

WSAA Board of Directors' Meeting
Wednesday, May 16th, 2007
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Board Members (11): Tom Bartlett, Chairperson; Paul Meyer, Treasurer; Brenda Desmond; Courtney Collier Rudbach; Mike McMeekin; Jennifer Robohm; Thomas Camel; Alyce Anderson; Marty Onishuk; Michelle Lewis and Royalee Bishop

Ex-Officios (2): Daniel Ladd, AMDD; Dennis Cox AMDD

Guests: Jackie Finlen, Karla Foster, David, Leonard

Public Comments – Introductions:

Charles Baker would like to change the web site billing to one line as opposed to billing for DSL and web site management. This could be put on same voucher as travel reimbursement. This was agreed upon. Charles made a request to raise rates to \$125.00 Alexandra Volkerts moved to raise rates to \$125.00. It was moved and seconded and voted to increase rates to \$125.0 0 effective for May services.

Michelle Lewis requested The Board allow Butte LAC have a second alternate for the Board of Directors. Jackie Finlen would be the second alternate. Pathways has had 2 co-board members resulting in having a two party alternate. A motion was made and voted on to change the by-laws to reflect the possibility of dual alternate.

Alexandra Volkerts brought to the attention of the Board that it was not necessary to change by-laws as the wording of the by laws covers these instances.

Qualification of Director: reads of the 19 elected directors up to 10 directorships are reserved for 10 LAC councils within the WSAA region. Each LAC may elect 1 Board member and up to 2 non-voting alternates. The alternates may vote in the absence of the Board member.

Charles Baker discussed having a 1st and 2nd alternate in order that voting will be maintained at 1 vote per section. This was agreed upon. Michelle asked if the LAC members electing the LAC representative to the WSAA board have to be members of the WSAA. Alexandra Volkerts confirmed that LAC members voting and electing a representative to the WSAA board must be members of the WSAA..

Tom Camel would like the WSAA to send letter to tribal council requesting Carol Lankford be chosen as alternate. He was advised the tribal council can choose anyone to be their alternate and that it was not appropriate for the WSAA to make nomination recommendations to the tribal council

Approval of Minutes of April: Motion was made, seconded and voted to approve minutes as corrected. General vote and corrected minutes will be posted on the web.

Mental Health Court-Theresa Conley: The Mental health court is up and running. They are continuing to look at expanding as well as looking at other models. Alexandra Volkerts stated that Idaho has their own PACT team for the mental health court. Those PACT team are all state employees which are dedicated to the mental health court. There is a joint effort between Probation officers and the PACT team. They don't have the same restrictions as the mental health court in Montana. They can work with all areas of clients-non-violent and violent offenders. Idaho is willing to come to Montana to present to the Legislature the savings created by Mental Health Courts. These savings are in the state hospital, local county jails and prisons. Mental health courts are one way in which the State could divert people from institutions. There can be pretrial decisions and the client can state they have a mental illness and would benefit from mental health court. In Idaho, they have already plead guilty and are already in the system. In Missoula the grant stipulates only non-violent with misdemeanors crimes. This is a national problem. This creates double stigma of being both criminal as well as having a mental illness. A bill made it through the legislature authorizing mental health courts but did not fund them. The State of Idaho studied before and during hospitalizations and incarcerations and it was 90% savings rate which not only saved the state enormous amounts of money but improved people's lives substantially. Brenda Desmond not only authorized mental health courts but put in some protections. There is also some money if Governor signs the treatment court bill, there would be funds for developing mental health courts.

Treasures Report – Paul Meyer: April
Expenses for April \$1,245.09
This included an advance to Libby LAC.
Balance \$3,636.60.

We are scheduled to receive an additional \$5,000.00 at the end of June.
Moved and seconded and voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as written.

Additional Treasurer's Report discussion: Travel reimbursement was increased to the State rate of \$.485 per mile for mileage effective this month.

Tom had a note from the hospital that since they overcharged the WSAA, they were going to give the WSAA a credit. The lunch expense was changed from 40 to 25 people.

General discussion regarding monies for LACs: All the LACs are not going to receive the same amount of monies as they came on board at different times. Members were attempting to understand the amounts LACs are eligible for and what they did receive. Beginning in July the LACs could apply for additional funding for the new fiscal year. The amounts of the money to be disbursed can be decided during June or July meeting. Generally, agreement \$200.00 per six months for the LACs beginning in July.

The decision to include less than 50 mile reimbursement for travel will be revisited after the governor has actually signed the bill allocating funding to the SAAs.

New Board Member for Kalispell: Connie Hebert will be replacing Boyd Roth as the Board Member from Flathead County. Connie went to Helena as part of her NAMI involvement. Tom Bartlett moved and seconded and motion was carried to accept Connie Hebert as the Board member from Flathead County. She is also the secretary of the Flathead LAC.

Long Range Planning Committee Report: Charles Baker: All three SAAs have members on this committee. There has not been any communication between members at this point. Charles will contact the members of the Central and Eastern SAA to determine the chairperson in charge of the statewide committee and expressed an interest in chairing the committee statewide. Individual members will be identified on the web site. Members can be on the planning committee even if they are not Board members. If the members of the long range planning committee meet it will be by WebEx.

Psychiatric Advanced Directives: John Honsky will be presenting next month at the congress meeting.

Montana Mental Health Association Conference: There are 4 members going to the Montana Mental Health Conference: Tom Bartlett, Patrick Wayne, Tom Camel and Charles Baker. There will be a lunch meeting to determine transportation arrangements. At the conference there will be a Leadership Training

from Saturday-afternoon until Sunday mid-day. Tom would like permission given the length of the day to stay over in Missoula Sunday night.

Legislative Update: This was reviewed with information Charles had located online.

Alexandra Volkerts advised that mental health community was able to achieve a number of the goals that had been selected which indicates success for a first time achievement. SAAs will need to continue to work with AMDD to pull together a more comprehensive plan for future legislatures.

Michelle Lewis feels we need to look at SAMSHA's Consensus Statement and set priorities and goals that are congruent with the objectives set forth in the Consensus statement.

Paul Meyer brought forward that the four areas had been identified in the Strategic Business Plan.

Charles Baker feels that Legislative Committee has met its purpose. Charles moved it be disbanded. Marty Onishuk advised the WSAA needs to keep the committee going in order to contact legislature members on an ongoing basis. Charles Baker felt the Long Range Planning committee will become the legislative committee. The AMDD department budget will need to be worked on in the next 18 months. Charles Baker has volunteered to be chair of the Long Range Planning committee.

Presentation -- Rosemary B. Hughes from The Rural Institute: She is a psychologist doing research on depression and abuse. The purpose is to focus on improving the interactions between police and consumers. The study focuses on identifying the barriers and problems in reporting abuse in order to resolve them and to make sure there is no difference in the level of service. This project is being done in Oregon and Montana in all areas of corrections. She will meet with people in small groups or individually. The focus is not to process or talk about but to improve reporting and improve training programs for law enforcement. This is the first study to get information directly from reporters and law enforcement. This can include all disabilities, not only mental health issues. Any type of abuses will be included. Disability related abuse will also be included. There will be separate meetings for men, women, and police officers. These group meetings can include as few as three persons. The abuse has to be by someone who is known to the person. The purpose of the study is to assess whether or not the

person received the same amount of attention in regard to the abuse as a person without a disability. This is funded by the Department of Education.

Alexandra Volkerts would like meeting with Montana State Hospital regarding abuses reported from people being admitted to state hospital.

Mental Health Oversight and Advisory Council (MHOAC): The first meeting was held in Helena and all business was resolved in first day. The process is being changed somewhat. New election of officers: Jim Fitzgerald, chair, Karen Ward Missoula Vice Chair. Made by-law change to includecouldn't hear. MACO, SAAs Children's mental health, can appoint their own committee members.

Wrap training and peer to peer training discussed.

Discussion regarding the forensics unit at State Hospital: There are 60 people in the Sprat building which is not licensed. To be in this building, the 4th criteria is guilty but mentally ill and under the department of corrections. There is not enough room in State Hospital. The Xanthopolous Building was formally used. The Sprat building is very old. In the state prison, there is a 16 bed block unit. Estimates stated that 45 % of the inmates in prison have a mental illness.

Charles Baker will be taking minutes next month. Patrick Wayne and Michelle Lewis will be chairing the meeting.

What is the Statewide Crisis Hotline Number? 1-800-273-TALK.

Consumer Quality Control Reviews – Paul Meyer: deferred until next meeting.

What New Priorities Do We Need To Focus On?: deferred until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Royalee Bishop LPN BA

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be Wednesday June 20th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm The **WSAA Congress Meeting to Follow, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at St. Patrick Hospital, Broadway Annex Conference Room 1 - Missoula, MT**