

## **WSAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 17, 2006**

**Directors Present:** (9): Charles Baker, Thomas Camel, Alyce Anderson, Leslie Nyman, Jane East, Paul Meyer, Tom Bartlett, Jennifer Robohm, Michele Lewis

**Alternates:** (4) Winnifred Storli, Mary Onishuk, Lori Holley, Mike Smith

**Ex-Officio:** (2): Alexander Volkerts and Dan Ladd

**Guests Present:** (7) Denelle Pappier, Craig Fitch, John Honsky R.N., Lou Thompson, Jane Bernard, Bobbi Renner, Gary Hamel

**Total Present: 22**

Jane Tremper East will be secretary in Heidi's absence.

The meeting began at 10:04 a.m. Tom Bartlett, chairman, asked for everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Tom B. recalled that it was one year ago on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 that we officially started the WSAA. We've accomplished a lot in one year – thank all of you for your work in making it happen. Lou Thompson, AMDD Mental Health Services Bureau Chief also said thank you for your hard work.

**The minutes from April 19<sup>th</sup>** were corrected regarding wording of the WSAA Mission Statement in the last sentence - "The primary objective is to ensure...provided." adding "and culturally competent." to the end of that sentence. There was also a correction to the minutes in the section on Committee for Improving Transportation of Consumers by John H. in the last sentence changing the ages of females transported to 16 – 86. Given these changes Alyce A. made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Alexis V. Motion passed.

**Treasures Report** - Paul M. stated that our expenses for April were \$2,225.65 with travel and meal expenses amounting to \$1,975.65 of that total. Our current cash balance as of 5-01-06 was \$8,937.99. A motion was made by Lori H to authorize payments to each existing LAC of another \$150.00 dollars effective when the treasurer of each LAC submits a request to Paul. There was some discussion that \$150.00 might not be enough to care the LAC all the way through the end of the year. Leslie N. made a motion to cut a check for \$200.00 when requested by letter from the LAC treasures, which should last until January 1 2007. Tom C. seconded it. Motion carried.

**Website News Group Message Board** - Charles B. presented a Google site that can be used by Board of Directors to help word the business plan and other possibilities. Craig

F., Mike S, Tom C., and Winnifred S. need invitations to the website. Charles showed how the Google site works. Charles can send digests every day.

**Home and Community Based Services Waiver** - Jane Bernard from the DPHHS informed us that DPHHS is working on a system of providing lead work for home and community based waiver. She anticipates October 1, 2006 as the start of the program. The waiver allows the Department to spend money for a certain population in a way that they are not usually being served. (Waiver of Comparability) It will not be available state wide. They are looking for 3 sites and DPPHS is looking at how and where they would be set up now. The program will serve people at home and cover adults aged 18 to the elderly of any age. They are looking at 105 slots for the program. Assurances of health and safety choices are needed, (Medicaid requirements). One board member asked about consumer standards. She replied that the program must meet nursing home level of care. Mountain View Quality Health Care is doing evaluations for level of care. PASR (certifies people to get level of care in nursing homes evaluations.)

Bobbie Renner presented data about epidemiology of Mental Illness in Montana that we had requested of the Department. Information on data for individuals with various seriously disabling mental illnesses served by AMDD was distributed.

Paul M. said the Business Planning Committee Meeting did not actually have a meeting today so the business report will be made next meeting.

**AMDD Requests for Proposals Update** - Lou Thompson said AMDD received nine proposals statewide totaling \$1.3 million and that grant is only for \$875,000.00. There are proposals from Lake County, Kalispell, Gallatin County, Hamilton, Great Falls, Helena, Miles City, Billings and Butte. That is a \$425,000.00 shortfall assuming that all the proposals meet the requirements of the RFP.

**Committee for Improving Transportation of Consumers Report** was tabled until next meeting.

**Grants and Fund Raising Committee** tabled until next meeting.

**How Much Personal Identification Should We Use?** The only critical element is that motions are made by a board member. Motion to use just first name and last initial in the minutes was made by Jane E. and seconded by Alexis V. Motion passed.

Tom C. would like to recommend Kim Azure as a board member to represent the Salish/Kootenai Tribe. The best process is to get on the agenda of the Salish Kootenai tribal council. Tom offered to go along with Kim. It may be best to ask for alternate if original person cannot attend.

**Department of Corrections** - Gary Hamel spoke next on his appointment to the Department of Corrections as Behavioral Health Coordinator on March 20. He admits that right now he doesn't know much about mental illness other than that there are

inmates at the State prison that have mental illnesses which the State has a legal and moral duty to serve these people. His background is in finance, used to be in Departments of Agriculture, Environment, and Budget and worked on the Legislative budget. The position he is in now is funded by DPHHS, but dually supervised working on memoranda of understanding, building bridges.

Both departments are looking at utilizing Xanidou building (now the WATCH program for addictions treatment over three years) as a behavioral prison/hospital. The Department of Correction will send 100 patients to this secure facility for intensive mental health treatment. This process will go before the legislature. His goal is to make the system better.

Marty O. commented that the term “Behavioral Health” makes it sound like a person is choosing a behavior of illness. Mental illness is a biological illness not a chosen behavior. Gary said Warden Slaughter is planning on conducting peer-to-peer education for prisoners being released. Marty asked about support groups. Gary said he already knows that a big question for those with a mental illness that are being released is “How am I going to get my medications when I go home?”

Winnifred S. said that they took the woman's prison out of the Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs, but how do you take the stigma out of going to the Warm Springs compounded now because now patients now feel that it is a prison as well. How is the department going to stigmatize warm springs less? Winnifred is talking about early intervention to avoid prison. There won't be any civil commitments at X building but people who are already adjudicated. Winnifred asks for the information to be made public. Try to get the project moving forward, has not been done in the State.

Paul M. says that the community needs services on the outside for addiction treatment and mental illness in jails and prisons. Alexis V. said 80 per cent of the people arrested are under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. Tom C. said that a high percentage of Native Americans are in jails and prisons and asked how realistic is the response to Native American spirituality in behavioral health; also will it be addressed in this prison?

Winnifred said Warm Springs used to be a health spa with their hot mineral springs; could you use them to reduce some of your heating costs and also use them as a health measure?

Dan L. reminded us that we need to work together as a team to be effective and competent with funding issues at the legislature.

At the next SAA Summit meeting, June 14<sup>th</sup> in Billings, a Legislative Committee will be formed.

Chairman Tom B. announced that we will not have access to these meeting rooms during our regularly scheduled meeting time the third week of July. It was discussed and agreed upon to meet Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> here at St. Patrick Hospital. **-See Next Page-**

Our next meeting of the WSAA Board of Directors and Congress will be June 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 10:00 – 12:00, then lunch and the Congress meeting from 1:00 – 3:00.

We adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Jane Tremper East