

WSAA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 1:00

Board of Directors Present: (10) Michelle Lewis, Boyd Roth, Jennifer Robohm, Brenda Desmond, Charles Baker, Tom Bartlett, Lee Anne Byrne, Royalee Bishop, Paul Meyer and Jane Tremper East

Ex-Officios: (4) Alexis Volkerts, Gene Durand, Dan Ladd and Mary Jane Fox

Guests present: (11) Ruby Wood, Craig Fitch, Barb Mueske, Rod Walette, Jeff Mouyles, Tyler Steinebach, John Honsky, Denelle Pappier, Mike Smith, Marty Onishuk and Tom Camel

Total: 25

10:10 am Chairman Tom Bartlett called to order. We had a quorum of 9 Directors at the time; Lee Anne Byrne arrived a little later due to road construction.

Opening Comments and Introductions

Jane Tremper East will be Acting Secretary in Heidi Davis' absence.

Minutes from March 15, 2006 Board of Directors and Congress meetings were approved as amended.

Business Planning Committee Report - Alexis Volkerts distributed handouts of proposal for the WSAA Mission Statement. The Board's preference was statement #3: with some **revisions underlined**. "The Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) was established by State statute to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and Local Advisory Councils (LACs) in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a consumer-driven, recovery-oriented and culturally competent public mental health care system. Our mission is to assure that consumers, their families, and other interested community stakeholders have a strong voice in defining, developing, management and monitoring public mental health care delivery in Montana, with a focus on the western region of the state. The primary objective is to ensure that consumer's needs and preferences are at the center of the services provided. **Motion was made for approval of this Mission Statement was made by Paul Meyer and seconded by Boyd Roth. The motion passed.**

Strategy and Implementation Section of WSAA's Business Plan were distributed by Alexis asking us to consider if these strategies are going to get us to our stated Mission Statement? One question involves specifically #5 (Participate in Legislative Process). What is needed to present a unified voice? Homework: all of us need to give time and thought to how this is written. *(It should be noted that these handouts are appended to the minutes.)*

Charles Baker made the suggestion that we could have message board on our WSAA website to share input to the committee as well as share other information online. **A motion was made by Charles Baker and Jane Tremper East to develop a bulletin board initially only for this topic. The motion passed.**

Charles is willing to offer short training on how to use this service at our next meeting, but will e-mail members when site is available in meantime.

Dan Ladd requested to have an updated directory of the Board of Directors with Ex-Officios e-mailed to him.

A motion was made by Boyd Roth and seconded by Brenda Desmond to appoint a new At-Large WSAA Board member: Tom Camel serving as an independent Native American member (not affiliated with the Tribal Council). Tom introduced himself and gave a detailed description of his background. Everyone agreed that he is very qualified!

Treasurers Report - Paul Meyer stated that our current cash balance is \$11,163.64 with expenses of \$8,396.60 for a nine month period excluding some meal expenses from St. Patrick Hospital that has not yet been received. Dan Ladd asked if there is way to figure "in-kind" donations (time/supplies/room) to show State legislators that there is lots of community support? Paul said some new costs have increased projected expenses: website and increased cost of travel with more people attending and SAA Summit meetings. For next year's budget allotment, Dan Ladd will have more information next month. Send suggestions of expenses to Tom Bartlett to collate expenses.

Motion to accept the Treasure's Report was made by Brenda Desmond and seconded by Royalee Bishop. The motion was passed.

Compensation for Website Committee – Tom Bartlett asked if the committee had agreed on dispersion amounts of the one time \$500.00 payment to the three members. Charles Baker and Jane Tremper East stated that their request would be for Jane and Ellen Simmons to receive \$125.00 each and Charles \$250.00. It was mentioned that Ellen who has not been in attendance for some time now, but has been contacted by phone indicated to them that she was not sure she should receive payment. Tom summarized that Jane is to be paid \$125 paid now and Charles \$250.00 now. If Ellen does not respond by May 31st as to whether or not she wants to receive payment then her \$125.00 share will go to Charles per Jane's and his agreement. **The board voted unanimously to accept this recommendation.**

Requests for Proposals Committee - Charles Baker summarized the four proposals received by the RFP Committee in the WSAA region. All RFPs must be received by AMDD on or before May 3rd along with a letter of support from the regional SAA to be considered for approval. There is \$875,000 available to Montana in federal grant money for crisis intervention and co-occurring services that will be awarded after June 1st.

All RFPs will be reviewed by an RFP Approval Committee meeting at AMDD in May. Two representatives from each SAA are included on the Approval Committee. Charles made a motion that we accept or reject each proposal by separate votes. There was actually no vote on Charles motion but followed his recommendation to vote on each proposal.

We voted to support all four proposals with the following suggestions. Charles and Tom Bartlett, between the two of them, will write letters of support to each RFP author along with the WSAA's suggests for improving the acceptability of their proposal.

Support of RFPs recommendations to improve chances for approval:

1) Kalispell's Mental Health Professional Training Proposal - Training for approximately 50 clinical levels individual throughout the region. This RFP was submitted by Candace Powell, Director of Western Montana Mental Health Center Kalispell and their MHP supervisor with a projected cost of approximately \$7,500. Charles Baker made the estimate that the cost of the training program would be about \$1.25 for each consumer. We would make one suggestion, that other qualified clinicians in the region outside of Western Montana Mental Health Center be included in the training such as Aware, Tribal Health Services and other Master's level clinicians. Paul Meyer recommended that Tribal sensitivity be added as well. Discussion: Paul said that in smaller areas with lower populations individuals trying to provide crisis response services have to balance that responsibility with their full-time day job. Dan Ladd said that the proposals process should be kept simple. **The Board voted yes in support of this proposal.**

2) Polson and Lake County - Includes two funding sources in their proposal to hire two mental health professionals (MHPs). Their request for AMDD grant funds is for \$60,000 with an additional \$60,000 coming from the two hospitals, county and tribes to hire and fund for one year. This proposal also needs to include co-occurring disorders service which is not currently addressed. A question from the committee: will the programs be sustainable? It requires a rewrite of state rules. Paul Meyer says the program will need additional support from the county and communities to make it work. Paul adds that the State has to step up to crisis service delivery system! **The Board voted yes in support of this proposal.**

3) Butte and Silverbow County – The basics of the Gilder House Crisis Center proposal would provide both secure and non secure beds for people in psychiatric crisis. It would include 12 beds, with a capacity for 4 beds to be locked for people to be involuntarily detained if ordered by the court. It would also include 2 beds for detoxification and the remaining 6 beds for voluntary crisis stabilization. This request is asking for \$250,000. The committee suggested that the RFP include a letter of support from the Butte Local

Advisory Council, and a letter of support from the people donating the land. **The Board voted yes in support of this proposal.**

4) Hamilton and Ravalli County - The proposal centers around developing a 4 bed facility for mental health crisis intervention and/or detox related crisis care with an additional 3 to 4 beds for transitional purposes when a consumer is returning to the community. The group is asking for \$55,000 to hire a person for six months to set up a feasibility study and costs estimates for the development of a facility. An additional \$150,000 is requested to fund users of the facility that have no funding source, provide training for staff and peer to peer support and pay expenses for the first six months. The RFP looks pretty broad the Directors commented. Clearer delineations would be helpful and will there be lock-down capabilities in a future phase? Will there be sustainability for this project? Paul Meyer stated that sustainability for any such unit would be dependent on the proposed 72 hour presumptive eligibility in AMDD's budget that would go into effect July 07. **The Board voted yes in support of this proposal, there was one nay vote.**

Two Board Members and an Alternate Selected for AMDD's Requests For Proposals Approval Committee - The Board designated two people from the WSAA to travel to Helena to assist in AMDD Approval committee, week of May 15. Eligibility: the individuals may not be personally involved or financially invested in a proposal to AMDD. Motion: **Tom Bartlett nominated Alexis Volkerts and Charles Baker. A motion was made and passed. Marty Onishuk was also chosen to serve as an alternate in case Alexis or Charles could not attend.**

Veterans Administration Mental Health Field Program - Rod Walette stated that under the specific program criteria those with a diagnosis of psychosis or serious mental illness do not need Social Security Insurance (SSI) to qualify for this new program which is only 3 months old. The program is becoming consumer-driven and is there to fill gaps in services offered. The traditional vocational rehabilitation model "Train and Place" is not effective where as the new program "Place-and-Train" model makes a veteran's preference for work place and type of job possible. Located and focused in Helena, Rod's maximum caseload of 25 veterans involves very time-intensive case management. There is also a counterpart position in the Billings area with plans to add programs in the future to fill consumers' needs. Tom Camel added that he knows Buck Richardson, Ft. Harrison VA Hosp., who works with Indian Vets having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Satellite assessments take place on the reservations, (Crow and Cheyenne).

Committee for Improving Transportation of Consumers - Brenda Desmond
The committee will be following up on grant funding sources that may be available to improve Court-ordered transport. Brenda is passing some of the leadership of their work to John Honski, Gonzaga University Nursing Department. Statistics provided by John were: of all the petitions to transport filed in last year: 50% male (18-86 yrs), 50% female (14-80 yrs): total @ 88 people.

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors - Craig Fitch, legal representative at Montana State Hospital - The current census is 212 patients in the hospital (maximum planned

occupancy is 165) with the cost to state currently at \$357.00 per day/per person. Patients are not just those with sever debilitating mental illnesses they also include those with Traumatic Brain Injuries (population at about 5%), and about 25% admissions are “youth” cases” 18-25 yrs. Methamphetamine and other addictions are definitely a factor but accurate numbers are not known. Seventy percent of admissions are first timers (of those, 70% do not have Medicaid). Approximately 10-20% of the population is Native American at the hospital.

12:35 Adjourn.

Location and Time for May 17th Board Meeting at St. Patrick Hospital conference rooms Broadway Building Annex, 10 am -1 pm.

Jane Tremper East