

# Governors Challenge

## Meeting Minutes

### Governors Challenge Meeting

<b>Date</b>	September 30, 2020
<b>Time</b>	1:00 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Meeting

### Attendance

Col Greg Olson	Kelly Ackerman
Taryn Phillips	Jess Hegstrom
Brenda Ludwig	Megan Cox
Megan Grotzke	Brian Daum
Heather Zimmerman	Claire Oakley

### Meeting Minutes

#### Discussion Topics

Col Olson	Welcome
Kelly Ackerman	Peer-to-Peer Subgroup Update

The subgroup is making a lot of progress in the tasks and have accomplished building a toolkit. The toolkit will be piloted starting October 5<sup>th</sup> across the state of Montana. There are five VSOs that will pilot the toolkit for 60 days. After the 60 days, volunteers in the subgroup will interview the VSOs to see what can be improved, what worked, what was not needed, etc. It was suggested for a formal Peer Support Specialist to interview the informal Peer Coaches. Jess asked if we should recruit a few Peer Support Specialists from the Montana Peer Network. It was decided the subgroup will pursue recruiting a few volunteers, and Kelly said she will work on getting them. Once the pilot is completed, the toolkit will be redesigned for official publication.

The subgroup reviewed a grant opportunity for extensive evaluation processes. After discussion, the subgroup decided to forego the grant opportunity at this time. The subgroup does not have an evaluation process in place yet, but it is being worked on by a few volunteers.

Jess then discussed the MOU between the Lewis & Clark Public Health and VA & Vet Centers. The MOU has been through reviews and the final draft is ready for legal to review. The MOU is expected to be ready by November 2020.

Matt Furlong and Bob McCabe have created a scholarship application and are working on a process for the scholarship funding to be distributed. This process included deciding on the uses for the scholarship money. The funding was suggested to be used for licensing fees, loss

of wages, food, travel, hotel, and a background check. After some research, it was found loss of wages was not included in the budget request so the scholarship funds can not be used for loss of wages. The scholarship funding will only be available to use for food, travel, hotel, and course costs.

Lastly, the meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The meeting minutes have been distributed for review. The deadlines for action items were decided by Kelly and Taryn. If there are any changes to be made to the minutes or action items, to email Taryn at [taryn.phillips@mt.gov](mailto:taryn.phillips@mt.gov).

Karl Rosston

Universal Screening Update

Karl discussed the two contracts in place with the Universal Screening. One is with Riverstone Health and the other is the Billings Urban Indian Health. The Billings Urban Indian Health is a little behind because they are in the process of creating an Engagement Coordinator and they are starting to implement Ask the Question. Riverstone is much further along in their process. They submitted their report of progress for September 30<sup>th</sup> and they are on track with all tasks. They have trainings scheduled in October for QPR. They are reviewing about five different software packages for their electronic medical records.

Brenda Ludwig

211 Update

Brenda is working on the 211 Counts. 211 Counts will show total calls received statewide. They have been working on the website and has the dashboard created. The website will be up and running the next few weeks. Completed an audit and they went through the database and identified the areas lacking service members and veteran resources across the state. Brenda shared her screen to show what the website currently looks like and went through the website. Col Olson asked if there was any update on the call centers. There was discussion about increasing the abilities the call centers have. Brenda said they are working on both and are really focusing on increasing the number of resources available. Karl mentioned there was an influx of calls to 211 in March and April, mostly COVID related issues such as housing, healthcare, food, etc. Starting in July, there has been about a 30% increase in lifeline calls. It has stabilized in September and is back to the normal amount of calls. They anticipate an increase with the COVID cases continually increasing. The issue expected is the isolation and quarantine when the weather is bad, and people are not able to go outside for activities. Karl mentioned the number of veteran suicides has risen. There have been 51 veteran suicides so far, and there were 54 veteran suicides in 2019. Col Olson mentioned in the Army National Guard, there has also been an increase of suicides this year compared to the previous three to four years.

Dr. Oakley

Governors Proclamation

Dr. Claire Oakley attended 101 and 201 webinars for suicide prevention, and it was mentioned there were a few states that have Governors Proclamations for suicide prevention. Montana was one of the few states that have one in place. Governor Bullock signed in a proclamation mid-September 2020. Col Olson will get a copy of it and send it to the rest of the group.

Megan Cox

Mobile Crisis Teams Update

Megan provided information on the mobile crisis teams response. Megan had the opportunity to interview Kari Parmer at St Peters Hospital. Their plan is to have the Mobile Crisis Unit running by November 1<sup>st</sup>. They are looking for six social workers to run the crisis unit 24/7. One social worker will be on call for those twelve-hour periods. Megan will be riding along the Highway Patrol and EMTs for the first three weeks. Afterwards, they are provided with a cellphone, laptop, and a car to respond to calls. They may get calls from 911, Highway Patrol, EMTs, etc. They have hired all but one position so it near the end stages.

Col Olson

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Kelly commented the Peer-to-Peer subgroup has been doing amazing work and she is very excited with the progress being made.

Col Olson mentioned he would like to have quarterly meetings for the Governors Challenge. The group agreed quarterly meetings are ideal.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Person Responsible	Action	Due Date
Col Olson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send group a copy of the Governors Proclamation</li> <li>Schedule next meeting</li> </ul>	October 2020
Kelly Ackerman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit volunteers from Montana Peer Network</li> </ul>	Next Meeting