

WSAA Congress Meeting
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Board Members; (15) Patrick Wayne-Chairman; Alyce Anderson, Charles Baker, Tom Bartlett, Brian Becker, Royalee Bishop-Secretary, Brenda Desmond, Mike McKeekin, Paul Meyer-Treasurer, Dan Morehead, Marty Onishuk, Denelle Pappier, Courtney Collier Ruhbach, Kelli Sather, Dawn Slaven, Geri Stewart, Stacy Wheeler,

Ex-officials: (3) Mary Jane Fox , Dan Ladd, Alexis Volkerts

Guests: (24) John Honsky RN-SPH; , Brooke Jaqueth, Summit ILC Msla LAC, Kay Jennings, J's House, Vicki Varichak, Counselor, Tracy Velazquez, Montana Mental Health Assoc, Marty Ludemann, Missoula Police Department, Dorothy, Ron Guccione, Jacqueline Finlen, Kaela, Foster, WMMHC, Marilyn Venn, Tess, Collins, Harvey Norton, Alicia Hwong-AMDD, Alicia Pichette, DPHHS, Joann Dotson, Sunny Terry, Chris Hartzman, John Shroeck, DPHHS, John Miller, Monique Casbeer, Henry Hutton, Lee Wilson, Jordan Pappier,

Introduction and Comments: Dan Morehead reviewed the flyer he had emailed to everyone regarding the NAMI Montana conference October 24-26, 2007 on mental illness. Contact Dan for additional copies of the flyer and please distribute to anyone who might be interested.

Charles Baker reported consumer scholarships are available to attend the NAMI conference. Also planned is a Peer-to-Peer Consumer class which will be held on Wednesday nights from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm if they have 15 participants. The basic class concept is to teach attendees to better take care of themselves.

Nominations and Elections of New Board Members: Alyce Anderson advised the Board of the following slate of nominees. Re-elect Denelle Peppier to represent Hamilton; Stacy Wheeler-Winds of Change; Dan Morehead, Brian Becker-Winds of Change were nominated for new Board positions. Kelli Sather and Patrick Wayne were confirmed previously.

Michelle Lewis has declined further commitment but will remain as alternate for the Butte LAC. Dawn Slaven is new LAC representative and has been recommended as LAC Board member.

Alyce Anderson-Libby LAC has requested that Chris Partman become a 2nd alternate for the Lincoln County LAC.

Discussion concluded the LAC determines who their representative is and then the Board accepts that person. There are a specific number of board seats available for LAC's. Dan Morehead, Denelle Peppier, Stacy Wheeler, and Brian Becker, were nominated. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Geri Stewart is also nominated to the Board. There will now be 19

Board members with the addition of Geri Stewart. Charles Baker moved and Patrick Wayne seconded and new board members were elected as presented.

Charles Baker has concerns that if a LAC forms in the Western region they would also like to have representation. MJ Fox reminded the group that the one year terms were for Kelli Sather, and Patrick Wayne and these could be used for new LAC's.

LAC Board members: Butte LAC-Dawn Slaven Butte LAC Paul Meyer moved and Denelle Peppier seconded and accepted by majority without dissent.

Re: Libby LAC- Alyce Anderson moved to accept Chris Hartzmann. Sonny Terry will continue as first alternate. The motion as passed without dissent.

LAC reports:

Butte elected Dawn Slaven as its member to the Board. Dennis Cox reviewed the purpose of the LAC's in regards to the WSAA, Sherrie Bell; Montana State Hospital continues to attend and support the LAC. She explained the rules for HIPPA. A report was given on the new Gilder House. They are hoping to break ground by the end of September. They have signed contract with Butte Chemical Dependency for an addictions group at the center. The PACT team is up and running with 25 consumers and they have hopes to have 48 by the end of the year. The Village is a progressive program. Dawn Slaven, Jodi Martz, and Scott Maloy are going to the Village to see programs and their philosophies etc.

Commitment laws in Montana-This conference was held in Butte and sponsored by Western Montana Mental Health Center. This was the first conference and will be better advertised the next time. Emergency room doctors were present as well as MHP's and social workers. Next year, MAP and consumers will be included. MJ Fox said the state agency would be interested in promoting. A great deal of misinformation is out there in regards to commitments. Cathy Dungst was organizer for this year's conference. .

Paul Meyer advised that with 56 counties you have 56 different processes due to different courts,

Missoula LAC: Marti Onishuk reported they discussed having a different emergency entry point for a person to enter into the system rather than emergency rooms. Emergency rooms can typically be chaotic and confusing as there are different activities going on in the ER. This can add stress for the person waiting to be seen. Sometimes several hours may pass in waiting for the MHP. The MHP may not necessarily be in the hospital at the time. General discussion among audience regarding this situation followed.

A recent issue presented as the hospital recently released a person in crisis situation after 2 days in the hospital and then this person completed suicide at home.

The Missoula PACT persons have 60 persons they are following and have 10 openings. The goal is to keep people in their homes and stable.

NAMI discussed with police having more officers trained in the CIT program and Marty Ludemann, Missoula Police Department, plans on trying to attend more LAC meetings. Brenda Desmond advised they are going to try and open up more slots state wide for CIT training. Patrick Wayne and Charles Baker are going to Billings (3 day conference) and will be visiting the Billings Crisis Center. There has not been any improvement in regards to transporting individuals. Brenda Desmond reported that only 2 officers have been trained and there are over 100 city officers. It will take more than the two that have been trained.

Dillon: No Board member present.

Hamilton: Charles Baker –no new information.

Polson: MJ Fox reported on the 2 day Cultural Conference-80 people attended and Western Montana Mental Health Conference was primary sponsor. Paul Meyer stated Tom Camel did an excellent job of pulling together speakers and presenters. He deserved a pat on the back for his work. Dan Morehead advised the Missoulian did a whole article on the conference. (Sunday 9-9 Business Section of Missoula and is archived online.)

Libby: Alyce reports they are down to a core group of about 10. They are stressing the anti-stigma campaign. They are going to have the persons who worked on the Crisis conference report back on how things are going; what has improved. NAMI will give presentation on ‘In our Own Voice.’ There will be election of officers in December with the exception of the Board member who was previously elected

Kalispell- Brooks Bair and Sonja French came to the LAC. They are seeing face to face 1000 persons per year. Six hundred of the 1000 emergency room evaluations can be followed with outpatient therapy, admittance to the mental health program or other follow-up. 300 are admitted to Pathways, 100 are emergency detainments to the state hospital. 75% of these individuals are individuals with no previous mental health admissions and are not Western Montana Mental Health Center clients. A number of persons come to hospital on emergency detainment and a very few are sent to the state hospital. They are held at Pathways before going to state hospital as opposed to some counties which have historically held persons in special holding cells (jail).

Courtney Collier Rudbach stated their statistics basically show that entry point is emergency contacts. There are some repeat contacts and this has changed over the years. Most are contacts are now uninsured; some have are chemical dependency involvement. The can be co-occurring issue can lessen when the chemical(s) leave the patients system. Some admissions are family issues and some are non-compliance issues in regards to medications. Charles Baker also feels that loss of support systems contribute to problems.

Courtney Collier Rudbach stated the ER is an important piece as sometimes this is the first time they have been medically checked out—health issues, drug interactions, chemicals on board etc . The ER has a lot of things to offer that can not be duplicated in a treatment facility such as Pathways or the Safe House.

Paul Meyer advised that new people get into system through hospital ER. There are no other practical emergency entry points. MHSP was given extra money to assist with this process but none of this money has been released.

John Schroeck-works in State Department of health; Montana Primary Care Office . They are looking at the health profession shortages. The shortage is across the state. Most of state is designated by the federal level as having a shortage of primary care, dental care and mental health. Once you received federal designation; this will bring in extra federal dollars. This helps as recruitment tool-ie 25K that could go to a doctor to help pay student loans. Another benefit may be if you work in geographic shortage area; CMS provides bonus payment to facilities each quarter to help with bottom line. They look at the number licensed psychiatrists in the area and the population in the area. Missoula does not have a mental health designation nor does Flathead. The best option is to look at low income designation. This report will be completed within 30 days and out for public comment for 30 days. Per federal guidelines there are too many psychiatrists seeing patient for geographic designation but should meet low income designation. They will be submitting designations for the rest of counties in Western area. John Schroeck advised it is better to have geographic designation than low income. The Federal government has their criteria for a rational service area which must be followed. The County line has been the natural boundary the federal government accepts. They look at which areas; what will be the most beneficially financially. The feds use this to compare with other areas and states.

Dan Morehead-questioned in regards to a new provider coming to the area being able to serve the low income population as well as other populations and receive the benefit of loan repayment. The facility has to sign an agreement with the federal government to have a sliding fee scale visible to public. Dan Ladd-there is no single answer to solve provider shortage but this is an attempt to help with a two prong approach-the CMS designation and the telemedicine contract which will take some pressure off on-call and emergency contacts.

John Schroeck advises they attempt to sell the life-style to providers but then they get over worked they don't enjoy the life style. The CMS bonus payments as criteria whether a facility is going to receive 10% bonus at end of quarter applies to Medicare services. All American Indians tribes, rural health clinics, community health center get automatic designation once they qualify. They work with mental health centers to obtain information and other individuals. This information could be sent to AMDD.

Charles Baker-specified that a provider be "forced" to take a certain number of Medicaid or Medicare patients. Dan advised this would be a legislative process. It would be difficult to force the AMA as they are a powerful group.

Paul Meyer -the MHC has have made use of the community loan repayment program, for LCSW etc. They have not had a physician that qualified. It has helped with rural counties.

Marty Onishuk-had heard at some point the was a recruiting of foreign doctors and she has concerns. John Miller in regards to the loan repayment is there a maximum budget? John Schroeck stated the Federal government had a 7 million dollar budget which allocated 25K for the 1st& 2 years; 35 thousand for years 3-4-5.

There will be some tax incentives provided by legislature which will be coming available next summer. It is similar to federal Mr. Pip program which does allow placement outside shortage

area. This has been revised to be more in line with federal program. Mr. Pip is more like retention bonus which comes at intervals and increases over time.

Dan Ladd-AMDD-Project descriptions are listed on the state web site-timeline and when the money will be there. Additional staff have been hired to develop the new programs. This is updated every 30 days.

[http www.dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/projectdescriptions](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/projectdescriptions).

Recovery grants information will be available by next month. One time money to help start up projects.

Paul Meyer discussed the telemedicine project from Colorado or California. Telemedicine does not have a clue as to what resources are available which is what ER docs are faced with and what is safe disposition. They may know about the medication regime but aren't going to have any answers for the emergency room physicians. Marty Onishuk just wants to emphasis the ER being a proper entry point or if there are better other entry points.

Presentation was made to Tom Barlett to honor his years of service to the SAA and in many other areas in the mental health arena.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be Wednesday October 17, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Hospital, Broadway Annex Conference Room 1 - Missoula, MT

Respectfully submitted:
Royalee Bishop