

# Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 • 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): Kari Auclair (left 11:45a), Rena Ayres, Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, Tricia Cutright, Claire Leonard (by phone), Denelle Pappier, Dawn Sandberg, Douglas Schimmel, Pete Snyder, Tyler Steinebach, Geri Stewart, Stacey Wheeler.

(Board Advisors from AMDD): (None)

(Members/ Guests): Charles Baker, Katie Sorenson.

Convened at 10:08 a.m. – Tele-conference call initiated.

A. Welcome / Introductions / Announcements —  
Stacey Wheeler, Chairperson

1. Pete: Reported on his ending his contract to provide psychiatric services with Providence/St. Patrick Hospital. He'll be staying with his current employer which includes moving his family; he's chosen a position in Loveland, CO. There is a Transition Team at Providence Psych Service; Jeremy Williams is acting as chief contact. There will be some combining of urgent MH care and outpatient counseling; will have 44 beds for inpatient care. Kate Wiltfong will be the new WSAA representative.

(Kathryn.Wiltfong@providence.org/; 406-327-3014)

2. Charles: Newly-formed committee of all varieties of stakeholders and seems to be sustainable. Monique will be a trainer, available state-wide. MH Group started, Buckets of Love; focus on children's MH care [bucketsoflove.net]

B. Secretary's Report — Denelle Pappier (No July meeting by board decision)

**MOTION:** Monique/Sylvia. To approve June 25, 2018 board minutes as read. PASS

C. Treasurer's Report — Kari Auclair

Budget report requested from WMMHC (our fiscal agent); it may be some time to receive it because of them moving the WMMHC Admin. building. Expenditures \$13,316.

Working on getting pre-approved funding for expenses related to members who are attending the MPN conference in Helena, Sept. 6.

AMDD has not provided contracts for this FY; been without one since 07/01/19. Jami Hansen is our new liaison with AMDD. This will be a 15 month contract, followed by a 9 month contract, in order to adjust for a new beginning of the fiscal year, which is October 1st. Will discuss details at the 9/13 SAA Summit at AMDD in Helena.

D. WSAA Website Report — Tricia Cutright

Site is updated current and she sends to SAA chair the site activity report. Some early discussions of combining the three SAAs into a single website/Facebook page for all state.

1. Contracts: Newly-formed AMDD personnel/contact, we should not expect that AMDD will provide any support for the SAAs. They suggest all SAAs contract with a paid manager to serve our needs. CPOs Kenny Bell and Vicky Varichak will no longer be attending these meetings; and only available to help LACs with directly-requested, episodic issues.

E. AMDD Report — CPOs Kenny Bell / Vicky Varichak

No CPO present; received no monthly email report from anyone at AMDD. In general, the new department subdivisions are: SUD = Prevention (including BHAC); MH = Treatment. They will be kept relatively separate.

WSAA exists due to legislation in 2003 by request of the Governor; structured to bring

## Questions/Concerns Addressed to AMDD:

1. Medicaid reimbursement for clients w/ co-occurring treatment appointments.
2. Change beginning of fiscal year (FY)?
3. Get release of MSH Census information.

in reports on communities' MH services and needs. AMDD is supposed to "collaborate" with SAAs, but that is not really defined. Initially, we had great assistance and support, but that has diminished over the years. We have had very poor lines of communication; but their position is that they must listen to our points. This liberates us to talk about MH issues without implication that we're speaking for AMDD.

In 2006, the combined SAAs presented numerous legislation recommendations; all were passed, including "Transportation with Dignity" and led to West House Crisis facility in Hamilton. Recently, we've had some successes with our recommendations re: Peer Support Services, etc.

The current AMDD administration has no "history of our history." We're in a position to restructure how we operate. Our need is to insist that the businesses receive sufficient funding for necessary needs (buildings, utilities, etc.) to provide the services that are required by law.

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) — No report.

2. Flathead Co./Kalispell (Courtney) — Not present to report.

3. Lake Co./Polson (Douglas) — Still struggling, having difficulty getting people to attend.

4. Lincoln Co./Libby (vacant) — Currently inactive.

5. Madison Co./Virginia City (Claire) — Have meeting scheduled 9/9; didn't meet in Aug. In July, had speaker Jim Hajny from MPN on PSS; looking to form committee on PSS implementation. Meets: 2nd Monday, 2:30pm, County Library.

6. Mineral Co./Superior (Dawn) — With multi-grant funding, have been holding some of the events that they proposed. Had @30 people attend the free Ice Cream Social; had 7 speakers, many sharing their lived experience stories, focus on underage drinking; had numerous hand-outs; provided several flavors ice cream/cones/cups/toppings. Their 2nd event, Lunch in the Park, provided food (pulled pork sandwiches, &c.), live band, face painting, speakers/hand-outs; focus on suicide prevention. Also had @30 people attend (not many of the same people). Third event will be September 27, focus on Myers-Briggs, will be held at school during PIR day.

7. Missoula Co./Missoula (Sylvia) — Met in July to finalize plans for Picnic; didn't meet in August. Picnic was not well attended (probably due to lack of advertising and rainy weather). Gave leftover foods to a local shelter.

8. Ravalli Co./Hamilton (Denelle) — No Aug. meeting due to illness and scheduling.

9. Sanders Co./Plains (Vicky C.) — Not present to report. (Meets 4th Weds; 532-9190 x.1)

10. Silver Bow Co./Butte (vacant) — Not present to report. (Chair, Karen Sullivan, Ph.D.)

11. "Pintler" (Deer Lodge & Granite counties)/Anaconda (vacant) — Currently inactive.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2019 Legislative Committee Update — Tyler Steinebach

Tyler compiled information to assist anyone in writing Letters to the Editor (LTE) of their local newspapers. We could initiate a campaign on an issue (i.e, MSH problems), so that multiple people are submitting letters on same topic. Legislators regularly read the Opinion Page in their districts. Handouts provided on example letter-writing and listing of all newspapers in Montana for LTE. Sept. is National MH Recovery month and would be good to write letters.

2. SHIP meeting — Tyler is WSAA Representative

State Health Improvement Plan. There are representatives (recommended contacts) who can assist with SHIP understanding. Work Group will meet Friday, 9/13; will discuss Rx drug analysis; what's new in MH/SUD field.

3. MT State Hospital – Census reports? FOIA letter — Tyler

He has received 2nd letter specifying who is responsible to compile information (Melinda Bridgewater) and anticipate 80 hours of employee work, costing approximately \$1500. He's confused about how the MSH is \*not\* already getting this information for optimal administration. Have requested that AMDD officially make this request, so it will not cost this fee. Legislators have previously requested the same information and they were denied, saying it was a HIPAA violation. We may be able to leverage no charge for this service, as it is identical to the information the legislators requested.

Pete suggests requesting CMS psychiatric services information, as well. Any attempt to reactivate the monthly ADART meetings at MSH? SAAs have received numerous complaints about the bad conditions and insufficient treatment at MSH. Missoula's Poverello Center for Homeless is considering taking legal action against MSH, if they continue to bring discharges and drop them off at the POV without advance notice.

Tyler has requested assistance from the Interim Legislative Committee (meets in Sept) in getting response from DPHHS/AMDD to resolve these problems. Claire is interested to contribute assistance with unacceptable issues like, "Discharge with no plan" at MSH. Also, interested to work on any committee with statewide Formulary approval.

Disability Rights Montana (DRM) should take up this issue; we can present it to them.

4. Statewide Facebook and/or website of all SAAs/LACs — Discussion of whether or not a good idea. Should be discussed at SAA Summit on who and how a combined website would work. Good to get a back-up person to be associated, in event the main person has problems.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Statewide SAA Congress will be held at MPN conference (Sept. 6) — Educational about the LACs, SAAs, BHOAC, AMDD. The roles & relationships of each to the others

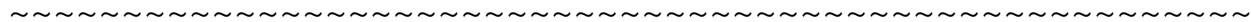
2. Elections at next board meeting (Sept. 24); LACs should determine their Representatives/Alternates now, so they can be confirmed. Also, will determine committees that we want to form (\*\*next mo. agenda)

3. SAMHSA review (Weds., Aug. 28) — Kari, Courtney and Stacey will be meeting with SAMHSA representative tomorrow in Helena to share what consumers have stated that they need and how the state is responding. One major issue is how to fund necessary transportation for clients to attend appointments; specifically denied permission to transport in definition of what PSS can do. Stacey will review our By-Laws to see what is required (\*\*next mo. agenda)

Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm**

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



ACRONYMS GLOSSARY:

AMDD Addictions & Mental Disorders Division  
BH Behavioral Health  
BHAM Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana  
CBPRS Community-Based Psychiatric Rehabilitative Support  
CIT Crisis Intervention Team  
CM Case Management  
CLO Community Liaison Officer  
CPO Community Program Officer  
CSAA Central Service Area Authority  
DPHHS Dept. of Public Health & Human Services

ESAA Eastern Service Area Auth.  
FY Fiscal Year (*July to June*)  
LAC Local Advisory Council  
LEA Law Enforcement 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 Memorandum of Understanding  
MSH Montana State Hospital  
NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness  
PACT Program for Assertive

Community Treatment  
PATH People Assisting The Homeless  
PSS Peer Support Specialist  
PT Project Tomorrow  
QPR Question, Persuade, Refer  
SAA Service Area Authority  
SDMI Severely-Disabling Mental Illness  
SHIP State Health Improvement Plan  
SUD Substance Use Disorder  
TBD "To be determined"  
WMMHC Western Montana MHC  
WSAA Western Service Area Authority

