

Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

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

Western Montana Mental Health Center

1321 Wyoming St., Room 102, Missoula, Montana

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PRESENT: (Board Members – for quorum): Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, Doris Fischer (by phone), Leah Furlong (by phone), Chris Glines, Denelle Pappier, Courtney Rudbach (by phone), Pete Snyder (by phone; left @11am), Geri Stewart (left @ 10:45am), Susan Thomas (by phone), Stacey Wheeler.

(Board Advisors from AMDD): Kenny Bell, Vicky Varichak.

(Members/ Guests): Dan Ladd (Board of Visitors, by phone), Dennis Nyland (MH Ombudsman, by phone), Kevin Stewart (Clinical Director, Addictions; WMMHC).

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

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

1. FACEBOOK: Reminder to “like” our new Facebook page; “Western Service Area Authority” may be the preferred search term to find the page. Posts on legislative updates, etc.

2. Stacey: Following MT legislature: Peer Support Bill “flew through House” with unanimous support; transmittal to Senate soon; expected to pass easily. Maybe due to no fiscal note to bill? Good testimony of support from LEA, agencies, individuals. Montana Legislature Watch: [leg.mt.gov](http://leg.mt.gov)

3. NAMI-MT will hold two-day NAMI Presenter Trainings in May in Helena; they need enough participation to hold. All expenses paid. LACs should encourage members to consider attending. (NAMI Connections, In Our Own Voice, Family-to-Family, Peer-to-Peer, etc.) See NAMI-MT website for details.

B. Secretary’s Report — Denelle Pappier

**MOTION:** Monique/Sylvia. To approve January 24, 2017 board minutes as submitted. PASS.

|                  |                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January Expenses | \$735.63 mileage<br>\$31.94 meals<br>\$115.41 lodging<br>\$550.00 contracted |
| Total Expenses   | \$1,432.98                                                                   |
| Balance 01/31/17 | \$14,605.20                                                                  |

C. Treasurer’s Report — Katherine Isaacson/Kevin Stewart

Kevin brought copies; Denelle read January expenses:

**MOTION:** Monique/Geri. To accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. PASS.

D. AMDD Report — CPOs Kenny Bell & Vicky Varichak

Mindi Askelson will usually attend monthly WSAA board meetings (she replaces Marlene Disburg-Ross’ position, plus additional duties). New AMDD Administrator Zoe Barnard, and Bureau Chief Jo Thompson; lots of reassignments of positions and tasks within AMDD. Melissa Higgins, supervising Community Outreach Specialist (Position previously held by Carrie Lutkehus, but with different duties). CPOs cover Medicaid Waiver sites in region; spent 2 days in Helena meeting to discuss reorganization of department and programs that they administer. Legislature Session review of bills of interest and the state budget is tightening (travel reimbursement is “on freeze” until resolved), while money is being moved around to cover all budget categories.

HB 95 passed out of committee and House: allows more than one state-approved provider to treat/ bill for their services to a client. Will help when treating clients with co-occurring conditions; may help transition of clients from Youth to Adult MH Services. Will greatly help treatment of individuals with SUD and MH issues. The background of the “disconnect” between servicing agencies (adult and youth MH services) is that their funding streams come from different sources (and addictions funding is woefully underfunded; perhaps because SUD is considered a condition of “choice” by the individual).

Kevin Stewart noted that he and Katherine Isaacson (through WMMHC/Missoula) are seeking a funding source to allow subsidized assistance to pay the required fee for consumers to enroll in the ACT program. ACT is “Assessment, Course & Treatment,” a program for individuals who are convicted of

driving under the influence (DUI), or misdemeanor dangerous drugs, or underage drinking and driving.

HB 257 (Would disallow discharge to homelessness from MSH) action on bill still pending. Opening up the housing waiver allotments to be used by individuals anywhere in state; rather than a previous "quota system" wherein each region was previously allotted 1/3 of available slots to use; and some regions didn't use their entire allotment where other region may need additional slots. There are wait lists for housing vouchers: either assisted living or support to live in own homes. (\*\*Noted SAMHSA grant\*\*)

Asked if SAA Summits will be scheduled?

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, Powell counties))**

1. Beaverhead Co./Dillon (Rick) — Kenny reported: Rick resigned as Chair; new chair is Lynn Weltzien, but no new Rep as been chosen (although Rick will attend WSAA when he can). Moving ahead with MT Healthcare Foundation money spent on ACES trainer training; Taskforces working on suicide prevention and criminal justice issues (i.e., Detox Center needed and looking to hire community resource officer for follow-up with individuals). Holding annual conference (with local college and others) on "Trauma-Informed Care Community" (in August or September 2017).

2. Flathead Co./Kalispell (Susan) — Met Feb. 14, discussed MSH releasing patients with no shelter/money and leads to readmissions. Need a local facility in Kalispell (not the Jail!) to house persons with MH issues. May hold fundraisers and contact other agencies to collaborate. Upcoming NAMI trainings and Health Fair in June (Trauma-Informed Care).

3. Lake Co./Polson (Douglas) — Not present to report. Vicky reported: Members in St. Ignatius area started their own LAC sub-chapter (first meeting at Sunburst, Thursday, March 2, 2-3pm); she will attend. The other aspect of LAC was mostly a NAMI group that met in evening in Polson; didn't seem successful to combine the two aspects. Vicky will speak with Royalee (in Polson) to determine their interest in continuing holding the LAC designation, or if the south county should better represent consumer interests.

4. Lincoln Co./Libby (Chris) — Vicky spoke with local MH providers Abby Harnett and Nancy Huus; they all want to meet to re-establish LAC activity. Need to find an available, neutral meeting space (transportation is always an issue); perhaps the hospital's community room.

5. Madison Co./Virginia City (Jim/Doris) — Doris by phone: Trying to more fully connect agencies that serve individuals through MT Health Care Foundation grant to integrate healthcare. Trying to launch Tele-Med next month, hoping to speed up crisis response. Also, working to establish an on-call response team to work with individuals in crisis (volunteers to staff phone, using facilities at hospital). Collective of LEA, Peer Support Specialists, Healthcare & MH Professionals. Setting up to hold another MHFA training; want to hold ACES training. Developing (with funding from PHD) a poster to post around county (including restrooms): multiple topics with packet of sticky notes under each topic with resources/contact information. Finally their LAC is on Facebook! New meeting day/time: first Mondays, 2:30-3:30pm. Will determine new LAC Rep next month.

6. Mineral Co./Superior (Dawn) — Vicky reported: Met 2/7 with focus on working on standardizing medication formulary for incarcerated persons with MH issues. Meeting at "Choices for Change" MHP's office for chemical dependency program.

7. Missoula Co./Missoula (Joshua) — Sylvia reported: Same problem of getting people involved. Looking to combine LAC and NAMI meetings to encourage involvement. (Meets 3rd Tuesdays, 2-3:30pm at River House/WMMHC). Just a small group regularly attends; several consumers, some agencies reps. Kenny suggests he sees greater regular attendance when County Commissioners are "attached" to LAC as they can assign reps to attend meetings.

8. Ravalli Co./Hamilton (Jenny/Denelle) — Met with Co. Commissioners and PHD staff about LAC meetings and what plans can be combined to serve local MH population. Even just getting the word out that LAC exists as a resource! Noted little interest (understanding of potential?) with no commitment.

9. Sanders Co./Plains (Shelby) — Not present to report. Vicky reported: Attended 2/22 meeting Meets CFV Hospital, 4th Weds. 8:30am. List of identified possible projects/needs (housing, transportation, resource guide); mostly agencies are represented, need more consumers involved. Enthusiastic about working to solve local MH issues; concerned for lack of funding to work on needed. Scheduled MHFA class for next month.

10. Silver Bow Co./Butte (Dawnita “Dee”) — Kenny reported. They recently held a conference on “Trauma-Informed Care Community” (and want to hold another later this year). Conferred with Jim Hajny to discuss how to get Peer Support program in county MHCs. Subcommittees on Peer Support, Housing, Recreation Activities (to move into encouraging employment opportunities). Looking at voting procedure of LAC: lack of quorum have stalled actions, may restructure how to determine authorizing actions.

11. “Pintler” (Deer Lodge, Granite, Powell counties)/Anaconda (Charlotte) — Kenny: Didn’t meet last month; looking to change meeting day due to conflicts of people’s schedules. Rep wants to meet with Co. Commissioner in Granite County to explain LAC advantages to get greater support; may change county ordinance for LAC board to exist and change to simple statement of resolution; also, needs a MOU to collaborate with other counties. Currently, LAC is mostly people from Deer Lodge County who are involved. (Powell Co. is essentially not involved).

#### F. WSAA Committee Updates —

1. Legislative Priorities sub-committee — CMTE: Geri, Brooke, Stacey, Pete, Chris, Denelle.

Stacey is tracking: MH Parity bill passed on Friday. Transmittal Day is tomorrow to send bills between houses. So far, this session has been generally positive in support of MH-related bills.

2. Mini-Grant — Grant Funding CMTE: Denelle, Chris, Brenda, Monique, Leah, Dawn (Geri, willing if needed)

All information and deadlines have been updated and the application packet and instructions were emailed to all board members and the general WSAA email list on Feb. 16, 2017. The board reiterated our position that we need to emphasize to applicants that all grant writing requirements are based on following the funder’s instructions. We intend our grant opportunity to also be educational for applicants learning to submit grant applications and will therefore give applicants some benefit of the committee’s input, nevertheless, we will be strict in interpreting whether or not the submitted application meets the stated requirements. Some concern was expressed that the board has not received any status reports from 2016 grantees; that is required before a grantee may apply for current funds.

#### G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter to AMDD —

The on-going situation wherein our WSAA board meetings are not attended by AMDD representation was discussed. It is not in line with our contract arrangement, although it is apparently not strictly delineated that a representative attend the monthly meetings. Board members still feel that more outreach and communication from AMDD would be mutually beneficial to our meeting our mission of mental health advocacy. Denelle received email from CSAA and ESAA expressing the same concern and asking to coordinate to write a single letter to AMDD. Discussion to combine a letter of concern from all three SAAs to ask for AMDD participation. Vicky suggested: Zoe, Jo, and Mindi would be best recipients. Executive Board members will draft a letter and consult with other SAA reps to confirm contents. Historically, SAA members have participated in hiring AMDD personnel, grant funding opportunities (RFP Process) and we all want to continue with that level of participation.

MHOAC has also been without WSAA representation since Chris’ term expired last year and no new representation has been selected by MHOAC. (A new procedure was that MHOAC would select members

to represent regions, rather than having SAAs select their preferred representative to MHOAC.) Chris will write a letter to express her experiences with MHOAC and send that to Mindi.

**MOTION:** Monique/Doris. To consult with CSAA and ESAA to draft a letter, with list of board members, to request AMDD representation at our respective SAA board meetings and to continue with quarterly SAA Summits. Details as above described. PASS

2. Regional Meeting —

General support has been expressed for holding another regional meeting in FY18, possibly in early October (alternately, mid-Spring). Discussion that we should get consensus of the board if this is how we choose to invest some of our funding. The board requested that Denelle create a survey online to determine the board’s interest to hold such a meeting and when. Regarding where the meeting may be held, all WSAA LACs should discuss this possibility with their members and encourage consideration to hold a regional meeting in their outlying county.

Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 28, 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:

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences (Study or Score)	DIC	Drop-In Center	MSH	Montana State Hospital
AMDD	Addictions & Mental Disorders Division	DPHHS	Dept. of Public Health & Human Services	NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness
BR	Biennial Report (from WSAA to AMDD)	FY	Fiscal Year (<i>July to June</i>)	PSS	Peer Support Specialist
CMTE	Committee (<i>not acronym!</i>)	IBH	Integrated Behavioral Health	RFP	Request For Proposal (grants)
CIT	Crisis Intervention Team (Training)	LAC	Local Advisory Council	SAA	Service Area Authority
CLO	Community Liaison Officer	MAL	Members-at-Large	SDMI	Severely-Disabling Mental Illness
CPO	Community Program Officer	MH	Mental Health	SUD	Substance Use Disorder
DBSA	Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance	MHC	Mental Health Center	TBD	To be determined
		MHFA	MH First Aid training	WMMHC	Western Montana MHC
		MHOAC	MH Oversight Advisory Council	WOC	Winds of Change MHC
		MI	Mental Illness	WSAA	Western Service Area Authority
		MOU	Memo. of Understanding		

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Committees for the WSAA:

WSAA 2016 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, 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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