

# WSAA Board of Directors Meeting

## Wednesday, September 19, 2007

The Board of Director meeting began promptly at 12:20 pm

**Public Comments and introductions** (those not attending Congress) : Lee Wilson-Consumer; Mike McKeekin, Sheriff; Brian Becker-New Board Member; Director in Training at J's House.

**Approval of Minutes**- Motion made by Marti Onishuk with a second by Alyce Anderson. Minutes were approved without dissent.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Meyer- See Attached

Expenses: July & August	Mileage	\$1,437.54
	Meals	\$ 647.45
(Primarily St. Patrick Hospital and Summit)		
	Rent	\$ 300.00

(John Honsky will follow up with Mary Hutton and the room cost will be waived. Mary Cramer was not aware the fee was waived. This will be resolved by the next meeting.)

	Lodging	
\$442.98		

**Balance** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The contract with the State of Montana in regards to the SAA funds was signed and sent in previously and payment should be forthcoming.

Charles Baker moved and it was seconded and approved to accept Treasurer's report as presented.

**Drop in Center**-Tom Peluso suggested dividing the drop in centers into 1/3's for each SAA. This money does not allow for Bricks and Mortar but could help persons developing drop in centers. J's House will be putting in for funds and also the Peer Group in Hamilton and the Peer group in Butte. WSAA agreed to the designation of dividing the money into thirds. Mike McKeekin moved and this was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and approved without dissent. Paul Meyer advised that the drop in center could work side by side with day treatment program ie evenings; weekends, holidays and could be peer run

Dan Ladd is developing RFPs and they will be available by next meeting.

Charles Baker feels an RFP committee should make this decision based on the RFP presented.

Jacqueline Finlen feels everyone should have equal chance.

John-Miller wants to address the issue of privacy in regards to drop in centers. New Beginnings has rules that outsiders can not come in unless consent is given by attendees.

Drop in centers are for those with a mental illness, the homeless, etc. Paul advised drop in centers are unregistered programs. There is no attendance, no insurance billing. And he also suggested that the SAA process do the dividing of the state money in regards to drop in center funds. Tom Bartlett advised that Lamplighter in Kalispell has concerns about outsiders coming in. Dan expressed that each community can design their own proposal (i.e. hours, meeting place etc.) Alyce Anderson advised that persons who come into day treatment that are not receiving services, a confidentiality statement is completed for privacy. She also expressed problems with emergency room care confidentiality.

Marty Onishuk stated parents and family members are barred from attending day treatment. And she feels that furthers stigma. Many times the issue of privacy does not allow peers to operate as paid members of mental health center.

Tom offered the amendment that funds be divided by 1/3's and that a RFP procedure be developed where 2 representatives from each SAA decide the allocation based on the most appropriate proposal. This could apply to each proposal. Mike McKeekin moved; Dawn seconded. This is to allow each SAA to determine use. This provides for some degree of flexibility on the local level. This motion was approved without dissent.

**BHIF**-Behavior Inpatient Facility. Lou Thompson is bringing together hospitals, MHPs and advocates, and wants SAA's to have primary consumer designated. There will be 25-30 persons on this committee which will be Oct 9-10<sup>th</sup>.

Marti Onishuk would like the name **BHIF** changed as this implies there is a behavior that can be changed. It was suggested that Marti come up with a better name before 9-10<sup>th</sup> and let Patrick Wayne know. **FIST**- Facility for Inpatient Support and Treatment; **FIT**- Facility for Inpatient Treatment Marti Onishuk moved, Dawn Slaven seconded and it was approved that Patrick Wayne represent the WSAA in regards to the **BHIF** task force meetings.

**Compensation for Chairman and Secretary:** Last month it was voted to compensate the chairman and the secretary but no amount was decided upon. Mary Jane Fox-read from the minutes to consider paying and this was tabled until the next meeting. Dan said he does not believe there is a problem with this issue. Alexis stated that it is perfectly legal for non-profits to pay to complete services. There could be problems if selecting only certain persons; however, the preference would be for primary consumer on positions. Alexis, Tracy, Paul and Tom met and discussed hiring issues. The WSAA could contract with an outside agency that would pay the work comp etc and also pay the chair and they would be responsible. This would be a contract employee at will if this method was chosen. Alexis-three ways to deal with- (1) hire someone as employee-secretary and chairman. You then have to have someone handle all the withholdings or

(2) hire at least the chairman through an employment service who will handle all the withholdings or (3) pay stipend-one of the simplest up front that could create the most problems down the line. This can not be called stipend if it is tied to specific tasks and the WSAA could be liable for withholdings, etc.

Tom Bartlett questions the fact if no overseer is present would this have any effect. The chairperson hours are set by themselves as well as many of the duties. Independent contractors are a **higher** level job. Clerical and secretarial work cannot be done as **an** independent contractor. Lengthy discussion followed.

Dan Morehead questioned the objective of members being paid. Could some of those services be contracted out? Tom felt this would make things more complicated. Mike McKeekin stated the beauty of a stipend is that it is a thank you for services. The person could look at what they would like to take. A stipend could be declined if they so chose.

Tom felt there **is** so much that gets funneled through chairman that it would be impossible to funnel out and still keep continuity. A suggestion was made to have a volunteer from the group so there are two persons sharing tasks.

Paul advised that the chairperson takes a lot of time and should be compensated. Tracy felt that really AMDD would be the only one to disagree. Paul brought up that Western Montana Mental Health would be audited as the funds go through them so considerations must be made.

Dan Morehead-moved that stipend could be declined if the person chooses, seconded by Geri Stewart, approved by the majority.

Tom Bartlett proposed \$ 500 for chairperson and \$125.00 for the secretary. Charles Baker moved for \$500.00 and 125 per month. No second was made at this time.

Alexis reported that 6 thousand for chairman wages 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the entire budget. When you add the secretary wages this is a huge portion of our budget. This does not appear to be sustainable while at the same time encouraging additional consumer participation.

Dan Morehead-feels we should start with a lower dollar amount. He feels that \$200 per month to start with would be beneficial to the Chairman and \$50 or so for secretary until we know how the budget is going to hold out. Alyce thought at the last meeting it was \$350 per month for the chairperson and secretary at \$125.00 and this would decrease costs. Alexis feels that a certain amount is voluntary by everyone and the above and beyond is the amount that should be compensated.

Dan Morehead moved to pay \$200.00 and \$75.00 for the secretary. Dawn Slaven seconded, Motion passed with 6 opposing. (9-6 with 2 abstaining.) .

Alyce-Paul Meyer and Royalee Bishop have agreed to continue in present positions. Chair and vice-chair were open positions. Patrick Wayne will be the next chairperson

and [Alyce Anderson](#) the Vice-Chair.

Royalee Bishop declined the stipend but requested the WSAA consider allocating ½ of the \$75.00 amount to the Lake County LAC to provide some funding for consumers in Lake County as they don't have day treatment or any other services of that nature available. The final decision can be made at a future meeting.

Tracy Velaquez advised they are applying for 20-25K as a single statewide proposal with MMHA as lead agency. This is a anti- stigma effort with the theme, (i.e. most Montanan know someone with a mental illness, most Montanans know it is okay for persons to seek treatment). Tom moved we sign letter of support, seconded Mike. Approved by Board without dissent.

Montana Mental Health Recovery Markers Project Training: Presented by Alison Hwong-AMDD ([ahwong@mt.gov](mailto:ahwong@mt.gov)) This tool will help guide the SAA's and the State in regards to which approaches need to be redefined. There will only be 5 Recovery Markers used. Employment, Housing, Symptom Interference, Substance Use: Level of Use; Substance Use: Stage of Change.

WSAA will be supporting proposal for study. Marti first, Dan second, approved without dissent. = don't remember what this was.

Patrick Wayne's email address is: [patway2004@hotmail.com](mailto:patway2004@hotmail.com) Cell number 207-5083; texting is available.

Respectfully submitted.  
Royalee Bishop

**The next Congress Meeting will be Wednesday December 19, 2007 at St. Patrick Hospital, Broadway Annex Conference Room 1 - Missoula, MT.**