

## **MINUTES: 6/28/2021 SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE**

**7:30 - 8:30 AM**

**Public Health Conference Room and Online with Zoom**

### **Present:**

**Melinda Bobo, Priest-Rector, St. Andrew's Church**

**Randy Belton, Priest- Associate, St. Andrew's Church; Veterans Organizations; Business  
Peggy Weber, Chamber and community member**

**Aaron Preece, Counselor, High Country Behavioral Health**

**Matthew Daniels, Business Owner**

**Trisha Scott, Coalition Coordinator**

### **Notes and Agreements:**

**Discussion on access to MH services:** Aaron reported the waiting list at High Country has decreased from 60 people 2 months ago to 45 on the waitlist today. Teton Behavior Therapy (TBT) Clinic Director reports a new therapist in Pinedale and currently no wait list for face to face services.

On tele-health as a means to increase access to services: Aaron reported that 30% of his clients are on tele-health and comfortable with tele-health. Aaron also stated that in a survey conducted on telehealth in the US, 80% of people surveyed reported that they are comfortable with using telehealth for counseling.

Can the community MH fund purchase iPads to help people who request services and have tech and transportation challenges? Melinda and Randy answered yes. Matthew suggested that the iPads be checked out through the library system since they already have a system in place to loan kindles, etc. Matthew reported that currently iPads can be purchased for under \$300.

Melinda will contact Sukey Hohl at the library to discuss library willingness to administer the loan of iPads and bring an answer back to the team.

The clinics were also suggested as locations for iPad telehealth with MH providers.

Trisha reported that DFS asked if the fund can help pay for Psychological Evaluations. Melinda and Randy answered yes. Trisha will reach out to TBT to connect DFS to a psychologist and connect the psychologist to the MH fund. Discussion on other use of funds: The Episcopal funds can be used to donate to the HCBH Quality of Life (QOL) fund. QOL funds are dedicated to helping HCBH clients with needs like medication, rent, and transportation (gas) costs. QOL funds from the state have shrunk dramatically in the last 2 years. HCBH will need to do a grant application to the Episcopal Church to make that happen. Trisha and Melinda will reach out to Sarah Hixson to ask what she needs to help with the grant application. Aaron reported that the QOL funds are now annually about \$2,000 - \$3,000. Melinda and Randy suggested HCBH ask for more.

**Poker Run report from Randy:** Poker run raised over \$12,000. on June 12. Most of the funds were raised at the auction and silent auction at the end of the ride. All businesses along the ride were "amazed and grateful" for the business after a year and a half of covid challenges. The Rim Station tip jars were donated to suicide prevention. Discussion: Would the Poker Run folks

be able to participate actively in decision making about use of funds? Randy said yes, once family issues have settled down.

**QPR for specific vocations:** We looked at the QPR promotion sent out by the Dept of Health. After the meeting Aaron noted that there is some question about the reliability of the statement that the training guarantees CEUs accepted by licensing bodies. Trisha will reach out to Lindsay Martin at WDH for clarification.

**Parades:** Those present agreed that if we get people signed up to participate in the parades we want to prioritize promoting the MH fund and how to contribute to the MH fund - at the July parades. Trisha will get the banner and all printed materials to Mardy and Bill this week for July 4th. Trisha received word after the meeting that there are no booth spaces left for Rendezvous.

**Note from the Crisis Response Team meeting:** The team requested that Trisha reach out to Sheriff Lehr and invite him to attend task force meetings every 3-4 months to increase communication with the SO on MH needs, concerns.

**8:30: Adjourn.**