

SAA Summit  
Nov 3, 2006  
Wingate Inn, Bozeman MT

The quarterly meeting of the SAA Summit was called to order at 10:08 AM by Tom Peluso, chair of the Central SAA who hosted the meeting.

A letter from Governor Brian Schweitzer was read welcoming all to the meeting, and thanking everyone for their efforts and commending the work done toward building a better future in recovery for mental illness.

Those in attendance introduced themselves. Attending were: Dennis Alexander, Dan Aune, Charles Baker, Tom Bartlett, John Beck, Bobbi Becker, Dorothy Bradley, Elaine Bruce, Dennis Cox, Ellen Cox, David Cunningham, Carol Davidson, Joyce DeCunzo, , Dorothy Eck, James Gustafson, Gene Haire, Kathleen Hartman, Dee Holley, Jim Holman, Alice Hougardy, Dan Ladd, Louise Livingood, Mike McLaughlin, Joe Moll, Barb Mueske, Cheryl Nystrom, Gerald Pease, Tom Peluso, Gary Popiel, Molly Protheroe, Diane Roneberg, John Roneberg, Anita Roessman, Bob Ross, Michelle Speckler, Matthew Story, Lou Thompson, Tracey Velazques, Alexis Volkerts, Jacob Wagner, Jane Wilson,.

Minutes of the previous Summit were reviewed; Bob Ross moved the minutes be accepted, Jacob seconded the motion, and motion passed.

The agenda as presented was accepted, and voting members of each SAA identified themselves.

Tracy Velazques, new Director of the Montana Mental Health Association, introduced herself. She reviewed how at the last Summit, former Director Deb Matteucci advised the group MMHA was applying for two grants from separate entities to be used for Capacity Building in Technical Assistance. The SAA's signed a letter of support for the grants. She announced that both grants had been approved, and introduced Dennis Alexander who will be the Technical Assistance Coordinator with MMHA for the project. The amount of the grants is approximately \$90,000, and the purpose is to increase the capacity of the programs to plan and access training. The project will provide needed training and technical assistance in leadership, organizational development, community engagement, resource development and program development. The first of the trainings, Advocacy, will be December 2, 2006 in Helena at a location to be announced later. The training will be given also in Kalispell and Miles City so that all SAA's will have the training. Advocacy training would be given first to have people properly trained to advocate during the upcoming Legislative session. Mr. Alexander provided his phone number to call for questions at any time: 539-4797. He stated there would be travel money in the budget to bring people to these trainings. The period of the grant is for one year, and will extend to October, 2007.

Spring training sessions will be on fund raising and grant writing. He asked for input from the SAA's as to what additional trainings they would like to have, and suggested an advisory group made up from all three SAA's which would meet by telephone. One suggestion presented would be to develop methods to strengthen the LACs and continue to make the LAC's vital to consumers. Another was to have strategic planning early in the process and training on board development for good foundations to build on.

Gerald Pease addressed the group regarding his plan to propose a change to MCA: 53-21-1002 . to add additional language as item (11) for additional funding for the SAA's . He would like to have it also in a line item in HB2. Travel expenses are the largest expense of the SAA's. A suggestion was made that each SAA could make a budget with projected growth factored in and submit to Gerald Pease by November 13, 2006. Tom Peluso made a motion that each SAA submit a performance

budget, seconded and passed. These are to be mailed to Bob Ross.

Anita Roessman presented a brief history of the SAA's as created by the Legislature and the Montana Code Annotated 53-21-139 that requires certain things the SAA's must do: Collaborate with the Department, report to the Legislature and Department, and report how the counties are doing on their crisis plans. The SAA's have not as yet decided how these reports are to be handled, when to have them due, or what they shall look like. She suggested resource material as the Block Grant, the Mental Health Ohlmstad Plan, each SAA's strategic plan. The report should contain information of what is happening in each region, where the SAA wants to be in two year. She recommended the reports be results driven. Molly stated that each region has its own uniqueness and these need to be addressed in the reports. Joyce stated the needs of the three SAA's needs to be coordinated before requests are made to the Legislature in order to lend substance to the SAA requests. The report needs to include quality control and quality assurances stating what the outcomes the state should expect for the dollars spent.

The WSAA Strategic plan is close to completion, and has received help from the University of Montana and other entities, and will be used as their report to the Legislature. SAA's need to avoid duplicating efforts and the WSAA plan can be used as a model for the others.

Alexis Volkerts gave an overview of how the SAA's can interact with the Legislature and the difference between Lobbying and Educating. The SAA's have non-profit status under federal code as 501(c) (3) and as such is an instrumentality of the state with sovereign immunity and must comply with regards to amount of funds spent on lobbying. She stated if someone's expenses were paid to go to the legislature to testify on a specific bill, then it is considered lobbying. However, if asked by a member of the legislature to testify on a specific bill, it is considered educating. She encouraged those wanting to testify to have a legislator invite them to speak. Each stakeholder has a personal interest and may speak individually.

A suggestion was made to have Montana Mental Health Association serve as Fiscal agent and Grant writer for the SAAs. However, it was decided to table any motion until later.

Gene Haire, Board of Visitors, explained the purpose of the BOV is as an independent reviewer of mental health treatment programs and is administratively attached to the Governor's Office. The bottom line goal is to help people with mental illness to be able to have a life in the community, a job, a home, and a meaningful relationship. Recovery is the way to achieve that. Transformation can be seen as both an activity and an outcome. System transformation requires three major shifts from reactive to proactive approach, shift from short term crisis driven to a long term comprehensive approach to developing a strategic approach, and shifting from how much money we have to work with to what needs to be done and how much it will cost. The need for transformation is explained in the New Freedom Commission report which was put together by a comprehensive group of experts. The Governor's office gathered several representatives from various agencies in August for a meeting regarding transformation at the state level. Gene's suggestion to all SAA's was to read and familiarize themselves with the New Freedom Commission Report, orient their discussions around the report, and use the report goals as a template for recommendations to the Legislature.

Michelle Speckler of NAMI-Livingston gave the group an overview of a program supplementing the Crisis Intervention Training with a law enforcement education program which include a business card size handout with do's and don'ts in responding to situations when an individual may be in crisis, with helpful information to assist them. Also, posters for emergency provider locations are available to remind of techniques to be used in encountering, early warning signs, and how to deal with youth or adults. NAMI-Livingston has these cards and training videos for sale, and the recommendation was made to post this information on the WSAA CSAA Website. Charles Baker, Ellen Bruce and Bobbi Becker will work with Michelle in the project.

Kathleen Hartman introduced some of the recent graduates of the Crisis Peer Support Pilot Project in Great Falls. Members spoke on what they had learned during the training reflecting the positive impact it had on them. They became “experts at not being experts”, and learned how to listen to others and share their stories, and defined recovery as “trying to make it work”. Recovery pathways are: choice, hope, empowerment, spirituality and environment. Oversight of the Peer Specialists as they integrate into local emergency medical facilities will be the responsibility of the SAA’s.

Bob Ross spoke for Bill Kennedy, Chair of the Human Services Commission of the Montana Association of Counties, who was unable to attend. MACo has sent a letter to the Governor supporting the SAA’s recommendation that the counties pay six days of emergency care for involuntary commitment following the 72 hour period, for a total of nine days. Because Mr. Ross is not a County Commissioner, he stated he would not be able to answer all questions, but stated it appears the Counties are trying to put a cap or stop-loss on their obligations. Evaluations for persons picked up by law enforcement are at county expenses.

A motion was made by Alice Hougardy to refer the MACo resolutions to the SAA boards for consideration and amendments as needed; seconded by Mike McLaughlin. Alexis Volkerts and Anita Roesmann will provide guidance.

Lou Thompson, Chief of the Mental Health Bureau began her report to the summit with a correction to information which had previously been released. The previous estimate for uncompensated care costs was \$8 million, however a review of the input materials has determined the actual estimate is closer to \$4 million. She will distribute information as is becomes available.

She reported the issue of crisis will be prominent in the Legislative session this year, and she has directed the regional Community Program Officers to develop a survey of their areas crisis plans, and emphasized this is information gathering project only, and that across the state there is inconsistency in the plans. While the focus will be on adults in crisis, the children’s availability of services will also be addressed.

The Home and Community Based Services waiver has been approved, and Montana is only the second state in the nation to be granted this waiver. More information will be forthcoming in December.

The bureau has also applied for two transformation grants, one for training professionals in illness management and recovery models, and the other for 24 hour a day tele-med support providing access to a psychiatrist for any Montana community in need of the service.

Joyce DeCunzo gave her overall report of AMDD. She clarified again AMDD’s position in regard to the department’s responsibilities. The Governor is the boss of all the state departments and divisions, and items that become part of his budget must be supported by them. The final draft of his budget is due the middle of this month. During the Legislative session, communication will be with the Chair and secretary of each SAA and it will be their duty to disseminate that information to their groups.

She explained the restraints on employees of the State lobbying. Again, when presenting information regarding AMDD, she is acting as an employee of that division, but when speaking for something, AMDD must pay for her lobbying. Her roles are presenting the Divisions budget, responding to legislators inquiries, and then testifying in committees regarding bills. All time spent testifying must be accounted. If she is asked to testify about something that is not in the governor’s budget, his agenda, she must seek permission from the governor’s office to do this.

AMDD must have \$38.2 million to fund the division activities as they are right now. The Division is asking for an additional \$21.2 million to fund additional requests. Although the State has a surplus at this time, she cautioned that all of the departments and divisions will want their share of the surplus to catch up on needs not funded in the past.

She gave an overview of the handout provided regarding the Legislative Issues and Proposals. The requests include items gleaned from the Listening Tour and the SAAs input.

Tom Bartlett called for an agenda item tabled earlier in the meeting, and moved that the SAAs are authorized to use the Montana Mental Health Association as Fiscal Agent for Grant Applications that specify that only 501 (c) (3)s are eligible to apply, or in other instances when using MMHA as fiscal agent would be beneficial. MMHA would agree to charge no more than 10% to act as fiscal agent to cover administrative costs and inherent risk. Motion seconded and passed.

The next Summit meeting will be March 16, 2007 in Bozeman with the Western Service Area Authority hosting the event. Location of the meeting will be decided at a later date and members will be informed.

A motion for adjournment was passed at 3:35 PM.