken by Don Cavi. Five (5) members were present. Four (4) members were absent. The Council welcomed visitors April Garcia (Children’s Home Butterfly Project) and Angie Stoltzenburg (Lincoln Memorial Hospital). April Garcia is on the County Board agenda to become a new member of the Logan County MHAC.

Item #1: (Approval of Meeting Minutes). Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2023, were shared and discussed. Other than a minor name correction, no changes to the meeting minutes were made, and the minutes were approved. **A motion to approve was made by Jeanette Davis and seconded by Cassie Delaney. The Council approved the motion.**

Item #2: (Approval of Data Sharing Meeting Minutes). The minutes from the March 2, 2023, MHAC special meeting regarding data sharing partnerships was sent to the group prior to the meeting and discussed for approval. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cassie Delaney and seconded by Jeanette Davis. The Council approved the motion.**

Item #3: (Update on Data Sharing Meeting). Don Cavi gave a summary of the data meeting which was held on March 2, 2023. For the County to implement a “Familiar Faces” program, the entire community of stakeholders will need to buy into the system. It became apparent that this will require the ground floor work of many in the community and it may not be feasible at this time as stakeholders are held to other time commitments. Rather than reinvent the wheel, the group discussed a program called TASC which is currently being implemented in Springfield, IL with the police and other partners. They are creating a system that would use data and deflection specialists to positively impact people who are frequent visitors through the legal system (and other systems) while connecting them to proper services. TASC will work with communities to develop a system by “empowering, engaging, and deflection.” The community would need to use the tools provided by TASC in a manner to eventually allow the program to become self-sustaining. It’s basically a start-up program and TASC would help communities kick start the program. The program is funded through marijuana tax funds. Cassie Delanie has offered to monitor the TASC program direction in Springfield and, based on what she sees, the Advisory Council may further discuss a plan to introduce Logan County and its stakeholders to the program if it appears feasible. The Council agreed that the topic will need to be on the agenda again at future meetings once the Springfield program progresses and more is learned. Don shared that he has learned that the County does implement TASC components to a certain degree, but the program in Springfield appears to be much more comprehensive, so it will be interesting to find out what happens in Springfield and whether it can have implications in Logan County.

Item #4: (Update on 2023 Mental Health Advisory Funds). Related to old business, Don Cavi talked about the mental health advisory funds that were supposed to be on the County Board Finance Committee table for FY23

but never made the final agenda for County Board. The Advisory Council was seeking \$10K in support funds from the County to apply to any projects associated with the work of, or related to, the Mental Health Advisory Council. In addition, funding was hoped to be approved to pay for a proper Sojourn office waiting area which is currently the courthouse hallway. Don will again request that these line items be brought back on the table for the County FY24 budget.

Item #5: (County Assessor Mailing). Don Cavi informed the Council that since the money was never approved on the County Board Budget, it is not known whether we can follow through with the resource sheet mailer to be included with the annual tax assessor's letter to residents. Angie Stoltzenburg shared that the Community Health Collaborative may be able to provide the funds to pay for mass printing. The Council is appreciative of the support but will need to further pursue whether the resource sheet can be included with the tax assessor letter. Don will look into this and any possibility of how the mental health service resource information sheet can be distributed to county residents. Don will also need to verify the total cost of the project, which was originally believed to be around \$800. The Council agreed it is important these resources are shared with all county residents, and it will be important to look at the current options.

Item #6: (Mental Health and Lincoln Christian University Students). Gary Davis spoke about an article he read about college students and the need for more university mental health programs. There are several colleges and universities in the area including Lincoln Christian University (LCU) here in Lincoln. It was brought up that LCU has a Master Degree program in social work, and it is believed they have programs for students. It was also brought up that Memorial Health offers a crisis support program for students under mental health distress. The Council discussed that it appears the colleges and universities currently have sufficient mental health support, so no further action to address at this time. No vote was needed for the Council to recommend that colleges/universities implement mental health programs.

Item #7: (Logan County Mental Health Statistics). Gary Davis inquired about the statistics that Logan County keeps for mental health as some counties, such as McLean, do track activity. It was shared that LMH tracks mental health numbers at the ER, 988 calls from Logan County can be tracked, and the Sojourn office keeps track of data. The Sojourn office knows that Logan County has the highest percentage of orders of protection out of the five counties they cover.

Item #8: (New President). Don Cavi shared that Allison Rumler-Gomez unfortunately resigned as MHAC Chair for personal reasons as her service and dedication to the Council over the past several years is very much appreciated. Don opened the floor for nominations as the Council needs to vote in a new Chairperson. Jeanette Harris nominated Don Cavi. Don accepted the nomination and the Advisory Council voted. **A motion was made by Jeanette Harris to approve Don Cavi as the new Chairperson and was seconded by Gary Davis. The Council approved the motion.**

Item #9: (Jail and Counseling Detainees). An old business item was brought up for discussion regarding the jail and improvements needed to provide a better mental health environment for the detainees and staff. Gary Davis discussed that the jail is in much need of expansion as there is limited space which constricts their ability to provide better services. The Council discussed the great job, despite the conditions, that the Sheriff and his staff are doing.

Item #10: Subject Matter Expert (oral reports)

Mental Health Outreach – No Report (Dan Benedict not present)

Mental Health Prevention (Jeanette Davis) – SMART Recovery is having a “Pop Up Living Room” to engage high schoolers at the Rec. Center who are struggling with mental health or drug issues. The ROSC is hosting another community movie called “Generations Found.” The movie is geared toward high school, college age kids and how to offer community support. Along with the movie, there will be structured dialogue. A date is not set and they are debating whether to do this over the summer or in the fall in order to have the best turnout. Also, Chestnut Health will be providing harm reduction vending machines to areas throughout which will contain naloxone and other useful items for people with addiction problems.

Mental Health Promotion (Gary Davis/Don Cavi) – Gary shared his items earlier in the meeting. Don reported that their agency trauma-informed training is going well, however, not everyone has stayed engaged or feels that they need the training. It’s somewhat frustrating but in the “Train the Trainer” training, it was taught that you cannot make people take the course. Currently about 1/3 of the agency is participating. The health department will continue to promote mental health through press releases and social media. Don and two other members of his staff will be participating in the trauma informed “First Aid Training” which will be offered by the Illinois Department of Public Health at Heartland College on June 6th.

Mental Health Treatment (Cassie Delaney) – Cassie shared that Memorial Health is offering training on personality disorders which is available to the public. She will send the MHAC members a flier.

Law Enforcement/Sojourn (Beth Nestler) – No law enforcement report as Rod Boyd was not present. Beth reported that she has not had a chance to discuss data collection with Rod Boyd. Beth is working with Todd Farley (County IT) to work on a data collection program/database. Beth is trying to find a way to pull the recidivism rate data together.

Item 11: (County Update & Council Recommendations to County Board). The Advisory Council discussed issues that need to go to the County Board. The Advisory Council would like the recommendation to go to the County Board that members of the County Board tour the jail to see what the issues are and to see what a great job the Sheriff, and his staff, are doing despite the lack of space. The Council would also like the media to be invited to such an event. Don informed the Council that we may have to post this motion on the next agenda for vote. The motion will be brought to the table. No motion was officially made as Don will put the item on the next agenda as a separate agenda item for approval.

Item 12: (Public Comments). Angie Stoltzenburg distributed to the committee mental health resource information cards which they are putting in bathrooms at schools. May is Mental Health Month. The Community Health Collaborative is getting mental health resources out to the high schools. They have an upcoming youth coalition meeting. Angie reminded the advisory council of previous conversations to develop an orientation for new county board members in order to provide a current status of local mental health priorities and services available in Logan County. April Garcia works out of McLean County, but her programs extend into Logan County. She suggested that at future meetings, we should invite people from other counties to visit and speak about programs they are doing.

Action Item #13: (Adjournment). A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Jeanette Davis and seconded by Beth Nestler. The Council approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m. The next scheduled MHAC meeting is Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Logan County Department of Public Health.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Cavi, Secretary