

# Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 25, 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): Rena Ayres, Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer (by phone), Brenda Desmond, Doris Fischer (by phone), Leah Furlong, Chris Glines, Katherine Isaacson, Denelle Pappier, Courtney Rudbach (by phone), Douglas Schimmel, Pete Snyder, Geri Stewart.

(Board Advisors from AMDD): Vicky Varichak.

(Members/ Guests): Dan Ladd.

Convened at 9:55 a.m. – Telephone conference call initiated through poly-com.

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

1. Meeting 10am on Thursday, July 27th at the DPHHS building in Helena to hear testimony on proposed cuts to Medicaid and MH case management services. All persons are encouraged to attend or send email to the Governor’s Office to share their thoughts on the funding cuts in AMDD.

Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to: Kenneth Mordan, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Office of Legal Affairs, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, Montana, 59604-4210; fax (406) 444- 9744; or e-mail dphhslegal@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., August 4, 2017.

2. Monique shared: A doctoral student at Portland State University in the School of Social Work is conducting a “Making Medical Decisions Peer Survey.” Email or call Beckie Child at bekiec@pdx.edu or 503-308-8812 to determine eligibility to take the online survey.

B. Secretary’s Report — Denelle Pappier

**MOTION:** Pete/Brenda. To approve June 27, 2017 board minutes. PASS.

C. Treasurer’s Report — Katherine Isaacson

Discussion on Senate Bill 261 on proposed budget cuts to Medicaid services. Case Management (CM)

June Expenses	\$502.90 mileage \$ 98.29 lodging \$ 47.39 meals <u>\$525.00 contracted</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,173.58
Grants Funded	\$6,615.00
Balance 05/31/17	\$7,788.58

is going to be severely affected; there is no transition plan if the proposed cuts are implemented. Some solution may be had if the PACT team requirements are “loosened” as far as staffing personnel. PACT is an evidence-based approach and may ultimately be a superior model than fee-for-services case management (which is not evidence-based).

Suggested that WSAA write a letter stating our opposition to the proposal of cutting CM services without offering an alternative. Should suggest solutions and note that current payment system is archaic, and look at service reform at community level to get people needed help.

**MOTION:** Pete/Denelle. To authorize Katherine to draft a letter from the WSAA regarding this topic of proposed cuts to MH and CM services and need for transition services. Pending board email response for approval within 24 hours of her proposed letter. Katherine will determine best persons to receive this targeted letter and share this list for additional individual letters. PASS

Brenda will help determine list of recipients with Interim Legislative Committee members; Dan suggested Governor, Heads of DPHHS/AMDD, MACO; locally, LAC Reps can also share with County Commissioners, newspaper editors for publication, post on social media. Katherine will also draft an email letter that individuals can use to forward to all stakeholders.

Submitted report of Financial Summary of FY’17, including proposed FY’18 Budget; discuss at the next board meeting.

**MOTION:** Sylvia/Leah. To approve Treasurer’s Report. PASS.

D. SAA Summit Report — Chris Glines

Chris was surprised to be given a revised FY'18 AMDD contract that had numerous changes and expected to sign it. Chris objected that the board would need to consider and discuss the changes before signing. She felt that some requirements were not well-considered (e.g., reporting content, deadline requirements).

SAsAs may determine their grant funding as each desires, as long as status reports received to SAsAs are shared with AMDD. Plan to hold an annual SAA Congress (possibly at the annual NAMI conference in October/November), as well as continue quarterly SAA Summits with AMDD.

These new sections require our board approval.

1) SAsAs work together to develop a standard application form for grant funding; and 2) to plan an annual combined SAA congress. The details of both of these are to be determined at SAA level.

**MOTION:** Brenda/Pete. To accept the two areas of AMDD contract revisions. PASS.

E. AMDD Report — CPO Vicky Varichak

Large meeting of AMDD staff was held in Helena on July 12, 2017. New FY'18 budget has allowed easement of CPO travel restrictions to include quarterly attendance at all active LAC meetings. Specifically, CPOs can travel to LACs in person, in their regions, once per quarter. If the LAC has a phone-in option, CPOs can attend via telephone the other 8 months of the year.

Due to decreases in anticipated revenues, the department is implementing an across the board 3.47% decrease in services and supplies paid under RBRVS, fee for service, and Medicare payment methodologies. August 17th is the expected date the State will know if the revenue is in shortfall, if so, then the cuts will take place effective October 1, 2017, otherwise, the rate will remain as they are listed in the current fee schedules.

F. 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) — Continue to work on the Big Sky Behav. Health Summit, to be held Sept. '17 at the U. of Montana Western. Taking nominations through the end of Aug. for the first annual Howard Gaines Community Service Award that will be presented to a local individual for service in the mental/behavioral health field here in Beaverhead Co. Have a committee working on events/activities for Suicide Prevention Week Sept.10-17. Our LAC was not successful in getting the grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation that we had hoped for. We made presentation to school board about implementing the Pax Game Program, and the board seems to be receptive to further discussing implementing it in grades K-5. Will continue to pursue.

2. Flathead Co./Kalispell (Susan) — Courtney: LAC Picnic planned August 8th. Vicky attended last meeting. Debbie Strong presented update on her past WSAA mini-grant (bought book series and started depression support group) and attended Trauma-Informed Peer Support conference. Discussed case management issues of proposed cuts. Sunburst offered info on all of their free support groups.

3. Lake Co./Polson (Douglas) — Networking for leads on people who may be interested to attend LAC meetings; especially considering position on reservation with the high suicide rate being a goal to target that population.

4. Lincoln Co./Libby (Chris) — Continued frustration led to Chris being invited to next hospital board meeting to present getting the LAC revitalized.

5. Madison Co./Virginia City (Jim/Doris) — No MHLAC meeting in July, but having a special meeting today in conjunction with steering cmt of Integrated Behav. Health. Working to prepare application for county matching grant to run 7 month pilot project to have county contract with up to 4 local MH counselors to take some crisis calls and respond with crisis counseling. Hope to get county commissioners to agree to submitting that application. Commissioners wrote letter to national delegation to continue funding of MHFA trainings (as budget cuts were proposed to eliminate the MHFA program). Also, wrote letter on proposed SB261 August speaker will be Jim Hajny of MT Peer Network.

6. Mineral Co./Superior (Dawn) — No meeting in July (usually 1st Tuesday/month, was July 4th)

7. Missoula Co./Missoula (David) — Had a successful party in the park on July 20th; over 200 attended; ice cream truck was very popular.

8. Ravalli Co./Hamilton (Jenny/Denelle) — No meeting in July. Informal networking on LAC possibilities (e.g., we created West House!)

9. Sanders Co./Plains (Shelby/Vicky) — VCroft by phone: just completed a flyer to help recruit LAC members (professionals and consumers). Wrote letter to editor with minimal response. Using hers as the LAC contact number. Working on a community needs assessment survey to help determine needs.

10. Silver Bow Co./Butte (Karen) — Not present to report.

11. "Pintler" (Deer Lodge & Granite counties)/Anaconda (Charlotte) — Not present to report.

G WSAA Committee Updates — (none)

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pete: Out of Darkness Walk Suicide Prevention Week. Money goes to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention organization and they pay for MHFA trainings. Partnered with Ospreys baseball on Sept. 1st to share part of \$10 ticket sales with AFSP (see website for more details).

2. Regional WSAA Board Meeting – Discussion.

Last year, the board speculated that we might want to visit Flathead County/Kalispell for the next regional meeting; and, further, thought the best month for the meeting might be October 2017. Everyone likes the opportunity to see local communities. Leah suggested that Sunburst MHC has a conference room that might be used; Vicky thought Travis at Sykes Pharmacy has conference ability and restaurant for catering. Leah will do some research and give it to new LAC Rep Josh Starcher to bring to August WSAA board meeting.

Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 22, 2017, 10:00am-1:00pm** (at WMMHC in Missoula)

Submitted by: Denelle Pappier, WSAA Secretary  
406-363-1311 / [dpappier@aol.com](mailto:dpappier@aol.com)

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ACRONYMS GLOSSARY:

AMDD Addictions & Mental Disorders Division

CIT Crisis Intervention Team

CMTE Committee (*not acronym!*)

CLO Community Liaison Officer

CPO Community Program Officer

DPHHS Dept. of Public Health & Human Services

FY Fiscal Year (*July to June*)

LAC Local Advisory Council

LEA Law Enforc. Agency

MH Mental Health

MHAM Mental Health Awareness Month (May)

MHC Mental Health Center

MHFA MH First Aid training

MHOAC MH Oversight Advisory Council.

MI Mental Illness

MOU Memo. of Understanding

MSH Montana State Hospital

NAMI National Alliance on Mental

Illness

PSS Peer Support Specialist

PT Project Tomorrow

SAA Service Area Authority

SDMI Severely-Disabling Mental Illness

SUD Substance Use Disorder

TBD To be determined

WMMHC Western Montana MHC

WOC Winds of Change MHC

WSAA Western Service Area Authority

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Committees for the WSAA:

WSAA FY'17 Mini-Grants — CMTE: Denelle, Chris, Brenda, Monique, Leah, Dawn, Geri

By-Laws — CMTE: Denelle, Tyler, Sylvia

Strategic Plan — CMTE: Courtney, Stacey, Monique, Doris, Pete

Sub-CMTE: Geri, Brooke, Stacey, Pete, Chris, Denelle

Jails Formulary Investigation — CMTE: Tyler, Dawn, Geri, Monique, Rena

LAC Report Form — CMTE: (TBD) (Info from LACs to WSAA; to enable writing BR)

LAC Needs Assessment Form — CMTE: (TBD)

Response to MNA — CMTE: Brenda, Pete, Leah, Rena, Denelle

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