

WSAA Board of Directors Meeting
October 19, 2005
MINUTES

Present: Lori Holley, Kathleen Driscoll, Marty Onishuk, Deb Matteucci, Jennifer Robohm, Leslie Nyman, Barbara Mueske, Heidi Davis, Tom Bartlett, Royalee Bishop, Alexandra Volkerts, Alyce Anderson, Boyd Roth, Paul Meyer, Michelle Lewis, Michael Smith, Maureen Pollad, Dan Ladd, Jane Tremper East, Randy Vetter and Gene Durand

- Opening Comments – The meeting was opened at 10:18am by Tom Bartlett. Tom asked for any comments. Alexandra Volkerts handed out Part D information about medication coverage changes for individuals on SSI or SSDI. Discussion followed. There will be a MetNet teleconference on October 28, 2005 at the usual places at 10am. An auto enroll function is in place for those that are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. If individuals do not enroll a plan will be selected for them. Individuals on MHSP are also affected by this change and must be enrolled in Part D by Jan. 1, 2006 or they will have no prescription coverage. Paul Meyer stated that this is a critical junction for consumers. Debbie Matteucci shared that the Mental Health Associations website details the steps that need to be taken and the site can be used as an educational link by organizations and individuals affected by this change themselves. Local social security offices should be used to begin the qualifying process. Gene Durand expressed some concern that local physicians and psychiatrists do not know enough about the changes. Debbie responded that the association has tried to get them information. Once enrolled in a plan it will be difficult to switch which may also cause individuals problems. (Note: Ron Homberg, Attorney for Policy and Legal Affairs, NAMI National said at the Montana State Conference on Mental Illness that individuals will have the option of changing their plan once a month if necessary.)

Tom Bartlett made a motion to have Alexandra Volkerts an ex-officio member attend as many of the Executive Board meetings as possible in a consulting capacity, although she will not have voting privileges. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Minutes - Heidi will make adjustments to the September 21st minutes and make a correction that Jennifer Robohm had not volunteered to contact the business department at the University regarding assistance with business planning. Discussion followed about Royalee Bishop's possible role on the State Preferred Drug List committee. It was decided that she will be nominated by the WSAA Board to be the joint SAA representative. Royalee accepted this nomination. Tom Bartlett made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. There was no second to accept the minutes. Heidi Davis will revise the September minutes and present them again at the November 16th meeting.
- Treasurer's report – Paul Meyer reported that Geoff Birnbaum had transferred the funds in our Treasury from Missoula Youth Homes to Western Montana Mental Health Center. The amount remaining is \$15, 274.00 minus mileage costs from the last meeting. Paul

Meyer clarified the mileage reimbursement rate. The Board had agreed previously that it is set at the State rate which currently is 48.5 cents a mile. Reimbursement is available for primary and secondary consumers. Consumers will also be reimbursed with mileage for attending quarterly congress meetings. The Chairman's or Vice Chairman's signature must be on the travel vouchers in order to be reimbursed. Tom Bartlett has initiated the change of organizational names handling our treasury funds from Missoula Youth Homes to Western Montana Mental Health Center. Alexandra Volkerts suggests that the contract should reflect the WSAA as a corporation and not name individuals. She believes the chairpersons name and signature on the contract is enough to make it binding. Dan Ladd will take this back to Nancy to make changes. Marti Onishuk. made a motion to accept the contract changes. Passed without opposition.

- Additional LAC's Treasurer's – Hamilton still forming. Will inform the Board when their LAC Director and Treasure is chosen. Alyce Anderson and Michelle Lewis have both filled out EIN numbers. Information given on how to file for the EIN number: type IRS.gov. In upper left corner type SS-4 and hit search. Fill out form. There is also an 800 number to call and a number can be assigned while on the phone.
- Signing of bylaws – Alexandra Volkerts says the bylaws can be signed by the secretary of Tom Morrison, the lawyer in Helena submitting our paperwork. Filing of the bylaws is delayed because of Tom Morrison's work load.
- Important topic – Tom Bartlett announced that Senator Dan Weinburg wants to write a bill about transportation of consumers to Warm Springs. Much discussion followed. Debbie Matteucci says her concern is that the bill should not say how people will be transported. Instead the bill should focus on educating transporters and teach how to approach the situation as a medical crisis instead of a criminal issue. The bill could mandate that first responders go through training. Tom Bartlett says he thinks the Senator wants to approach the large issue of both the use of restraints and how people are transported. Research on how other States do this may be helpful. Gene Durand shares what his investigation revealed a few years ago. We also must include the transport back from the hospital to hearings. Targeting communities with the most number of consumer transports may be a place to start. Alexandra Volkerts says because Warm Springs is the destination, having a transport team from there may work. Randy Vetter shared with us the difficulty of cost and hiring staff. Heidi Davis suggests looking locally at hidden costs, i.e. overtime for police, to fund and maybe doing an RFP. WMMHC and AWARE may be able to provide as service. Paul Meyer likes the idea of Warm Springs providing staff. (Heidi Davis leaves for an appointment and Alexandra Volkerts fills in as secretary)
- Report from Hamilton. Lori Holley and Kathleen Driscoll reported on the current efforts in Hamilton to form an LAC, current increasing demand for mental health and crisis services in Ravalli county, limited resources (most of which are in Missoula) and lack of any beds for people in crisis in Ravalli county, response of individual citizens and other problems.

- Indemnity Insurance. Paul Meyer reported on availability of errors and omissions insurance for the Board. He contacted Paine Financial and NP Corp as agents who he was told could place E & O insurance. He has received 3 applications for the 3 SAAs. Kathleen Driscoll had another recommendation which she will send Paul.
- WSAA Goals. Tom Bartlett asked the directors to identify three goals to improve mental health services in Montana. The LAC directors are requested to obtain input on the three most important goals for each of their LACs. One director asked how this interfaced with the 4 goals the SJ41 Interim committee is trying to identify. Tom clarified that he believes the SAAs need their own goals, which may or may not coincide with the SJ41 goals. Our goals should focus on what we are asking AMDD, AWARE and WMMHC to do for people with mental illness in our communities. He would like the board to be able to agree on three goals for the WSAA by December.
- SJ41 Interim Committee Report. Alyce Anderson and Michelle Lewis reported on the presentation they will give for the WSAA to the SJ41 Interim Committee on October 21, 2005. The presentation addresses current collaborative efforts, new services under development including crisis response services and support for 4 concepts: Common poverty level eligibility for CD and MHSP, 72 hour presumptive eligibility for all crisis services, crisis response for people who are not Medicaid/MHSP eligible at the time of the crisis, and reimbursement for local hospitals for crisis bed usage of 3 to 4 days.

The directors heard and approved the presentation. The directors discussed the need for full support for the SAAs in the face of some public dissension.

- Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be the third Wednesday of the month, November 16, 2005 from 10:00 to 12:00 am at Saint Patrick Hospital, Missoula in the Conference room. Tom Bartlett will not be able to attend, so Michelle Lewis, Vice Chairman will conduct the meeting.
- AMDD Update. Dan announced that the AMDD Listening Tours are underway around the state. AMDD has also interviewed a number of candidates for the field staff position and expects to be making final employment offers very soon.
- Next WSAA Congress. The next Congress meeting will be held December 14, 2005 in conjunction with the December Board of Directors meeting. The Board will meet from 10:00 to 12:00 am, there will be a break for catered lunch and the Congress meeting will start at 1:00 PM until 3 PM. Both meetings will be held at St. Patrick Hospital Conference Room, 500 W. Broadway, Missoula Mt.

- Open Meeting Laws. A director asked Alexandra to research what the requirements are for the open meeting laws as they apply to the WSAA for the next meeting.
- Transportation. Gene Durand noted that if directors or LACs have further comments or suggestions for Senator Weinberg regarding his inquiry about improving transportation for people to MSH, they should send their comments to Tom Bartlett.
- Final Announcements: Paul asked for additional travel claims, Tom announced an upcoming football game.

A director made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM

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