

SAA Summit
March 16, 2007
Wingate Inn, Bozeman

The SAA Summit meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Tom Bartlett, Chair of the Western SAA who hosted the event. Tom extended a welcome to all attending and reference a book he recently read titled "Words that Work- It's not what you say, It's what people hear", by Dr. Frank Luntz, PhD, and stressed four of the ten main principles for communication: Brevity, Use simple words and No Acronyms, short sentences. Tom suggested applying these principles to communication at today's Summit.

In attendance were: Dennis Alexander, Dan Aune, Charles Baker, Tom Bartlett, Bobbie Becker, Diane Brien, Elaine Bruce, Dennis Cox, Dave Cunningham, Carol Davidson, Brenda Desmond, MJ Fox, Alice Hougardy, Alison Hwong, Antonia Klein, Esther Kramer, Charlotte Kress, Dan Ladd, Michelle Lewis, Laura Livingood, Sally Miller, Barb Mueske, Cheryl Nystrom, Tom Peluso, Molly Protheroe, Bobbie Renner, Anita Roessmann, Diane Roneberg, John Roneberg, Bob Ross, Carl Seilstad, Vicki Stull, Lou Thompson, Alexis Volkerts, Jacob Wagner, Jane Wilson, and David Young.

Voting members from each SAA were identified:

Eastern SAA: Bob Ross, Alice Haugardy, Diane Roneberg and John Roneberg

Central SAA: Tom Peluso, Jacob Wagner, David Young and Molly Protheroe.

Western SAA: Michelle Lewis, Alexis Volkerts, Charles Baker and Tom Bartlett

Brenda Desmond of the State of Montana Fourth Judicial District, Missoula spoke to the group regarding her work with the Missoula Mental Health Courts Project. They have recently received a grant to fund Mental Health Courts as a pilot project. The courts are to be a type of diversion from incarceration. To qualify an offender must be non-violent, and have a non-felony misdemeanor. The qualifications were established by the funding source. Participants have a treatment plan, and are expected to take the courts seriously, as well as their treatment and follow-up. Participants get connected with services in the community such as housing, employment, community mental health services and other services. The greatest majority of individuals in these courts are co-occurring.

Alexis reminded that all of Montana jails are required to have a diversion plan in place, and has been a requirement for approximately four years. She stated most are not doing it, however Bob Ross reassured that Yellowstone County is in compliance.

Lou Thompson, Chief of the Mental Health Bureau, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division gave an update on Co-Occurring Disorders, which are disorders of substance abuse and mental illness that an individual is dealing with

concurrently. Recent data indicates a prevalence of Co-Occurring Disorder in approximately 65 – 75% of all served. AMDD has been working with Dr Ken Minkoff and Dr Chris Kline to provide consultation to the state as well as trainings. The next training will be in July of this year. The most common reason for psychiatric decompensation is an untreated substance use disorder, and the most common reason for recurrence of a substance abuse disorder is Mental Illness. Treatment for co-occurring must be treated in an integrated fashion.

Following a national training given two years ago, AMDD fashioned a strategic state-wide plan for treatment of individuals with co-occurring disorders which would allow for AMDD to expand the ability of the state to address the needs of this special population. A state wide policy team was established made up of consumer groups, providers and others interested in co-occurring disorders. A group of providers have been established as “change agents” who have taken the training from Dr. Minkoff and Cline to apply in their treatments. These change agents meet quarterly with AMDD. AMDD envisions a future where co-occurring will be integrated into our system of care at all levels.

Mary Jane Fox, a CPO from the Western Region stated participation by mental health providers from Western Montana Mental Health Center in the trainings and meeting has not been good. She encouraged the Western SAA group to talk to Paul Meyer to allow his mental health staff to attend these training meetings.

Lou Thompson was asked if the other Community Mental Health Centers have been cooperative in sending both mental health and substance abuse employees to the training, to which she assured they had. Tom Peluso offered a motion that the Summit SAA recommend that the Western Community Mental Health Center take the opportunity to participate in the co-occurring transformation by allowing two or more clinicians to join the change agent group. Motion seconded and passed.

A presentation on Co-Occurring Disorders has been developed by AMDD and is available through any of the Community Program Officers, or any member of the AMDD staff to be presented at interested area mental health groups.

The idea of a statewide clearinghouse of information for mental health and crisis services throughout the state be available from a central point was discussed. Various suggestions were given presented. Chair Tom Bartlett asked for a vote of how many were in favor a forming a committee to provide this statewide information. Those opposed were the majority. Tom Peluso made a motion that each SAA work with local LAC’s and County Commissioners within their areas to produce a county wide resource guide; seconded and passed.

Lou stated the first step those in crisis will take is not to look up numbers, but to call 911, so it is crucial that the crisis call centers and first call centers have the accurate and most current information for services within their areas. Reference

guides, such as the one developed by the Gallatin LAC are a good source of information for situations other than crisis.

Dan Ladd gave a brief reminder of the Anti-Stigma Campaign, and stated after the legislature is over there will be more time to devote to the campaign. The Anti-Stigma Campaign is the number one goal of the New Freedom Commission, and the top goal MHOAC. The goal of the campaign is to educate the population as to what is recovery, and understand it in a more progressive manner. A power-point presentation is available from any of the CPO's and Dan for presentation to area LAC's, SAA's and other groups interested in mental health.

Jane Wilson, Dan Ladd and Alison Hwong gave a report on "Visioning for the Future", which was part of the MHOAC Block Grant Committee brainstorming at the recent General Council meeting gathering information to be included in the Block Grant Application. The focus was on the family system and the unmet mental health needs. A report of their efforts was handed out.

Chair Bartlett suggested work should begin on the long term action plan for the SAA's. It was suggested a committee to be made up of representatives from each of the three SAA's could work on this and report back to the group. Following the New Freedom Commission report would guide the Integrated Plan. The Plan should be what the SAA's would like to take to the Legislature in the next session. The basis would be to choose three priority problems and how to solve them. They were reminded the SAA's have already identified the priorities, so the challenge now is in the refining. Timelines need to be set for the goals ahead. The decision was made to go back to the respective SAA's and ask for volunteers for this long term action committee and report the information back to the Chairs and AMDD.

Vicki Stull presented on the group Consumers Asserting Leadership in Montana (CALM), and explained how they have been conferencing by means of desk-top video which was gained through receipt of a grant. She offered the group the use of this system through her.

An update on Legislative activity was given by Anita Roessmann on bills of interest to the SAA Summit. Currently the process is stuck in the House. There was consensus that the SAA's should be asking that the funding from the subcommittees recommendations be reinstated. The bill from Sen. Pease regarding funding SAA's was amended, and has not been voted on. She also gave an educational overview of HB734.

Molly reminded that anyone lobbying for the SAA's to base on the Service Area Authorities 2007 Legislative Priorities list. A copy was provided.

Bobbi Renner, Quality Assurance Manager, AMDD provided the Summit with data of those receiving services across the state. This was then broken down

into SAA areas. The figures only apply to adults and MHSP and Medicaid. She complimented the East for their good job in supplying data to AMDD.

Dan Aune presented "Quality of Life Factors" as a part of Recovery Markers. Suggestions were made that having your provider listen to you is important to your recovery. The better you know yourself the better you can input into your treatment. Dan Aune urged working with AMDD to come up with a model that begins to measure recovery.

Lou Thompson announced the Mental Health Bureau will be funding Illness Management Recovery (IMR) training as part of the Community Recovery Grant. The training will be in model for clinicians and case managers working with clients on their care. It is an evidence based practice in teaching wellness.

Jane Wilson advised she and other CPO's Cheryl Nystrom and MJ Fox have been working with the White Bison Movement and attending their trainings which is mostly a co-occurring working model for bringing culturally appropriate chemical dependency treatment to the reservations and their goal is to heal 100 communities by 2010. It is a multi-agency project. Cultural competency is looking at strength each person brings. There are many similarities among the tribes but there are also many striking differences. The CPO's have been working with the tribes and reservations to get them involved in the process of LAC's and SAA's, and cautioned that there is still a historical mistrust.

A last reminder was given of the CTI Training being conducted in Billings later this month. Registrations may be made by calling (406) 259-8800. There are several attendees coming from across the state, mostly law enforcement and first responders.

The next Summit meeting will be in July, 2007, hosted by AMDD and held in Bozeman.

Meeting adjourned.