

**CSAA Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2006**  
AMDD Conference Room

**Welcome**

Chairman Tom Peluso called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. Guests were introduced.

**Members Present**

Tom Peluso, Kathleen Hartman, Dan Aune, Jeffrey Krott, Mike McLaughlin, Joe Moll, Jacob Wagner, Martha Bottelson, Mike Murray, Jim Fitzgerald, Aart Dolman, Molly Protheroe, Anita Roessmann, Vernon Bishop, Marlene O'Connell

**Members Excused**

Kathleen Nelson, Ken Weber, David Young, Dan Aune, Kris Denton, Lenore Stiffarm, Gary Mihelish

**Members Absent**

None

**Guests:** Daniel Ladd, AMDD; Dennis Alexander, Commonweal Consulting; Amy Bishop, Consumer; Kathy Berg, Consumer; Steven Porter, Consumer; Connie Moll, Consumer; John Beck, Western MT Mental Health, DD Sears, MMHA; Ellen Cox, CSAA Recording Secretary

**Minutes of September Meeting**

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded and passed.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Jacob Wagner is working on tracking down names and addresses of people who attended Congress. Consumer attendance is low because of the costs involved. Bozeman Mental Health Center may be providing bus transportation for those from the Bozeman area who want to attend the upcoming meeting.

The CSAA minutes need to be posted on the web site (<http://www.csaamt.org/>).

A request was made to have letters supporting the 72 Hour Presumptive Eligibility (72 HPE) posted, too.

Need for the recording secretary to have the necessary computer and software for communicating with the board and for sending formatted documents to the web master was discussed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mike McLaughlin presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the report as presented, subject to audit. Seconded and passed.

**Agenda Review**

Proposed additions:

- SAA collaboration (among the three service areas)
- Preliminary discussion of legislative posturing (Should a legislative committee be created?)
- Report from MHOAC (Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council)
- US Congress and Housing Authorities
- Consumers meet at lunch to discuss whether to have a consumer caucus at the state Mental Health Convention

**SAA/LAC Training Grant Update**, Transforming Mental Health Care in Montana --  
Dennis Alexander, Commonweal Consulting and Diane Sears, MMHA, Presenters

Two one year grants have been approved for training and technology assistance for Montana SAAs and LACs: \$50,000 from the Compassion Capital Fund and \$40,000 from the Bremmer Foundation. It was not expected that both grants would be approved, so Commonweal is currently investigating whether the Bremmer Foundation will allow its grant to be used in addition to the Compassion Capital Fund grant, whose dollars are already being accessed.

The MMHA did a needs assessment survey and gave it to Commonweal to set up the grant and training outline and priorities which are as follows:

- 1) Increased communication and engagement
- 2) Fundraising and grant writing
- 3) Working with the media

The WSAA has determined its needs to be: training for citizen advocacy during the legislature for both the WSAA and western LACs, to include effective citizen lobbying; writing of Op Eds and Letters to the Editor; and how to identify and contact one's legislator.

There will be three trainings in early December, 2006, starting in Helena. The Helena training will begin with a tour of the capitol building and go on to address legislative advocacy. Kalispell and Miles City will be the next two training sites. After the legislative session is over, grant writing will be addressed.

Discussion:

- Because of the complexity of grant writing, would it be a better use of resources to hire a grant writer? Dennis responded that, at the least, people could be trained to do the background research needed for successful grant writing. Commonweal would be available to review any grants written or to write grant proposals. Historically, Commonweal has remunerated itself for grant writing by writing Commonweal's services into the grant. Dennis stated that grants should only be a part of fundraising, and that Commonweal would train both on grant writing and other fund raising measures.
- For sustainability community engagement is essential in addition to advocacy.
- NAMI and other stake holder groups could be invited to trainings, thus preparing people to sustain any programs developed.
- Strategic planning is needed

-Can we include the KMAs? Perhaps inclusion of KMAs in the grant would tip the scales for having the Bremmer grant allowed.

### **SAA Summit, November 3, Bozeman Wingate Inn--Progress Report**

- Rooms at state rates have been set aside for SAA officers who need to spend the night at the Wingate.
- Dan Aune and Tom Peluso have arranged for registration, name tags, lunch, etc.
- Tom has requested agenda items. Agenda items were discussed.

### **Mental Health Crises--(72 HPE) and Montana Counties-Update by Tom Peluso**

Currently, counties pay for evaluations and for mental health beds through the commitment process. The purpose of the 72 HPE is to put dollars into communities to keep people having a mental health crisis close to home.

The current proposal by MACO is for counties to pay for the six days following the initial 72 HPE (three days) paid for by the state for uninsured persons having a mental health crisis. Most people will be stabilized within that nine day period.

Discussion:

- Specific outcomes need to be required for all dollars spent for mental health services in the public system.
- Peer services need to be available as part of mental health crisis services
- A task force needs to be formed to create a decision tree for county attorneys so that the law is applied equitably in all counties.

### **Senator Gerald Pease-- Proposed Legislation for Funding SAA's Expenses**

Senator Pease is a member of the ESAA, and he is willing to present legislation to support funding for the SAAs. Senator Pease requested the CSAA's approval and support for an annual appropriation of \$100,000 combined budget for the three SAAs. Eastern communities have been using tele-medicine since 1993.

A motion was made to support Senator Pease's proposal for funding for SAAs. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Proposal to Help the ESAA with Expenses**

Tom Peluso reviewed his proposal for helping the ESAA with expenses: 1) CSAA will sponsor the Summit meetings (cost of approximately \$500 for meeting room and lunch) 2) Have Summit in Bozeman for easiest access for both ESAA and WSAA. Although this would not provide money for attendance, it would save money for distant attendees.

The ESAA has been struggling with its web system and as a result plans to join the Western/  
Central SAA web system which saves them \$125 monthly.

A motion was made for the CSAA to offer to host SAA Summit Meetings and pay web service expenses for the ESAA. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **12-2-06 Congress: Planning Discussion, Agenda, etc.**

SAA Congress is comprised of stakeholders in the SAAs. Membership is for one year. If a Congress member wants to remain a member, he must resubmit his name annually. The majority of people at the last Congress meeting were the same who attend SAA Board meetings.

Schedule:

- 10 AM-noon--Board Meeting
- noon to 1 PM--Lunch for all attendees
- 1-4 PM--SAA Congress.

Suggested agenda items:

- Recovery (WRAP, Peer Support, Peer to Peer)
- 72 HPE and MACO proposal (Bill Kennedy)
- WRAP training for all--by providing WRAP training for all, understanding of the recovery and wellness process for persons with mental illness is increased (if facilitated by the Copeland Center, VT. Baseline cost for 2-day training for 20-30 people is \$6000)
- Request for suggestions for speakers to address MHOAC

### **AMDD's Time**, Joyce DeCunzo, AMDD, Presenter

Joyce handed out document *Legislative Issues and Proposals* which lists items that are additional to the basic budget. MHDD has been granted a Home and Community Based Services Waiver; Montana is only the second state to have this. It will serve 105 people for 2 years

Joyce clarified that the 72 HPE is for those unable to pay (uninsured).

The amounts indicated on *Legislative Issues...* are for the biennium and are for new programs beyond ongoing funding needs. Joyce emphasized that these are requests for the Governor's budget. Joyce reminded the board that when the governor's budget is finalized, MHDD must support that budget even if does not contain all that was wanted and/or requested. There has been much communication with the governor's budget staff about mental health issues, so Joyce believes that the governor's office has a high level of awareness of mental health issues in the state.

Discussion:

- MHSP never made it out of DPHHS.
- Evidence based practices must be used.
- Concern was expressed that MHSP was not included in the AMDD recommendation to the governor.
- Complex funding issues were discussed.
- We need to think like legislators to get adequate funding.
- What are we going to do to provide a safety net for the 3300 people who will not be covered?
- Decrease time for people who are 150% of poverty who are not medicaid eligible

## **Essential Needs**

Referred to the next CSAA meeting.

**US Congress and Housing Authorities**, Jeffery Krott, Presenter

HUD has changed its organization of public projects. In the past, a housing project that was losing money in its operation could be buoyed up by moneymaking housing projects in the same area. That practice is going to change; each housing project must be completely self supporting. It is likely that some public housing will be demolished and rebuilt so that it can be self-supporting. If that happens, people with incomes 200% of poverty are likely to lose their housing, resulting in more poor and mentally ill people becoming homeless

**Final Business**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 PM.