Members Present**:** Rob Johnston, Martin Curry, Kim Hair, Donna Sedey, Brenda Stout, Carolyn Yeaman, Kyle Gamroth, Jessi Westling, Sue Wilson, Karen Aurand, Sam Borbely, Nicky Harper, Lori Burns

Members Excused: Scott Erickson, Laura Griffith, Sherry Mercer, Carol Day, Karl Cline, Paul Demple, Jo Ann Numoto

Members Absent: Cheri Kreitzman, Tammy Cooley, Sunny Goggles, Kelly Webb, Jeff Wasserburger

Others Present: Marla Smith, Dani Sullivan

1. Rob Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Rob took attendance and asked those present in person and on-phone to introduce themselves and state who they represent on the Council.
3. There were no modifications to the agenda, and the minutes from the November meeting were approved with minor corrections.
4. Dani Sullivan introduced herself as the new Block Grant Coordinator/State Planner. Dani reviewed the timeline for the Block Grant application submissions.
5. Staff from the Behavioral Health Division provided an update on the site reviews of state funded mental health and substance abuse centers that had been conducted by Division staff in the previous quarter, and they described the review process and related performance data.
6. Staff and members reviewed the impact of the last legislative session. One major item of discussion was the shifting of prevention funding from the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming to each county via the 23 county commissioner groups. The shift will occur beginning in July 2018. The legislature allocated 2 million dollars to the Prevention Division for suicide prevention & 3 million dollars to the Department of Corrections for substance abuse treatment.
7. The Council also reviewed the current website on the Behavioral Health Division’s page & the comments were very positive.
8. Following a short break, Regina the LGBT HealthLink via videoconference presented an overview of LBGT health issues including an overview of terminology, health issues related to tobacco consumption, and the broader issue of health disparities facing the LGBT community. (A copy of the presentation is attached.) Members were encouraged to visit the website: mylgbthealthlink.org
9. After a lunch break, the Council worked on updating our strategic plan for the next biennium—a copy of the updated plan will be presented at the August meeting.
10. The Council reviewed the current brochure and discussed how to update it. Rob Johnston had members provide written testimonials related to what their involvement on the Council means to them. Some of these testimonials will be included in the revised brochure. Lori Burns offered to take on the task of revising the brochure and will present a draft at the August meeting.
11. The Council expressed their interest in having the August meeting devoted to criminal justice issues as impacted by persons with substance use and/or mental illness issues.
12. Member updates:
    1. Casper Housing Authority: Lori talked about The HUB at 145 N. Durbin which provides a place where homeless persons can retrieve mail, messages, and access the internet. The Housing Authority is also partnering with Boston Capital on the development of 75 public housing units in a mixed-use development on North Poplar in Casper.
    2. Department of Corrections: Sam discussed the impact of the 3 million dollar increase to offset previous cuts to substance abuse treatment options in the correctional system.
    3. Vocational Rehabilitation: Nicky talked about the students in transition program for young people aged 16-21 in Cheyenne, Laramie, and Riverton focused on self-advocacy. Voc Rehab did not receive the federal grant for supported employment services.
    4. Legislative update: Sue Wilson provided a brief legislative update. There has been an 18% reduction in funding for state programs in the last decade, and K-12 education funding has been disproportionately hit.
    5. CWCC: Kyle informed the group that CWCC is expanding its substance abuse residential program to include such things as art therapy. He also discussed some licensure issues that could be a focus during the next legislative session.
    6. Protection and Advocacy: All 7 programs are being refunded. The Council discussed issues related to the State Hospital and Life Training facility and asked the Division to see if we could have someone overseeing those facilities be part of the Council. We discussed the feasibility of holding one of our meetings at the State Hospital in Evanston.
    7. Medicaid: A new data system is being installed.
    8. NAMI: Still has funding issues and is using private donations to keep their state office open in Casper.
    9. DFS: DFS runs the largest foster care system in the state and Intensive Family Foster Care is being provided to all foster care parents.
    10. Kim and Martin announced that their son is going into the Air Force; their daughter has moved back to Cheyenne; and, they thanked the Council for its on-going support of their family and the Council’s willingness to look at various criminal justice issues as they have impacted their family.
    11. There was no public comment.

**Next meeting: Friday, August 24th, in Casper.**