

WSAA Board of Directors Meeting
June 21, 2006

1. Meeting opens with introductions from chairperson, Tom Bartlett. A quorum of seven is present:

Tom Bartlett, Charles Baker, Royalee Bishop, Michelle Lewis, Marty Onishuk for Jane Tremper-East, Alyce Anderson, Michelle, Heidi Davis, Paul Meyer, Lee Anne Byrne, Brenda Desmond

Alternates: Mike Smith, Denelle Pappier, Sunny Terry

Ex-Officio: Alexandra Volkerts and Dan Ladd

Guests: John Honsky, Ted Harper, Seth Burroughs, Joy Tatarka (from Sen. Baucus office), Gerald Larson, Erin Ballas (Sen. Burns office), Carol Davidson, Barbara Mueske, Julia Schooler

2. Approval of Minutes – Discussion occurred about corrections. The minutes will be updated by Heidi Davis. Paul M made a motion to except the minutes with the corrections noted. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Thanks to Jane for taking minutes!

3. Treasurers report – The report is attached to the minutes. Total expenses of \$1,409.95 for May were mainly travel and website development. The total fund balance as of 6-21-06 is \$7,528.24. It is anticipated that June expenses will be higher because of the SAA Summit travel that just occurred. Discussion occurred about future revenue. This will affect decision making. Alexa gives the example of a grant writer and our ability to pay. Paul M. expresses concern about our over spending. Marti O. makes a motion to accept the Treasures report as presented. Seconded and passed unanimously. The report is attached to the minutes.

Tom asks about additional funding for LAC's. Paul needs a letter of request from the LAC. The request can be emailed and made to the chair or treasurer for \$200.00. Heidi D informs Paul M that the Missoula LAC just set up their bank account with the original money.

4. RFP – Butte and Hamilton were approved. Michelle explains that a twelve bed home will be built. Butte was awarded \$231,000. They were asked to re-tool the peer to peer portion of their proposal. Uncertain of what is needed. It may be that the state has the information and this info. is not needed. Butte will also accept non-Medicaid clients. Silver Bow County has donated the land. USDA is loaning the \$900,000 dollars to build the facility. 4 secure, detention beds will be available which will be combined with detox. beds. There will be 6 beds that are non-secure. Individuals will contract for safety. The other two beds may be secure but will be based on architecture feedback and safety concerns. For safety reasons they may not want to double up in rooms.

Chair person moves the meeting along so the other approved facility was not discussed.

5. Governor's budget – 1million is budgeted for presumptive eligibility. The hospital is guaranteed 72 hours of payment for individuals who have no other form of payment. Telemedicine is included in this figure. Community develop money is \$583,000. The money will be used for five staff positions and not for housing and other necessary services, explained by Dan Ladd and Paul Meyer. These will be peer to peer positions. Secure crisis beds total \$550,000 which is separate money from the RFPs. The budget is attached to the minutes.

Dan Ladd says we need continued feedback from the SAA's on the budget. We are not done. Charles asks for additional time for discussion. Charles points out that our letter of priorities included coverage to MHC's not just hospitals for unpaid services. Charles says we need both.

Paul expresses frustration that the budget does not include funding for MHSP which was cut last time. This is a large draw on the current budget as these individuals often end up in the Warm Springs because they have no ability to pay for other services. Paul's other concern is no funding for SAA's. They are not ready to be self sufficient.

Lee Anne says the State asking us to become involved would be helpful. Dan says we did get input on crisis services. The other part of the plan is to make sure that the State is educating SAA's to the rest of the picture. Lee Anne agrees training may be needed.

Marti clarifies that EPP means Executive Planning Process. Dan explains it is a negotiating process between the Department and the Governor. This then goes to the legislature. Alexa urges the WSAA to put together a legislative committee to address this issue. Consumers need to be vocal in this process. Emphasis is given to consumer involvement because their voice is of primary importance. People on the committee also need to be the agencies trying to influence service delivery. Alexa asks Dan for how to get involved. Dan suggests a formal letter. Tom will initiate the letter and send it to the executive Board.

Paul brings up the issue of maintaining Medicaid eligibility while consumers go back to work. He asks for help from the legislative representatives present at the meeting. Examples were given from a few consumers (not in minutes for confidentiality reasons). This dissuades people from working. Paul suggests that the legislative committee continue to address this issue and work with our Senators to address this issue federally.

6. SJ41 Update – Tom gives an update to the committee report where Tom and Lee Anne gave testimony. Tom passes out the testimony which is attached to the minutes. The Statues were passed out with suggestions for language changes. Tom presents asking for the WSAA to report. Lee Anne says her testimony was based on her own professional opinion. She believes this statute is necessary in our State. She gives an example of an interaction she had in her community. The issue is around the use of the terms imminent

danger which is interpreted to mean harm to self or others even if there are other risk factors indicated the same amount of risk. The other term is “gravely disabled”.

Alexa clarifies emergency detention which means removal from their home and community. Four conditions exist. Gravely disabled and likely to deteriorate is one of four criteria. Commitment is the second. Alexa says this should be within 24 hours. If this is left in the hands of the police lives can be ruined and gives an example of someone removed for annoying behavior. The concern is turning a safety statute into a commitment proceeding. She also expresses concern of this being a WSAA perspective when was not approved by the directors. Alexa says statutes are not being appropriately used. That is the problem not just the language.

Lee Anne goes back to the gravely disabled clause and the absence of harm that is of concern. Marti says that she continually hears that access to services is denied unless the imminent harm is not heard. The decision seems to go to the consumer who is asked of their own state when they may not know that they need help.

Tom B. points out the second page. He also shares the training program that is occurring for police officers. Charles states that changes to statutes sometimes result in unintended negative consequences. In order to recommend changes we should also look at what changes need to occur. The points of people not using the statutes correctly and the language constraints and confusion are valid.

Tom says there was interest from the Interim Committee on the language change. Alexa suggests that this go to the legislative committee for review. Tom asks for volunteers to serve on the legislative committee. They are: Charles, Marti, Julia, Ted Harper, Paul, Alexa, Royalee, Danelle, Michelle, Heidi and Dan are appointed. Chairperson will be Charles.

Heidi suggests that these issues and information be given to directors before meetings. Marti and Paul both clarify that no board member represents the opinion of the WSAA without prior Board approval.

Adjourned for lunch 12:18.

WSAA Congress meeting
Continue with Agenda from Board Meeting

G. Business Plan – Alexa says they are reviewing comments. She encourages everyone to look at the plan on the website. Charles says located under the contact page, www.SAAMT.org

H. Michelle updates the group on the waiver. 18+ with serious mental illness who qualify for nursing home level care. This is similar to the long term care waiver. There will be nurses and case managers involved with monitoring the care plan. Dan shares eastern recommended Billings. Charles asks Paul if Missoula is a good place to start.

Paul says yes but states that Missoula has a good array of services already for people on Medicaid. The problem is with MHSP where there are limited services and accessibility. Tom suggests Missoula, Butte and Kalispell (in alphabetical). Michelle supports Butte because of the high admissions to the hospital.

I. Transportation Committee – Brenda has had some contact with Marlene Dishburg who is having trouble connecting with the right people. Dan suggests contacting Patricia. Tom is on the TACT board with securing a van. Charles says a meeting is happening now in Hamilton with TACT trying to secure a van. In Libby they are partnering with senior citizens to improve their van for dual use.

Marty moves that the WSAA be listed as a sponsor not the transportation committee with the WSAA. Seconded. Passed without objection.

J. Grants and Fundraising: Ted Harper, Charles and Tom. The purpose of the group is to research opportunities. Charles suggests carpooling to save funds and that maybe limiting people who can attend. Barb suggested calling Alice, chair person of the eastern SAA. Dan said a healthy relationship is not dependency but some separateness which comes with maturity. The issue is timing. Our focus has been in organization and we may not be ready to take on this issue.

K. Interim Communication – purpose is for different committees to work together and not duplicate each other's work. A focus right now is to get the three SAA's talking to each other. The next meeting will be in Bozeman in an effort to save travel costs. There are pages for the LAC's. Charles thinks the website can be better utilized.

Lee Anne suggests having overlapping members. This would allow for improved communication. Leslie Nyman is on the Kalispell KMA. Tom asks Charles to think about a system to put in place making this workable.

Dan interjects the importance of working together. We want to be careful to not put others down for their efforts. Charles and Danelle will work on a letter to Tom who will send out to the Directors for review next month.

Brenda says there is a need to be frank and Ernst about opinion. We also need to do that with respect. We do not want to interject a niceness that does not allow for true expression.

Our next meeting is July 12, 2006 at 10am

MHSP guidelines from WMMHC. Spending allotted is 1 million. The Center is spending last year was 4 million. Looking at screening, priorities and spend downs. This is a stress on the MHC. Currently laying off case managers and other employees. HIFFA waiver was one way to bring in new money. WMMHC will not displace current people. Discussion occurred around funding issue. Heidi asks a question about rate

increase, for example, to case management to help fund MHSP. This is still occurring. The problem is there are more people than money.

Alexa made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 2:57pm.

Secretary, Heidi D. left the meeting, scheduled to be over at 3pm.