

# Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mountain West Bank, 3301 Great Northern Ave., Missoula

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PRESENT: (Board Members – for quorum): Sara Brigham, Kerry Brown, Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, Shirley Gamma, Chris Hartzmann, Denelle Pappier, Bob Rowe, Geri Stewart.  
(Alternates/Advisors): Kenny Bell, Tammy Mathes, Vicky Varichak, Kris Young.  
(Members/ Guests): Lorna Farmer, Birdie Farmer, Lynn Virten, Douglas Schimmel

Convened at 10:20 a.m.

A. Welcome / Introductions / Brief Announcements — Chris Hartzmann

1. NAMI-MT Annual Conference at Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park in Missoula, October 23-25. Scholarships are available. Keep posted and/or check website: [namimt.org/](http://namimt.org/).

B. Secretary's Report — Denelle Pappier

Correction: the CIT scheduled in March 2014 will be held in Bozeman, not Billings.

**MOTION:** Kerry/Tammy. To accept the September 18, 2013 board minutes as corrected. PASS.

C. Treasurer's Report — Paul Meyer

Not present to report. Noted that AMDD caught up with last of FY 2012-13 payments and they've signed contracts for this FY 2013-14.

D. AMDD Report — Vicky Varichak, Kenny Bell (CPO, AMDD)

[Andrew Boyer, new CPO in Billings; is not able to attend WSAA this month.]

Recipients of PSS grants have been notified. \$774K from MMHT for Peer-to-Peer Support programs funded for three communities: 1) Consumer Direct (\$322K); 2) Winds of Change and, 3) Montana Peer Network Program (\$272K each). These are pilot programs; recipients need to develop a "toolkit" of how to replicate their success for other communities (e.g., finding sustainable funding).

New RFPs for Drop-in Centers and Supported Employment will be released soon.

Karl Rosston, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, has been certified to be a MHFA trainer (trained in Denver); because he's a state employee, the cost to participants will be only for workbooks. Sponsors need to arrange room, food, workbooks. He's already scheduled to present at the MT Law Enforcement Academy (offered before CIT can be arranged). If scheduling is wanted by any LAC or group, contact him ASAP ([krosston@mt.gov](mailto:krosston@mt.gov)).

Community First Choice: new program for MH service provision. Will allow some consumers to change from SDMI Waiver program and thereby free up spaces for new enrollments. May still be time to influence legislators to reconsider accepting Medicaid Expansion Program increased funding from Federal government. Contact state legislators (from your local area; especially those who initially voted against it) to urge their acceptance. It would be appropriate for WSAA to write a letter.

**CMTE:** Chris, Denelle, Monique, Tammy. (Will contact to work via email.)

Encourage all LACs to develop a long-term calendar (24-month, preferably) for organization on projects and to follow legislative issues in timely fashion.

F. Local Advisory Council (LAC) Reports — LAC Representatives

1. Anaconda/"Tri-Counties" (Kerry) — Eleven attended in September; many consumers. Moving ahead on planned Dec. 8th art show event (need to find available location). Will also have the HS choir perform; collecting donations for raffle drawings. Artists can sell their pieces; may be juried for prizes. Discussed how to increase attendance (including inviting students from HS student council); encouraging participation as board members.

2. Bitterroot Valley/ Ravalli Co. (Sara) — Appreciative of new meeting location, even with slight constraint on meeting time. Decided to adopt the "Cookies for Kindness" project. Meeting next month to decorate and distribute 30 dozen cookies to various mental health advocates in Ravalli County. Sara has an extensive background in cake decorating and will arrange the decorating materials for LAC members to use. Making inroads to coordinating with the new NAMI-Bitterroot chapter. Coordinated ride-sharing for consumers to attend the NAMI-MT Conference in Missoula.

3. Butte/Silver Bow Co. (vacant) — Kenny reported they're developing a brochure; new location at public library on Mon., Oct. 28th. Bill Johnson, at MHC DIC is a good contact.

4. Dillon/Beaverhead Co. (Howard) — Kenny reported. Planning to coordinate with Madison County stakeholders for combined co-LAC, but there has been some dissension about a partnership. Beaverhead is proceeding with some projects: including training at local hospital QPR on Suicide Prevention; later, NAMI IOOV, and an educational film, "Call Me Crazy" (linked to MTV film, "Love is Louder") to encourage discussion after viewing. Speaking with commissioners to officially recognize the LAC. Also working on LAC resolution and by-laws.

5. Kalispell/Flathead Co. (Travis) — Vicky reported. LAC & NAMI chapter are co-sponsoring to hold MH First Aid program Saturday, November 9, 2013 (New, 8-hour version) at Syke's Pharmacy; may still have space available. Looking to move to new location (not in library basement). Melody (NAMI Basics instructor) planning another class in Spring 2014. Expanding RxFlex Fund donation canisters around town for additional donations to psycho-pharmaceutical prescription fund for underinsured consumers. LAC decided to contribute \$100 to fund. Conference at FVCC: October 4th on geriatric mental health was not held (rescheduled?). Attempts to organize CIT Trainings have not been successful; sheriff's office has declined participation. Just had a SWAT team shooting of a suicidal woman (not dead), because no CIT trained personnel available to handle situation more appropriately (after 4 hour negotiation with her; she exited building with a handgun and was shot by SWAT team).

6. Libby/Lincoln Co. (Chris) — Vicky reported. Met with 4 in attendance; possible problem with some to afford transportation to meetings. Vicky will give staff presentation on Oct 31st at WMMHC to explain and encourage their participation in LAC. (*She's available to speak with other MHCs in other LAC areas.*) Next meeting scheduled at same time/place on Nov 12 at 2 pm in basement of WMMHC.

7. Missoula/Missoula Co. (Sylvia) — Met yesterday; discussed MHFA and looking to arrange presentation in Spring 2014. Priorities on MH topics discussed: jail issues, supported employment, housing, etc. Trying to arrange for occasional speakers: R.I., David Cockrell (who has been working on a DVD presentation of a consumer living with a mental disorder). Rewriting the LAC Purpose Statement to reflect Missoula LAC-specific statement.

8. Polson/Lake Co. (Tammy) — Vicky reported. Meeting at Soup's On, combined with local NAMI chapter, at 6:30 p.m. on first Monday of month. New time/place may be difficult for some to attend. Had 6 present this month. Planning to show movie at library and facilitate the showing and discussion; first Monday in May 2014. May discuss holding meetings in alternating place and/or time to encourage better attendance.

9. Superior/Mineral Co. (Richard) — Not present to report. Vicky hasn't received answer to emails to find out what's happening with the LAC or the status of the Community Recovery Garden.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MHOAC Report (Monique) – Question on funding for LAC: some counties differ in how they're structured, some need Mayor or County Commissioner to participate in LAC activities. All LACs should encourage ("strongly") to have members of local government attend meetings. Need to appeal to them individually to educate them on wide influence of MH issues. By their next meeting, they intend to discover what individual county's needs are for MH services. What is/is not working? What are priorities? They'll use this information to determine what priorities to support. Currently, their top three priorities are: Forensics (Jails), Transitions (Children's to Adult MH Services), Crisis (primarily, children's crisis services). Current chair of MHOAC: Christine Bates, or contact Marlene Disburg-Ross.

a. New reporting chain: LAC to SAA to MHOAC. Just recently was revised in By-laws to better reflect the actual working relationship. Are we supposed to be submitting Quarterly LAC Reports? Data collection policy has not yet been established. Members plan to discuss at tomorrow's SAA Summit meeting. Need to ensure that communications between all entities is as clear and timely as possible.

2. Discussion of difficulty of consumers receiving their prescribed medications when incarcerated. Some "lag time" from intake until they might receive their prescription IF the med is on the jail's accepted formulary of approved medications. Kerry noted that in L&C County, they're working on getting the med list is faxed to the jail while the consumer is being processed, so there is no lag in getting needed meds. Kerry volunteered to contact the jails in communities to determine what policy/procedures to handle the crisis needs of MH consumers (how many seen per month, what medications are in use, determination of etc.) and, eventually, encourage development of local Co-Occurring Courts to handle misdemeanor offenses of MH consumers. Decided that a Committee will determine what questions to ask and where to address questions; telephone interview with appropriate official. Focus on: Municipal Courts, Probation, Jails.

**CMTE:** Jail/Court Protocol. Kerry, Monique. Consult with Brenda Desmond and Deb Matteucci as available experts in this topic. Will meet by email.

3. Kerry: Tri-Counties LAC art show is expected to need an additional \$200-300 to fund the event. They can present a proposal to WSAA for funds, but it's dependent on Treasurer's analysis of our spending needs. They're encouraged to pursue finding other/local options for fundraising. Should combine efforts with NAMI, as they're non-profit. Vicky noted that Eileen Lowery from Flathead Co. LAC just went through this process to designate NAMI-Flathead as non-profit; contact her if interested to find out what's involved.

**MOTION:** Monique/Kerry. To adjourn today's WSAA board meeting. PASS.  
Adjourned 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denelle Pappier, WSAA Secretary

### Western Service Area Authority

In collaboration with Montana state leadership and the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the WSAA is an advisory group of consumers and providers in western Montana, working together for the purpose of planning and oversight of mental health services.