

SW Montana Recovery and Resiliency Team Call
Wednesday, January 3, 2021
8:00am – 9:00 am
Zoom

I. Call to Order (Mia Bell) – 8:00 am

II. Introduce new team members:

Mark Sharpe – Director, MSU Innovation Campus

III. Take questions/comments on updates provided prior to this meeting.

IV. Guest Updates:

General Matt Quinn – Executive Director, Governor COVID-19 Task Force

- General Quinn provided an update to the vaccine rollout to the group. He explained that CVS and Walgreens Pharmacies were allocated vaccines directly by the federal government for long term care and front line workers. Currently, all of the long term care and assisted living facilities have had their first visits for initial vaccine. The uptake for the vaccine wasn't as high as was anticipated. General Quinn discussed that more will be known after the second visits to the groups. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply of the vaccine from the Feds. The goal of the State is to get as many Montanans vaccinated as possible.
- General Quinn outlined the intent to open private pharmacies up for vaccinations next week. The Governor continues to push the Feds to increase the supply of vaccines.
- Mia Bell asked as local pharmacies come online if they will be following the Feds 1B definition or the State's. General Quinn responded that the pharmacies will be following the State's definition. He added that the supplies come from the Federal Government.
- Rob Gilmore asked if the state has sufficient resources to administer the vaccine program. General Quinn stated that the rules that came out from the Feds, is that the cost of administering the vaccine cannot be legally passed on to the patient. The provier has to bill the insurance company, Medicare or Medicaid.

Maureen Womack – System Director of Behavioral Health, Bozeman Health

- [Link to Powerpoint presentation here:](#)
- Maureen discussed the second pandemic that is occurring concurrently with COVID-19. That pandemic is Mental Health. The Behavioral Health Department is focused on COVID-19 due to the impacts it is having on mental health. Maureen went on to provide an in depth presentation outlining the concerns for the mental health crisis that is predicted to occur.
- Maureen explained the mental health effects of the pandemic from isolation. She explained that the CDC reported that more than 1 in 4 American adults met the criteria for serious mental

distress. Mental health professionals anticipate needs in behavioral health occurring 9 months after the pandemic has ended.

- Maureen explained that the country has not seen the entire surge in mental health. She advocated to making mental health a priority. The entire state of Montana is underserved from a mental health point of view.
- Mia asked about COVID relief funding for mental health being pursued. Maureen explained that 4% of all CARES Act Funding has been designated for behavioral health.
- Lander Cooney with Community Health Partners spoke on the importance of increasing awareness for mental health needs. She explained the importance of increasing awareness and normalizing mental health assistance.

V. Upcoming events and other information

- a. Recovery and Resiliency Team Call March 3, 2021
- b. Click [here](#) for the Montana Vaccination Dashboard
- c. Click [here](#) for the Recovery Dashboard
- d. Click [here](#) for the Bridger District's COVID Resources Website
- e. Updates for March meeting due 2/28/21

VI. Meeting was adjourned by Mia at 8:50 am.

Meeting Minutes recorded by Lisa Ledoux