

WSAA Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2006

Board Members: (12) Tom Bartlett, Paul Meyer, Michelle Lewis, Boyd Roth, Brenda Desmond, Tom Camel, Alyce Anderson, Royalee Bishop, Charles Baker, Jennifer Robohm and Leslie Nyman

Alternates: (3) Mike Smith, Marty Onishuk and Lori Holley

Ex Officios: (2) Dan Ladd and Mary Jane Fox

Guests: (7) Rick Carpenter, Betty Pace, Cheryl Malland, Jean Sharkey, NAMI Missoula, Dale Gross, John Honsky and Denelle Pappier

Total Present: (24)

A. Opening Comments – Introductions

B. Approval of August 16 Minutes.

MOTION by Paul Meyer to approve the minutes from the August 16 Board meeting as presented. Tom Camel seconded the motion and it passed.

C. Treasurer's Report – Paul Meyer (Handout given)

Paul's report was for July and August combined. Revenue \$10,000 received in August from AMDD, previous cash balance \$4,372.53 -Expenses (\$3,457.79) = (Balance \$10,914.74) = about as expected. Tom: with only one more allocation of \$5,000 coming in January we may very well run out of funds before June 30, 2007. Paul said that WMMHC would provide interim funding if necessary until next allotments come in July 2007. Dan Ladd informed us that Senator Pease is planning to initiate legislation that would increase funding to the SAAs to \$25,000 per year. **A motion was made by Alyce Anderson to approve the treasurer's report. Brenda Desmond seconded the motion and it passed.**

D. Nominations and Election of Executive Officers

- **Chairman: Tom Bartlett re-nominated. Passed unanimously.**
- **Vice-Chair: Michelle Lewis re-nominated. Passed unanimously.**
- **Treasurer: Paul Meyer re-nominated. Passed unanimously.**
- **Secretary:** Heidi Davis had informed the Chairman that her work commitments made it available for her to continue as secretary. Jane Tremper-East has also indicated her outside commitments prevent her from being secretary. Alexis Volkerts also has employment restrictions on her do it. Denelle Pappier was nominated; however, she declined the position. **Charles Baker was nominated and accepted to become the secretary; passed unanimously.**

E. SJ41 Interim Committee Presentation and Outcomes of Proposed Bills –

Charles Baker gave an overview of the SAA update presentation that he presented on September 12 to SJ41 Interim Committee on behalf of all three SAA regions. Joan Daly (vice-chair of ESAA), Tom Peluso (chair of CSAA) and Tom Bartlett also had additional comments during the SAA presentation.

Areas addressed during SAA update presentation:

Overview of Presentation:

- Expand Proposed 72 Hr Presumptive Eligibility to include Community Mental Health Centers CMHCs: Very few hospitals currently offer crisis services and current proposal only will reimburse hospitals for this service. Expanding the eligibility would also allow CMHCs to offer crisis services. This proposal was strongly support by all three SAAs.
- Adequately Fund MHSP (Mental Health Services Plan): Funding increase needed or CMHCs will continue to lose money on each client (Only receiving 30¢ for every \$1 of services). This proposal was strongly support by all three SAAs.
- Raising MHSP Eligibility from 150% of Federal Poverty Level to 200% of FPL: Co-occurring conditions are currently reimbursed at 200%, so this is a parity issue. This proposal was strongly support by all three SAAs.
- Transportation of Mentally Ill: This proposal was to eliminate the routine shackling of patients needing mental health care during transportation. This proposal was strongly support by all three SAAs.
- Gravely Disabled: Current statutes are felt to be are sufficient. What is needed is to educate county officials and mental health providers about current options and to increase community-based resources.
- Allow Licensure of Non-Hospital Based Secure Facilities: Allow community mental health centers to provide secure, community-based treatment.
- Vision and Goals of SAAs: Collaborating with AMDD to transform public mental health services in Montana by providing leadership, vision, goals & recommendations that are consumer-driven, recovery-based, community-based, culturally-competent, evidence-proven and fiscally responsible.

Outcome of Proposed Legislation:

(From leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2005_2006/child_fam/default.asp)

- Transportation of the Mentally Ill -- Committee did not adopt. (It is understood that Senator Weinberg may introduce this during the legislative session.)
- Mental Health Parity -- Committee did not adopt.
- Gravely Disabled -- Committee did not adopt.
- Define "professional person" to include psychologists -- ADOPTED. Bill is being drafted
- Amend "behavioral health inpatient facility" to allow licensure of non-hospital based facilities -- ADOPTED. Bill is being drafted

F. Strategic Planning Committee Report - Boyd R.

Problem is: the draft report is a very long document at 27 pages. He asked how do we get everyone to read/review and respond with vote at next meeting. Jennifer R. will send to Tom Bartlett, who will disseminate to all members by e-mail. (A separate list was passed

for those who want to receive a printed version by mail; offered sent by Leslie.) The report will have an Executive Summary.

G. Employment Opportunities for Consumers

Janet VanDyke, Regional Administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services, will come to future meetings. She will be informing others from local areas of issues. Hamilton: starting supported employment opportunities through Day Treatment.

H. Proposed Constitution Initiative for Spending Cap Tossed by Judge Sandefur

The initiative would have required the state budget to not exceed its revenue. But collection of signatures were (probably) fraudulent and the measure was deemed “unconstitutional”, so it is currently removed from November vote, however the decision is being appealed to the Montana Supreme Court and might be overturned.

I. CSAA Letter concerning MHSP Funding and 72-Hour Presumptive Eligibility.

Sent by Tom Peluso, CSAA chair; copies shared through e-mail. It appears that our efforts have paid off. On September 13, the SAAs were informed by Dan Ladd that DPHHS had changed the 72-hour presumptive eligibility proposal to cover either community or hospital services and about \$460,000 was added to the EPP (Governor’s draft budget) for it, for a total of about \$2,000,000.

J. Grants and Fund Raising Committee – Charles Baker

Working with Tom Bartlett; hope to have something to report at next meeting.

K. Board of Visitors Site Reviews are available

Gene Haire: will provide site reviews of agencies that are in our region to anyone upon request. Site reviews are also available online at www.boardofvisitors@mt.gov/reviewreports.asp or let Tom Bartlett know which site reviews you would like to see.

L. NEW BUSINESS

At last month’s meeting, identified the need to develop procedures so that it is understood when members are giving presentations and opinions with the approval of the WSAA and when the members are not speaking for the WSAA. Brenda volunteered to chair the committee to develop these procedures. (Who else is on the committee?) Brenda will send out a draft of proposed ideas that she has found from another organization.

Announcement: NAMI conference in Helena, October 25, 26 and 27. See Marty Onishuk for details.

Next Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday October 18, 10:00 a.m. St. Patrick Hospital

Adjourn: 2:45 PM