

WSAA Board of Director Meeting August 18th, 2006

Board Members: (10) Jane Tremper East, Tom Camel, Alyce Anderson, Boyd Roth, Michelle Lewis, Paul Meyer, Lee Anne Byrne, Royalee Bishop, Brenda Desmond, Tom Bartlett

Alternates: (2) Mike Smith, Marty Onishuk,

Ex Officios: (3) Mary Jane Fox, Daniel Ladd, Alexander Volkerts

Guests: (3) Dr. Noel Drury, M.D., Barbara Mueske, Linda Roth, Cindy Jensen,

Chairman Tom Bartlett welcomed all guests at 10:05 am and announced that we have a quorum. All board members were notified by email and last month's meeting agenda of this date and time of the meeting.

Tom announced that he had sent a letter of clarification to the SJ 41 Interim Committee that his presentation was his and Lee Anne Byrne's opinion and not that of the WSAA. Trudi Schmidt, Chair of the committee wrote back saying that they understood that they were speaking on their own and hope that the WSAA will adopt their position.

Minutes from last meeting were sent out by Tom as prepared by Heidi and amended by Alexis. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Michelle and seconded by Alyce.

Paul Meyer gave a treasurers report. There was an error in the transportation expense included his own plane trip expense to the SAA Summit meeting in Billings. It had been previously established that providers' travel expenses would be covered by their organizations. Current balance is \$4,372.53 after Paul's \$395.65 air travel is added back in. Paul will be sending a letter to AMDD requesting the third and final \$5,000 disbursement for 2006FY and the first \$5,000 disbursement for 2007FY. Expenses are running about \$2,000 a month and we only receive \$15,000 a year from AMDD. With a \$4,000 carry over into the coming year we will only have \$19,000 to carry us through the end of next June. Therefore it is obvious that the SAAs are seriously under funded. Brenda made a motion to request this disbursement for the next six months, and motions to accept the Treasures report it was seconded by Charles and passed unanimously.

We next discussed whether we will continue on in a more strict rule of Robert' Rules of Order as Alexis had presented an abbreviated information sheet. After discussion, Michelle made a motion to continue operating with our present informal rules of order. Tom Camel seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposed.

Michelle reiterated her motion of last month to make a two month period of time to decide how we as individuals and we as a group presents the WSAA positions to the public. Alexis added that there will be issues we disagree on but to continue to move forward on those issues, we will need to move forward individually. What is important is

that individual opinion not be represented as a group decision. Mike said that we need to be in union with the other SAAs yet as we present, we should show our own unique humor, and personality. Michelle then made a motion to find a process and procedure within the next two months. It was seconded by Alyce and the motion passed with two opposed.

The committee to perform this and to present for the subcommittee is as follows:
Tom Camel, Lee Anne, Michelle, Charles Baker, Mary Jane, Brenda Desmond, Marty Onishuk.

Brenda suggested that we can restate our goals already decided in our mission statement to include cultural competency to the subcommittee. We are able to talk and comment on a bill, that it doesn't reflect our vision statement. However most of the bills that they have ready for us to comment on have already been discussed before. John Honsky will have a bill for Transportation with Dignity that our SAA has supported.

We don't know what the rest of the bills might be so we decided to run the information through Charles Baker who can send back the individual committee members relevant information before they present. Dan suggested one person make a presentation for all SAA's.

Tom reminded the board that elections of executive officers are next month and that now is the time to start considering if you want to be nominated for a position. Dan Ladd suggested getting information from the CSAA regarding a nominating committee.

Mike Smith pointed out that he had volunteered and was selected to be on the legislative committee; however his name was not included in the minutes. Tom acknowledged the oversight and that Mike is on the committee.

Business Plan Committee Report: Alexis and Boyd presented. The committee anticipates that there may be a draft for the Board to review in September or October with an expectation that the Board will review, amend and vote to accept in draft form before the legislature convenes.

At our September 20th meeting four Board members' terms are up and may be re-elected if they choose to continue. They are: Royalee Bishop, Heidi Davis, Brenda Desmond and Jennifer Robohm.

Boyd Roth brought us up to date on the MHOAB committee. Jane made a motion to support the Crisis Response letter from MHOAB with the following additions: Cultural Competency, Judges and Justices of the Peace, Brenda seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Noel Drury M.D., medical director of Western Montana Mental Health Center's northern region made a presentation to the group. It had been requested that he speak to our group because the preserved impression by many members is that Kalispell has the

best mental health services available in the western region if not the state. We hoped he could educate us on how things have come so far in his community.

Dr. Drury clarified that it certainly was not he alone that made the improvements. He gave credit to Kalispell Regional Hospital for their work and building a treatment center that has become Pathways Treatment Center. He gives credit to individuals working at the mental health center and certainly the mental health professionals that do the crisis evaluations. He stressed the importance of making an accurate diagnosis as a psychiatrist, comprehensive treatment through PACT team approach, adult case management, out patient services and veteran's services.

He gives a lot of credit for their success to the administration team of Western Montana Mental Health Center and its Executive Director Paul Meyer. Also, Candace Powell the Director of the Kalispell Adult Mental Health Center. He credits NAMI for being extremely active and effective in Kalispell.

Dr. Drury gave an illustration of the comprehensive path in Kalispell for a patient from the ER to Pathways then to The Safe House and on to outpatient levels of care. He said at each stage problems may occur. Transportation to and from services can present safety issues. He stressed it's important to work with family members to ask if it's okay for their family member to be released from Pathways to The Safe House and vice versa.

Back in the early 1990s there were problems with law enforcement when they were designing the system. At first the ER blamed the jail and law enforcement blamed the mental health center, etc. Eventually they got all the involved parties in a room and met over a period of three years to try to resolve the problems. Now they have a better working system, with different parties understanding the role they can and are expected to play.

He said a really crucial part was when consumers and others went to Helena and got the legislature to reverse Governor Racicot's decision to keep Magellan and CSC for managed health care. This showed what an organized group prepared to work together can accomplish.

Tom Bartlett adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm. **At the next meeting September 20th four board members will be up for re-election. First there will be a Congress meeting at 10:00, then the Board of Directors meeting at 1:00.**