

# Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 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): Royalee Bishop, Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, Brenda Desmond, Howard Gaines, Shirley Gamma, Chris Hartzmann, Charlotte Moran, Denelle Pappier, Bob Rowe, Geri Stewart.  
(Alternates/Advisors): Kristi Rydeen, Tammy Toste, Vicky Varichak, Alexis Volkerts.  
(Members/ Guests): Father Joe Fleming, Stephanie, Lynn Virten, Douglas Schimmel.

Convened at 10:20 a.m.

## A. Welcome / Introductions / Brief Announcements — Chris Hartzmann

1. Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) – Recruitment letter from Chair Christine Bates to solicit new council members. They've changed their By-laws to establish an approval procedure for nominees, rather than just accepting the candidates that are presented to them. Letter and applications emailed to all WSAA members.

2. Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) – Opportunity of positions available for students to attend their planned forum, July 2014, Helena. Details and applications emailed to all WSAA members.

3. Missoula LAC – Planning to hold a MHFA presentation, 2/21/14, location TBA in Missoula. Karl Rosston from AMDD will be trainer. More information forthcoming.

4. Missoula Co-Occurring Court's Christmas Party at noon-1p, Monday, Dec. 9, Missoula Courthouse, room 374. Light lunch, singing, etc. Videotaped DVD of last training for volunteer mentors to veteran's involved in Veteran's Court. Contact Brenda Desmond.

5. Missoula NAMI Holiday Party on Weds., Dec. 4th, 2-4:30pm at Missoula Public Library. Showing movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation; light lunch.

6. NAMI Connections meets on Fridays, 10:20-11:45am at Missoula Public Library. Contact Monique. Also, Thurs. 12/12, 1:30-3:30pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 202 Brooks St. Contact Sylvia 543-3055.

7. New NAMI Missoula office on corner of Brooks/Higgins. Hours M 1-4, W 9-12 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. New billboard up at Mullen and Reserve from Missoula NAMI.

## B. Special Guest Speaker — Father Joe Fleming

Christ the King parish, 1400 Gerald Ave., Missoula; 728-3845 x.224; [www.ctkmsla.org](http://www.ctkmsla.org).

Fr. Fleming described his early personal history of life as single parent of teenaged fraternal twin boys. Nicholas developed Type 1 Diabetes and Nathan had a schizophrenic episode, had to learn how to deal with both disorders and thrive. Found Gary Mihelish and NAMI in Helena; 12-week Family-to-Family course really helped understanding and spurred him into MH advocacy activities with NAMI. Co-founded first NAMI Walk in Helena; continued building it over years. Helped bring CIT training to Montana; administered the program for a while, coordinating with hospitals to work efficiently with law enforcement personnel. Through self-search, Joe decided that he was called to the priesthood and went to school to fulfill that call. His son Nicholas then had a MH "break" with hallucinations and delusions of persecution.

Through his sons, he has had experiences with losing Medicaid by earning too much at work, being discriminated and taken advantage of at work or unable to hold a job; loss of

connection with other people. Joe has developed the program HOPE (Help Our People Engage). Sons are now 33 years old, live together in shared housing, still challenged with finding meaning in their lives.

C. Secretary's Report — Denelle Pappier

**MOTION:** Monique/Chris. To accept the October 16, 2013 board minutes as read.

PASS.

D. Treasurer's Report — Paul Meyer (Not present to report)

E. AMDD Report — Kristi Rydeen

She responded to some of Fr. Fleming's story; related a recent story of a consumer who was beneficially treated by CIT-trained police officer.

AMDD trying to include chemical dependency issues presentations to MH workers.

Peer-to-Peer Support programs that were funded are designing projects that are mind-body focused. Will meet with agency reps next month to collaborate; hired Nathan Mung to coach and help programs develop (including sustainability plans.)

Applications for grant funding to Drop-In Centers will be reviewed on Monday, Dec. 16 in Helena. They will allot \$400K between successful candidates. See the AMDD website.

Supported Employment grants (\$500K) will be up for review next (dates TBD). The intention of that grant is to provide assistance with finding appropriate job, application, placement, and support to consumers in MH recovery.

LAC Toolkits are finalized but printing hard copies is very limited; anyone can download a full PDF file from the AMDD website. She'd appreciate feedback as AMDD staff will review content annually. Vicky has a few copies that she will share with the LACs that she serves.

Some LACs have requested brochures on what is LAC and who are CPOs. Kristi directed them to find on the website or call her for instructions to find online.

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

1. Anaconda/"Tri-Counties" (Charlotte) — Reported that Kerry just had a heart attack and is in St. Patrick's Hospital (board members signed a card to send to him). No other news on his status. The LAC met last week at Community Service building; 10 attended (consumers and providers). Planning continues for Art Show on Dec. 8th at Discovery Buick in Anaconda: have developed flowchart of responsibilities for volunteers to be organized. Have written PSA for local newspapers.

2. Bitterroot Valley/ Ravalli Co. (Shirley) — Cookies for Kindness project continues; plan to decorate on Tues., Nov. 26th @ 4:30pm. Will decide how to best deliver the 30 dozen decorated cookies to MH advocates/businesses.

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

4. Dillon/Beaverhead Co. (Howard) — Community needs assessment survey done by Madison County Health Dept. determined need to reduce suicide, increase awareness of MH services and reduce stigma for receiving help, access to treatment services.

5. Kalispell/Flathead Co. (Travis) — Vicky reported. Looking to fill Alternate position. Met last week at library basement in Kalispell; 8 attended. Celebrated success of MHFA presentation just held 11/9 at Syke's Pharmacy; 28 attended. Changing LAC meeting day to 2nd

Tues. of month in order to use room at the Summit (large rehab facility). Combined LAC/NAMI holding a holiday gathering 12/17, 6-8pm at the Summit.

6. Libby/Lincoln Co. (Chris) — Met on Nov. 12 with 5 in attendance; small holiday party. Looking for new meeting location (possibly at library, better than at MHC that may put off possible attendees). Making flyers to promote the change. Probably will suspend meetings during worst winter months and reconvene in March.

7. Missoula/Missoula Co. (Sylvia) — Met yesterday; looking to purchase a banner. Discussed what logo and content they want to display. Planning MHFA presentation on 2/21/14, 8-5, location TBA. Long-term planning to hold an arts/crafts show in a downtown art gallery in 2014. Noted LAC toolkit; reported on the jails/medications problems in the county. No meeting planned for December.

8. Polson/Lake Co. (Tammy) — Vicky and Royalee reported. Planning activities for May's MHAM by showing related topic movies at library; will advertise and provide popcorn. Holding separate meetings on north and south ends of county: meeting at Soup's On in Polson, combined with local NAMI chapter, at 6:30 p.m. on first Monday of month; meeting at 2pm in south (St. Ignatius?) on same day; Vicky will attend both. This plan is because many consumers expressed difficulty attending evening meeting so far away.

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: Noted that Andy Hunthausen, (County Commissioner in Helena) is available to come to LACs and explain how funding flows through counties to LACs. (Only exists this way in some counties.) All LACs should encourage members of local government to attend their meetings. We need to appeal to them individually in order to educate them on the wide influence of MH issues.

Meeting on Veteran's needs/issues in Missoula. Vicky has information; will send. Noted plans to reprint the NAMI "You Are Not Alone" booklet.

2. Jail/Court Protocol Committee (Monique) —

CMTE: Jail/Court Protocol. Kerry, Monique. Consulted with Brenda Desmond and Alexis Volkerts as available experts in this topic. Will meet by email to determine what questions to ask and where to address questions; telephone interview with appropriate official. Focus on: Municipal Courts, Probation, Jails.

3. Chris and Denelle reported on their attendance at the MHFA presentation in Kalispell. There was a generally very positive reception of program; 28 attended the full day training, quite a larger proportion of professional people. Hope to see this program more fully implemented. Perhaps on two levels: intro. information and subsequent in-depth training.

**MOTION:** Sylvia/Geri. To adjourn today's WSAA board meeting. PASS.  
Adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denelle Pappier, WSAA Secretary