

## **WSAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 15, 2006**

**Directors present:** (14) Jennifer Robohm, Boyd Roth, Michelle Lewis, Lee Anne Beebe, Alyce Anderson, Royalee Bishop, Dawn Slaven, Brenda Desmond, Abigail Sabol, Charles Baker, Paul Meyer, Heidi Davis, Tom Bartlett, Marty Onishuck (for Jane Tremper East)

**Ex Officio:** (2) Alexandria Vokerts and Dan Ladd

**Guests:** (8) Rep. Jeanne Windham, Barbara Mueske, Mary Jane Fox, Gene Durand, Joyce DeCunzo, Linda Roth, Kathleen Driscoll and John Honsky

**Total Present: 23**

Meeting Opens - 10:25 am by Chairperson Tom Bartlett, a quorum is present.

- 1. Opening Comments:** Shirley Wooster represented herself as the chair person of the LAC in Anaconda. Tom Bartlett has learned that there is no functioning LAC in Anaconda. She is now house bound indefinitely and therefore can not attend meetings. **Tom makes a motion that she be removed from the Board of Directors.** Seconded. Passed without opposition. Jennifer Robohm suggests that we write a letter explaining our decision. Heidi Davis will draft a letter.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Everyone was notified of this meeting by email or phone. Minutes were distributed by email and handed out at this meeting. Corrections were documented and Heidi Davis will make corrections. **Alyce Anderson moves to accept the minutes as amended.** Seconded. Passed without opposition.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Last month's balance was \$11, 367.38. Missoula Youth Homes was still receiving bills. They are now switched over to Western Montana Mental Health Center. Travel expenses are also included. Total expenditures of \$2,109.04 are broken down as follows: \$986.75 meals; \$461.72 travel; \$312.00 rooms; \$345.00 LAC. The WSAA is scheduled to receive another \$5,000.00 for from AMDD. Discussion on LAC distribution the amount should be \$750.00. Paul Meyer will double check figures. **Motion made by Lee Anne Beebe to accept the treasurer's report as reported for audit.** Seconded. Passed without opposition. Paul clarifies that auditing will occur when the Western Montana Mental Health Center is audited.
- 4. Video Conferencing:** Tom Bartlett brings up the question from last month about the possible use of TeleMed conferencing our meetings when members can not

attend during bad weather months. St. Patrick Hospital does not have capabilities for TeleMed but can make conference calling available. Alexis Volkerts asks what the cost would be, Tom did not know what the hospital would charge. He mentioned that it is sometimes difficult already to hear our own attending members and that it would be especially hard to hear over the phone. Alyce adds that it is difficult. No decision on use of teleconferencing is made.

5. Hamilton Treasurer is Shirley Butler. EIN number is also established. Donna Penya is treasurer for Lake County.
6. **Update – Crisis Management Initiatives:** Progress has been made with the priority list we worked on last month. Tom Bartlett sent letters to the two other SAA chairmen and asked for feedback after their board worked on their priorities. Tom has heard nothing back. Dan Ladd reports that the CSAA and ESAA have adopted the priorities submitted by WSAA. They have agreed with the work accomplished and have accepted the priority list. Joyce DeCunzo, Administrator of AMDD sent a note back thanking the WSAA for their hard work.
7. Heidi Davis, Secretary of the WSAA reported that the Bylaws were notarized, signed and mailed to Tom Morrison, the attorney in Helena handling the incorporation of the Service Area Authorities. Alexis Volkerts explains that all three SAAs must send bylaws before Tom Morrison can send a letter to the IRS.
8. **Business Planning Committee:** Alexis Volkerts reports that a new section has been drafted about the interaction between the LACs, MHOAC and SAAs. The statute defines this interaction but needs further definition. The group is currently identifying the top five obstacles that are present and may hinder the further development of the WSAA.

In the list of priorities, the listening tour identified our other priorities under crisis stabilization. This group will use the WSAA priority list as they continue work. The area of focus is what strategies to use to implement our goals. For example, collaborating with AMDD is a strategy. Other examples are application for grants and forming committees to work with the legislature. The committee needs the Boards recommendations for strategies as well. Call or email the members of the committee Paul Meyer, Michelle Lewis, Mike Smith, Boyd Roth, Jennifer Robohm, Julia Schooler or Alexis Volkerts with your ideas. The goal is to have our plan or a map as soon as we can of how the WSAA will accomplish the priority goals.

Tom Bartlett asks for ideas from the members. Gene Durand adds that research shows that peer to peer services are part of crisis response and rehabilitation. He suggests that we research best practice models to help reach goals. Royalee Bishop says fundraising may be an important focus.

- 9. Website Study Committee:** Charles Baker reports that the website has been adjusted. The site was displayed and explained. There are links to minutes and information. The server name is **wsaa.helenet.com**. A domain name (website address) is still being sought. It currently is at the geocities.com site. Michelle Lewis asks who will maintain the site. Charles responds that the website committee will maintain it. Paul Meyer offers that the WMMHC will use its credit card to pay for the site. Paul asks if we will register a life time domain. Charles answers that this should be good for three to five years. Lee Anne Beebe suggests having links to the other SAAs and the LACs. Alexis Volkerts asks for a calendar of events. The LAC meetings could then be listed. Heidi Davis suggests that ideas be emailed to Charles so that we can carry on with the agenda. The Director's commend Charles for his hard work.
- 10. Committee for Improving Transportation of Consumers:** Brenda Desmond introduces John Honsky, a RN at Providence Center who has researched this issue. A handout was given to the Directors. John's recommendations are reviewed and Paul Meyer thanks the committee for possible remedies. Paul asks Rep. Jeanne Windham to help us with this issue. Tom Bartlett has also forwarded a copy to Senator Weinberg, who is actively interested in this issue. Alexis Volkerts adds that due process (one of the recommendations) is very hard in the hospitals. She has big concerns about the violation of rights with dues process that occurs in the courts as is. Private transportation is one that she would like to pursue. Local crisis centers will also take care of this issue. By keeping people in the community we avoid this issue all together! A Public Defender's unit is another way to proceed. This would be a traveling unit who would be educated specifically to the needs of people with mental illness. Lee Anne Beebe adds that this is also an issue at the local level, i.e. local hospitals. Solutions at both local and the State hospital need to be looked at. **Charles Baker motions that the WSAA support the forming of Regional Public Defenders Team who are dedicated to civil commitments and that they be adequately funded, prepared, trained and have reasonable caseloads.** Kathleen Driscoll seconded. Discussion followed: Paul Meyer likes the balance of approaches not just one. Brenda does not see this as an either/or motion and states that Charles motion is not inconsistent. Alexis adds this does address the transportation problem. Lee Anne states that she is not adequately informed about the Regional Team and would feel better about a motion to study this and present back to Directors. Support 4. Oppose 7. **Paul motions that we support the range of solutions proposed by John Honsky's, "Ending the Routine Transportation of Patients in Shackles" research paper and accompanying that this be communicated to our legislators. This includes the preface of the paper as well. Paul withdraws the motion. Brenda moves that the Board authorizes the continued research of this issue (including Public Defenders Team).** Charles seconded.

LUNCH

11. Tom Bartlett reminds that the Summit meeting is March 14, 2006. Lunch ideas were discussed. **Brenda Desmond motions to keep the sandwich bar but include more salad and fruit.** Seconded by Heidi Davis. Passes unanimously.
12. **Paul Meyer motions that we authorize broad band connection service for Charles Baker, our webmaster, of up to fifty dollars a month to continue to work on the website.** Alyce Anderson seconds. Paul explains that he can put it on his travel claim for reimbursement. Alexis Volkerts points out that Jane Tremper East has also worked on it too, and should she receive reimbursement as well? Paul states he will **amend the motion to include Jane.** Input is given that the money should go to the webmaster(s). The conclusion is that the money then goes to the webmaster doing the website work. Motion passed without opposition.
13. **Hamilton LAC Report:** Kathleen Driscoll explains the groups focus to crisis stabilization. The group is drafting letter of intent for a facility. Kathleen explains that the group is well represented and functions well together. The newspaper yesterday represented the need for crisis stabilization which helps their cause.
14. **Update to Priorities List:** Number 7; training law enforcement- NAMI Helena will start a training program for police and Sheriff's officers from around the State in September. Michelle Lewis asks if officers need to be invited and how to get officers there. Tom Bartlett responds by saying area chiefs should contact Helena's Sheriff and Chief of Police to understand how much it is helping them and then contact Gary Mihelish, NAMI Montana state president at 443-7871. Mary Jane Fox asks if NAMI has information on their website. Response: go to [namimt@ixi.net](mailto:namimt@ixi.net)
15. Tom asks if replies to Requests for Proposals from the State have been made yet. Paul Meyer said the RFPs have not been released yet.

Meeting adjourned 1:13 pm.

Summit Meeting: March 14; 10 am until 3 pm.

Board of Directors meeting is March 15, 2006 10 am-12 pm. Followed by the WSAA Congress meeting which is 1 pm to 3 pm.

Minutes submitted by Heidi Davis