

Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 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, Rena Ayres, Sylvia Carollo, Monique Casbeer, Rick Hartz, Katrena Heagwood (by phone), Claire Leonard, Jenny Monson, Denelle Pappier, Courtney Rudbach (by phone), Dawn Sandberg, Douglas Schimmel, Tyler Steinebach, Geri Stewart, Stacey Wheeler.  
(Board Advisors from AMDD): (None)  
(Members/ Guests): Charles Baker.

Questions/Concerns Addressed to AMDD:  
1. Status of MSH statistical information requested and that the state is paying for it.

Convened at 10:12 a.m. – Tele-conference call initiated.

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

1. Connected new tele-conference option through GoToMeeting  
[[WWW.GOTOMEETING.COM/JOIN/779012197](http://WWW.GOTOMEETING.COM/JOIN/779012197)] or by phone at +1 312-757-3121 (PIN: 779-012-197). [NUMBER WILL CHANGE EACH MONTH; STACEY WILL SEND BY EMAIL BEFORE MEETING.]  
When joining with a webcam, a connected person can see all present at the meeting.

B. Secretary's Report — Denelle Pappier

**MOTION:** Monique/Claire. To approve August 27, 2019 board minutes as read. PASS

C. Treasurer's Report — Kari Auclair

Have a new format to keep our budget (through WMMHC as our fiscal agent); she is still trying to best interpret how the new program should be showing our financial status. Stacey has signed the contract with WMMHC; being sent to Levi (CEO) for his signature, then we'll get a copy. We expect to receive about \$31K through AMDD for the next 15 months of operation. (New beginning of our Fiscal Year is October 1st: July to September 2019 plus October to September 2019-20.) Thereafter, the contracts will be annual FY beginning in October. AMDD Liaison Jami Hansen has stated that she can advocate for an increased amount of our budget.

D. AMDD Report — No status report received by email.

Jami Hansen (AMDD contact) will attend by phone every other month (alternating with attending ESAA meeting by phone on the same day/time).

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) — Preparing for their upcoming 3rd annual Big Sky Summit (Oct 3,4) in Dillon. Increased numbers of people seeking service; their advocates are helping. The Good Behavior Game will be implemented in grades K-5. Recruiting another LCSW.

2. Flathead Co./Kalispell (Courtney) — Had NAMI Walk and Into The Darkness walk. Co-sponsoring symposium on 'screen time and parenting in the digital age.' Have seen increase in children's diagnosis of Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD).

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) — Resumed meetings after summer hiatus. Working on special speaker, 7-8:30pm on October 3rd, Kevin Briggs, who will be speaking to 3 of 5 public schools and to county officials and public. Kevin is the police officer who worked to keep

people from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. He advocates for CIT training for all LEAs (police and sheriff); sometimes it's difficult to schedule time off for officers to attend the day-long training. Closest hospital is in Ennis; have Tele-Health option. Developing a survey on issue of supportive temporary housing. (LAC meets on 1st Monday, 2pm in public library)

6. Mineral Co./Superior (Dawn) — Kevin Briggs speaking there on Friday, Sept. 27.

7. Missoula Co./Missoula (Sylvia) — Chair & Vice have resigned; have not enough people to assume the positions (their elections are in January). Discussed their Summer Picnic, what went right/wrong; maybe a change in venue would help. Charles proposed outreach to bring peers to the table. Personalizing the LAC brochure. (Meets 3rd Tuesday)

8. Ravalli Co./Hamilton (Denelle) — No Sept. meeting due to illness and scheduling. NAMI continues to meet Mondays, 11-12pm at Cornerstone Church. New location suggested for LAC meeting; hoping to get the word out of when/where LAC meets and invite peers and professionals. Summit ILC holds daily activities that are appropriate for adults with MI (especially those who don't want to attend WMMHC DIC ADT).

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

10. Silver Bow Co./Butte (Katrena) — Cancelled last week's meeting. Having trouble getting a quorum; formed committee to discuss realignment to better attract attendance. Focus on Peer Support in their community; coordinating to get CIT training to all officers in city/county.

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

#### F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. WSAA and LAC Elections to be held at September board meeting (Stacey/Denelle)

Filling board positions: "terming-out" members (Rena, Jenny=at-large; Kari, Stacey, Tyler) are all willing to continue to serve. Charles Baker nominated to replace Tricia C. as Family of Consumer. Leaving inactive LACs' positions & Pete's old position still unfilled.

**MOTION:** Rick/Monique. To accept nominations for board positions as stated. PASS

**MOTION:** Charles/Rena. To leave 3 positions unfilled at present. PASS

Annual Executive Board positions for unopposed for: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. Vice Chair is a separate election by ballot; Expressed interest: Geri, Charles, Tyler. Geri not interested to continue as VC as the position will lead to holding the Chair position, which she doesn't want; withdrew her candidacy. Discussion; secret ballot, which Stacey counted; Tyler received majority of votes.

**MOTION:** Rena/Charles. To accept election of Tyler Steinebach as Vice Chair. PASS

**MOTION:** Monique/Charles. To allow that there are 15 active members on the board; therefore quorum will be 8 members. PASS

a. LACs should ideally hold their elections prior to September, so that Reps can be accepted onto the board. Most LACs reappointed the currently-serving representatives:

Beaverhead Co.-Rick Hartz, Flathead Co.-Courtney Rudbach, Lake Co.-Douglas Schimmel, Madison Co.-Claire Leonard, Mineral Co.-Dawn Sandberg, Missoula Co.-David Cockrell, Ravalli Co.-Jenny Monson/Denelle Pappier, Sanders Co.-none, Silver Bow Co.-Katrena Heagwood.

**MOTION:** Monique/Kari. To accept and confirm the LAC Reps./Alts. As elected by individual LACs. PASS

b. Determine committees that we want to form (Deferred to next month's agenda)

2. Update from SAMHSA review (held 8/28/19) – Kari

Kari, Courtney and Stacey planned to meet with SAMHSA representatives. Their telephone system was not active, so Kari and Courtney were not able to call in. SAMHSA representative met with multiple parties throughout state; Stacey represented SAAs and Claire represented BHAC. The written report is not yet available (they have 60 days to submit report to DPHHS/AMDD).

Consensus that the state is “too involved” as an authority, rather than an oversight position; specifically, AMDD should not be dictating the functioning of BHAC or SAAs. Also, discussed MH & SUD block grants and how BHAC administers it; suggested to hire a dedicated position for that (stipend can be paid from grant).

3. Update from MPN Conference / SAA Congress (held 9/6/19) – Stacey  
(\*See 2019 SAA Congress Minutes appended\*)

Each SAA was represented; held a session with 33 conference-goers attending, including 2 representatives from AMDD. Discussed what’s going well and what’s needed. AMDD is changing to include addictions (SUD) with MH services oversight. Updating our contract with AMDD to insure we have a voice with how our boards serve and can be served.. Discussed other issues: LACs may attend to children’s MH/SUD issues; but that’s not allowed at SAA level.

Our 2nd Annual Statewide SAA Congress was better than our 1st! Montana Peer Network was very accommodating to hold our Congress during their conference. Seems like we will continue with this relationship. CSAA developed a campaign: #ResilientMontana (created wrist bracelets, T-shirts, contact cards) and can use hashtag notation on Twitter and Instagram.

Stacey developed a survey for the SAAs and LACs to determine what issues are considered of most importance. Peers may also take survey; share survey anywhere there may be stakeholders; may skip any question that they don’t feel comfortable answering. Survey is available on our website to download to print and share with any interested persons. Please conduct surveys to complete and return to December WSAA meeting.

4. Update from SAA Summit (held 9/13/19 at AMDD) – Stacey

Discussed contracts with state; Preparation for Annual SAA Congress; the MSH Information Request; Statewide Facebook and/or Website for SAAs/LACs; Peer Support Funding Issues; AMDD / SAA / LAC Reports. Next meeting: December 13, 2019 (AMDD hosts).

5. Update from BHAC meeting (8/28) – Claire Leonard

(Behavioral Health Advisory Council; formerly MHOAC) Introduced new staff members; most attendees were from SAAs. Discussed Medicaid waiver and the state plan (including relevant legislative commitments: county & tribal matching grants, transportation (in urban areas), other. Encouraging PSS trainings. Need to revise their ByLaws (since 2006); agreed that they would include priorities from children’s services. Discussed why the children’s facility Acadia in Butte closed. Determined that 45-50 children are placed in facilities out-of-state at great cost. Developed in 2013, the BHAC Toolkit is out-of-date and needs revision; will work on that. Seeking data on status update on persons who call Crisis Lines; hire a grad student to work on that? Concern that there is insufficient contact of those of BHAC; would like more in-person meetings, but were would necessary funding come from? Invite all gubernatorial candidates to speak on their platforms for MH. Requested statistics from MSH; many entities require that information, including MSH itself. Too often, MSH acts on 72-hour hold and discharge patients without a discharge plan and home communities usually don’t have sufficient services to help.

6. Legislative Update / Tasks — Tyler Steinebach

Most information and action on committee formation can wait until next month; there is a long list of what can be addressed! Encouraged to continue monthly Letter to the Editor (LTE) Campaign; letters are widely read, including by legislators.

7. AMDD contract for 15 months as the new FY will begin in October; our next contract will be for 9 months to “catch up” to new schedule. Thereafter, the contracts will be annual FY in October.

#### G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NAMI Conference (October 17-18, in Butte)

First week of October is Mental Illness Awareness week. Distributed conference information, registration, and scholarship application information

2. BHAC has engaged an impartial agency, Western Interstate Compact for Education (WICE), to survey if it's useful to change state SAA regions: 5 instead of 3; and how to improve communication between state and SAAs.

3. Proposal for Increase Peer Participation by NAMI-MT Support — Charles Baker  
Charles proposed an idea to increase peer participation by NAMI-MT. He will set up the means of underwriting peers' conference registration this week.

**MOTION:** Rick/Rena. To accept the proposal to pay the \$25 registration fees and mileage for any WSAA member who wants to attend the 2019 NAMI conference; up to \$500. PASS

Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 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

**WSAA Consumer Scholarship Application to Attend the 2019 MONTANA STATE CONFERENCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS**  
**OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 2019**  
**COPPER KING HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER, BUTTE, MT**

**Scholarships are limited and reserved for people who have a mental illness and live in the WSAA Region (Roughly, Montana West of the Continental Divide). Please do not submit a scholarship application if you do not qualify.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ONE REGISTRATION PER PERSON, RECEIVED BY NOON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019**  
**PLEASE TYPE OR LEGIBLY PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**IF SOMEONE IS ASSISTING YOU WITH THIS APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:**

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Scholarship will include admittance to Conference; shared hotel room Wed. and Thursday nights; Wed. Dinner & Reception, Thursday breakfast, lunch & dinner and Friday breakfast & lunch.

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL also attend the Thursday night banquet (if this is not checked, a reservation will NOT be made for the banquet Thursday night).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_ who is also attending the conference  
 You are NOT eligible for a sleeping room if you live in BUTTE

\_\_\_\_\_ Dietary restrictions

\_\_\_\_\_ I can provide ride for \_\_\_\_\_ additional people to and from Butte. I will be reimbursed for my mileage.  
 Charles Baker will call to coordinate car-pooling.

**THERE IS NO SMOKING ALLOWED IN THE HOTEL.**

You or your contact person will receive confirmation of your scholarship.  
**\*\*\*\*If you accept this scholarship you are asked to please attend as many of the conference sessions as possible and least one WSAA or Local Advisory Council on Mental Health (LAC) meeting before Oct. 2020.**

For further information about the WSAA Scholarship Program or the WSAA: Contact Charles 406-203-7347  
 For further information about the conference: Contact Faun 406-449-2344 or Sandy 406-458-9738  
 or NAMIMT.ORG/CONFERENCE

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS. THIS WILL BE DONE FOR YOU.**

**FILL-OUT THIS FORM AND SUBMIT IT BY NOON, OCTOBER 7 BY EITHER METHOD:**

EMAIL IT TO [CHARLES@BAKER406.COM](mailto:CHARLES@BAKER406.COM)

OR TEXT A LEGIBLE IMAGE OF THIS FORM TO (406) 203-7347

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ADDENDUM:

2019 SAA Statewide Conference / Congress

September 6, 2019 ~ 10:00-11:45am

Presenters: Stacey Wheeler (WSAA), Matt Furlong (CSAA), Bobbi Becker (ESAA)

Attendance: (33) Stacey Wheeler, Matt Furlong, Bobbi Becker, Janice Reichelt, Denelle Pappier, Jade Beaty, Geri Stewart, Tyler Steinebach, Charles Baker, Rena Ayres, Dennis Nyland; Dana Geary (AMDD), Jami Hansen (AMDD), Joe Moll, Curtis Smeby, Sarah Linhart, Genevieve, Kathy, Mandy, Bob, Todd, Sally, Amy, Jake, Lawrence, others.

1. Welcome (Stacey)
2. Hand out Survey, Explain, Prizes (Stacey)
All SAAs have a website; AMDD website has subscription option to sign up to receive information. Discussion about joining SAAs into a single, unified website to stream-line finding resources and information (Also, search engines can better find sites with more traffic). LACs can be included on AMDD site and also set-up their own Facebook pages on the web.
3. Accomplishments —
 - a. Medicaid Expansion
 - b. Transportation with Dignity
 - c. Peer Certification and Medicaid Funding
 - d. 72 Hour Presumptive Eligibility
 - e. Crisis Houses

“We NEED to come with solutions; not just with problems.”

4. Overview of SAAs / LACs / AMDD Prevention & Treatment / DPHHS / BHOAC to go with handouts. (Matt)

Now combining MH and SUD services, such as: Behavioral Health LACs/BHSAAAs. Will be good for combining reimbursement for co-occurring treatments.

We tell DPHHS/AMDD what we want done; need to have majority of our groups be PLE (Persons with Lived Experience) who are involved in these LACs/SAAs. Communication needs to be in both directions: to and from state agencies and local MH groups.

Legislated SAAs in 2003 to provide information to state legislators on MH services in communities state-wide. Budget cuts led to “a huge disconnect;” e.g., CPOs are not allowed to travel to local groups. It is legislated that AMDD needs to collaborate with us to hear our perspectives; but they’ve not been doing that for over a year. Meets quarterly @ SAA Summit at AMDD office in Helena; intent is to keep a strong relationship with transparency and good communication. But has not been that we “have a voice” from the grassroots level. So much turn-over in AMDD personnel that they have no continuity of understanding what we are supposed to be in our relationship.

In past, AMDD has helped LACs to establish and remain viable, but now so many are struggling with membership. Use local papers for PSAs to promote LAC meetings; engage the community to grow grassroots movements.

5. Soliciting from Audience: (Stacey writing / Matt directing people to talk)
 - a. What is working — More famous people are speaking out; more people are talking about recovery; Communities are accessing grant monies to make improvements; Crisis Response Services are getting better in larger cities (need more in smaller and tribal communities);
 - b. What needs improvement — More understanding of people with MH; incidents happening in USA with more people talking about MH negatively; more talk about trauma (in past, wasn’t talked about; getting more often). Need mobile crisis response units; Children’s Services (SOC: Systems of Care); moving too many children out of state to receive services (although there is a separate Children’s Bureau through AMDD, Megan Peele); military stigma of MH;

- c. Ideas to make improvements — ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences); more support to decrease crisis needs; providers are moving in direction of working with others outside of their agencies.

Issues: Increased Suicides (MT is #1 state in USA); Drugs usage leading to psychosis; Transportation of people is limited; hospitals can't take those without insurance (need Social Workers to help with applications); Homelessness; transition to adult services (from children's services); Delay in treatments due to lack of services; support for post-intervention return to home community; limited support groups in communities.

Solutions: Crisis Intervention teams; followed with peer support services (PSS); need to have overlap of time with both reimbursable Children to Adult services; Transportation with Dignity (no shackles in LEA transport); need enhanced infrastructure to support services; Peer Support Services funding; Keep collecting data about what works: PSS world-wide; Talk with Legislators to explain needs; Engage, Educate & Serve, "Day of Service"; Community Education and Training by MHCs; media campaign is needed. Early intervention.

6. Where to submit their completed surveys and pick up raffle tickets (Stacey)

7. Thank you and encourage them to join LACs (Matt)

End of session time.

Submitted by Denelle Pappier
WSAA Secretary

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