

Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Western Montana Mental Health Center

1321 Wyoming St., Room 102, Missoula, Montana



PRESENT: (Board Members – for quorum): Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, David Cockrell, Brenda Desmond, Doris Fischer (by phone), Chris Glines, Michelle Harrington (by phone), Rick Hartz, Denelle Pappier, Courtney Rudbach (by phone), Dawn Sandberg, Pete Snyder, Geri Stewart, Susan Thomas (by phone), Stacey Wheeler.

(Board Advisors from AMDD): Vicky Varichak.

(Members/ Guests): Dan Ladd (Board of Visitors, by phone)

Convened at 10:05 a.m. – Telephone conference call initiated through poly-com.

A. Welcome / Introductions / Announcements — Chris Glines, Chair

1. NAMI-MT Trainings – Reminder of May trainings in Helena; please share information with LACs and potentially-interested persons. (See NAMI-MT website for details.)

2. Stacey: Announced that a team has met with state Board of Behavioral Health to begin writing Peer Support Services (PSS) certification framework. Also, as part of Peer Support grant, Winds of Change will hold 2 WRAP (Wellness & Recovery Wellness Plan) trainings (held in Butte); all expenses will be paid. Three-day intensive training (in May) and five-day advanced training to become a WRAP Training (in June). Applications to participate will be emailed out to WSAA list. [NB: Sent 5/3/17]

3. Pete: Actively planning the annual (Sept 9, 2017) Out of the Darkness suicide prevention walk. Partnering with Project Tomorrow to raise awareness.

Also, St. Patrick/Providence Hospital is trying to develop more Tele-Psych evaluation connectivity to have providers available to serve wider area. Beginning association with Missoula Co. courts to tele-video connection for hearings; may try to expand to other counties (e.g., Beaverhead); Pete invited interested counties to contact him for more information.

4. Brenda: Veteran’s Suicide Awareness Prevention Run/Walk Sat May 20, at Ft. Missoula (9am; Armed Forces Day). A 22K course will honor the number of daily veteran suicides in the US (which is 22 people daily); followed by BBQ, registration fee.

B. Secretary’s Report — Denelle Pappier

MOTION: Monique/Stacey. To approve March 28, 2017 board minutes as read. PASS.

March Expenses	\$? mileage \$? lodging \$21.32 meals \$500.00 contracted
Total Expenses	\$??
Balance 03/31/17	\$12,556.72

D. Treasurer’s Report — Katherine Isaacson

Not present to report, she submitted a brief Treasurer’s Report. She anticipates expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year to be \$4185 (approximately \$1395 per month for April, May, and June). This would leave approximately \$8372 after all expenses are subtracted. Subtracting the amount required to fund grants will still leave a balance at the end of the fiscal year. Her suggestion is to take that balance (after the monthly expenses and the grant awards) and split it evenly between the active LACs to bring down our balance to zero by year end (June 30, 2017). Tabled action on recommending how to expend any balance to next month; recommended LACs discuss and report back next month.

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

(Beaverhead Co., Flathead Co., Lake Co., Lincoln Co., Madison Co., Mineral Co., Missoula Co., Ravalli Co., Sanders Co., Silver Bow Co., Pintler: (Deer Lodge & Granite counties))

1. Beaverhead Co./Dillon (Rick) — He announced that he has retired! At March meeting, Dan Aune, MHA-MT presented on project on developing a child-centered MH initiative that will be submitted to

Helena. He intends to use Beaverhead County as model program. Also, partnered with local hospital to hold youth camp for students interested in Behavioral Health field as career; included MHFA presentation. Created a Howard Gaines Community Service award to annually recognize MH services to community; will recognize Howard's widow Kay Gaines with appreciation award in May.

BCMHLAC will co-host Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit September 6,7; held at UM campus in Dillon; 13 CEUs avail.; will include various recognized speakers, incl. MH Advocate Jesse Close (Glenn Close's sister) as Keynote Speaker. Registration \$100 before July 1st; \$125 thereafter. Online site for more details: <https://bvhdlac.eventbrite.com/>.

2. Flathead Co./Kalispell (Susan) — Will have info. table at Gateway Mall, May 4,5 (6-9pm) to promote NAMI chapter and MH Awareness. Any donations will be matched by anonymous donor. Partnering with Leadership Flathead (Chamber of Commerce) to try to bring certain trainings from Helena to Flathead. Peer Support trainings will be presented by MT Peer Support Network in near future.

3. Lake Co./Polson (Douglas) — Not present to report. Vicky: She didn't attend last meeting (April 6), but believes the LAC is still struggling to coordinate meetings that will serve consumers and providers with only a handful of core workers and challenging communication between north and south of county.

4. Lincoln Co./Libby (Chris) — No report. Some talk, but still no active efforts to restart LAC.

5. Madison Co./Virginia City (Jim/Doris) — Doris (by phone): LAC with PHD and Women's Resource Support Center produced a Health Poster to post around communities in county. Information on how to access resources for various health issues (smoking, domestic abuse, etc.); poster has pad of sticky notes to be able to take with resource information. Will track to see which topic's notepad is accessed primarily.

Working on effort to integrate physical and behavioral health care in Madison County. Including adapting a universal screening tool to include PTSD and domestic abuse. Local crisis phone line is being considered to aid response effectiveness; referrals to counselors. Discussed need to provide local crisis support for MH and/or substance use crises.

MHAM: have banners from last year to hang again this year. Will hold free movie nights in libraries (example titles: A Beautiful Mind, Now Voyager, Walking Man documentary); Produced MH for Children informational material to distribute to parents through schools in county. LAC member introduced Billings author Jonathan Angel who self-published 'Recovery for Hope in a Life of Madness' book on his recovery.

6. Mineral Co./Superior (Dawn) — Still working on Jails Formulary spreadsheet; anticipates presenting at next month's meeting. MHAM: local hospital holding health fair, LAC will participate for information, awareness, membership drive.

7. Missoula Co./Missoula (David) — Emailed report: Elections were held to replace vacant positions; elected were: Treasurer Sylvia Carollo, WSAA-LAC Representative David Cockrell. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair remain vacant. Brian Sharkey is Secretary and Acting Chair. Discussed joining efforts the local NAMI chapter to engage a larger population.

Start promptly at LAC meeting: 3rd Tuesday/month, 2-3:30pm; several new people in attendance. Planning their annual summer Party in the Park (July 20th). Discussed/approved/wrote letters of support for Monique's 2 grant applications to WSAA. Discussed possible speakers to attend LAC meetings: anti-stigma issues like, not demonizing psychiatric medications, which are often necessary.. Overview of referral process to get services from Dakota Place CSF.

8. Ravalli Co./Hamilton (Jenny/Denelle) — No meeting in April. Informally, members discussed if we could/should try to hold any activity for MHAM; considered holding topical free movie night at public library. Discussed on-going difficulty w/ LAC attendance (whether to hold afternoon or eve, etc.).

9. Sanders Co./Plains (Shelby) — Not present to report. Vicky: Meets 4th Weds/month (8:30am), so tomorrow! Last month, she left lots of info. materials for their use/distribution.

10. Silver Bow Co./Butte (Karen) — Not present to report. New temporary LAC Rep. Karen Sullivan.

11. "Pintler" (Deer Lodge & Granite counties)/Anaconda (Charlotte) — Not present to report. New Secty & Acting Chair: Michelle Harrington. Have 2 certified ACES trainers; working with hospital to provide speaker/trainings. Partnered with MHHC for MHAM; Michael Smith (May5) will present on WRAP trainings; Finally passed ordinance with Deer Lodge County Commissioners (Powell Co. is no longer associated) to recognize LAC and hope to attract additional members. Using "GoTo Meeting" to have LAC meetings via telephone.

F. AMDD Report — CPO Vicky Varichak

The department is still under hiring freeze with no approval for travel reimbursement until further notice, probably at least the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2017). The AMDD has implemented travel restrictions that prohibits travel to ANY location outside of the CPO's base city (i.e., Missoula for Vicky, Butte/Anaconda for Kenny) for any reason. Therefore, all other LAC meetings will need to be attended by phone, when/if that option is available. Question to LACs: find out how to provide telephone connectivity at meeting, although that option is far from optimal; less effective than in-person networking.

So many new personnel in AMDD and still experiencing learning-curve hardships while learning their roles and the history of the department. Jane Wilson (CPO in GF) has given notice to leave end of June. Speculation that SAA Summit is still planned for July in Helena. Vicky hasn't heard if discussions are being held on funding PSS certification and hiring.

Katherine previously noted: State statute created MHOAC, LAC and SAAs. AMDD cannot disregard or defund these as "irrelevant", we need to improve our communication and relationship between us and AMDD. Dan noted that WSAA (all SAAs) need to be forceful to influence the solution; should contact Disability Rights to get new contact for legal counsel.

G. WSAA Committee Updates —

1. Legislature — Stacey: Approved funding for suicide prevention grants to hold trainings in communities (However, only given \$200,000 to fund entire state); have passed MH care parity & PSS.

2. Jail Formulary Committee — Tyler Steinebach (CMTE: Tyler, Dawn, Geri, Monique, Rena)
Not present to report. Email from Tyler: He is working with an EMT who is finishing his criminal justice degree and is willing to help with this research. Will connect with committee members to pursue.

3. Mini-Grant — Grant Funding CMTE: Denelle, Chris, Brenda, Monique, Leah, Dawn
Denelle: By application deadline of Friday, April 21st, six applications were received. (Beaverhead County's proposed "Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit" did not submit an application, as they received sufficient funding from alternative sources.) Technically, some who did submit applications are still out of compliance by not following instructions in submitting a mid-fiscal year status report by stated deadline. The board has directed that we should rightfully eliminate those who are not in compliance. Three FY'16 Grant Recipients are on today's agenda to present oral reports to fulfill this requirement. Two FY'16 grantees submitted only brief written budget line items without elaboration or narrative of explanation. Discussion of whether or not the board is willing to accept this very minimal submission as fulfillment of the contracted reporting requirement.

MOTION: Rick/Monique. To give noncompliant applicants one more opportunity to submit the necessary mid-year status report before May 23 board meeting in order to be considered for current year grant funding. Specifically, a written report to be emailed to Secretary by May 5, 2017. PASS.

To accompany the FY'17 Grant contract that will be sent to successful applicants, Denelle will create a template for a "Project/Activity Status Report" so that grant recipients will know what information to include in a contract-required report. Discussion of what particular information the board would like to know about a grantee's project or activity. (Dates, details, numbers of clients served, how budget was spent, how things might have been done differently, etc.).

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fiscal Year 2016 Grant Recipients' Oral Status Reports —

a. Recovery International Missoula 2016 (Monique Casbeer) – Purchased paper/ink for printing;

annual membership for herself. Has spent @ \$400 of \$1500 grant; needs to include payment of gas/reimbursement to Charlotte (@\$500 at state-rate of .54¢/mile). Intends to buy several hundred dollars worth of books for group members to use (@ 8 copies of each book). Has @ \$500 left uncommitted.

b. Asperger's Syndrome (Missoula) Library Collection (Monique Casbeer) – Has worked on compiling a list of books to be recommended for library; still awaiting approval by a local Asperger's Support Group. Has not spend any of \$500 grant to purchase books. When ready, the library can purchase books directly at a more competitive price. She will recommend about 25 books to be housed at Missoula Public Library; available for inter-library loan to other public libraries; anticipates to be done by year-end. Part of the grant includes publicizing the availability of the new titles (Library can feature new collection.)

c. Dawn: Promised to send a written report within the week. [NB: Received 5/5/17]

d. Bitterroot MH Prescription Assistance Fund (Denelle Pappier) – The BMHPAF helps cover some of the cost to individuals receiving prescriptions who were unable to afford their prescription and/or their co-pay portion. For FY'16, the fund served 28 clients with the grant of \$1500; after reasonable operating costs, the average funded cost was @\$35 per client and average monthly expenditure of \$80. We've learned to notate that there needs to be a max. amount available per client per year.

2. Grant Contract Review —

Denelle noted that she “cleaned up” the contract language to try to clarify the report requirements. A copy of the updated contract was shared with board members to review and consider. Approved.

3. Missoula VA Healthcare Town Hall (held March 28, 2017) — Brenda Desmond

She attended and representatives of a number of VA healthcare programs based at the VA Hospital in Fort Harrison, Helena were present to provide information and answer questions for Veterans. Also present were local service organizations that work with Veterans such as the Missoula Housing Authority, X-Sports for Vets and the Missoula Veterans Court. State VA director, Kathy Berger spoke about 3 things:

(1) the VA has been working with Congress to amend and extend beyond August 2017 the Choice Act, (the federal law that allows Veterans already enrolled in VA health care, to receive care from private providers within their community, instead of waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility). The extension bill was passed and signed by the president April 19, 2017;

(2) Montana VA is working hard to recruit providers to fill the current vacancies at Montana's local Veterans clinics and the hospital;

(3) As of March 6, 2017, when a Veteran calls the Missoula Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, he or she will be able to speak to a nurse seven days a week, 24 hours a day. (This has already been put into place in Bozeman and Helena.) The current wait time is over a minute but they are working to reduce it to below 30 seconds.

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 10:00am-1:00pm** (at WMMHC in Missoula)

Submitted by: Denelle Pappier, WSAA Secretary
406-363-1311 / dpappier@aol.com

~~~~~  
ACRONYMS GLOSSARY:

|       |                                         |       |                                |         |                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| AMDD  | Addictions & Mental Disorders Division  | LAC   | Local Advisory Council         | Illness |                                   |
| CMTE  | Committee ( <i>not acronym!</i> )       | MH    | Mental Health                  | PSS     | Peer Support Specialist           |
| CLO   | Community Liaison Officer               | MHAM  | Mental Health Awareness        | SAA     | Service Area Authority            |
| CPO   | Community Program Officer               |       | Month (May)                    | SDMI    | Severely-Disabling Mental Illness |
| DBSA  | Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance   | MHC   | Mental Health Center           | SUD     | Substance Use Disorder            |
| DPHHS | Dept. of Public Health & Human Services | MHFA  | MH First Aid training          | TBD     | To be determined                  |
| FY    | Fiscal Year ( <i>July to June</i> )     | MHOAC | MH Oversight Advisory Council. | WMMHC   | Western Montana MHC               |
|       |                                         | MI    | Mental Illness                 | WOC     | Winds of Change MHC               |
|       |                                         | MOU   | Memo. of Understanding         | WSAA    | Western Service Area Authority    |
|       |                                         | MSH   | Montana State Hospital         |         |                                   |
|       |                                         | NAMI  | National Alliance on Mental    |         |                                   |