

## Montana Service Area Authority Summit

August 31, 2005

Billings, MT

Attendees: Tom Bartlett, Michelle Lewis, Paul Meyer, Stephanie Frame, Bobbie Becker, Bob Ross, D'Anne Holley, Jacob Wagner, William McCausland, Jim FitzGerald, Bill Hodges, Jo Shipman, Anita Roessman, Joyce De Cunzo, Lou Thompson, Rusty Jardee, Jay Bell, Laura Morledge, Joan-Nell Macfadden, Carl Seilstad, Tom Peluso, James Littler, Barbara Mueske, Alexandra Volkerts, Judy Cyr, and Winifred Storli.

This was the initial Summit of the Executive Committees and Board Members of each of the three Service Area Authorities. Regional Planner, Dan Ladd welcomed everyone in attendance and gave an overview of what is the anticipated achievement of this summit. AMDD Mental Health Bureau Chief Lou Thompson stated how proud she was of this group and extended her thanks for the effort given to have grown from a concept to a reality. Joyce De Cunzo, Administrator of AMDD also complemented the group and stated it had been a delight to watch this implementation of the SAA concept. Dan advised the group their exemplary actions and commitment has far eclipsed the timeline originally set to be where the group is today.

The strength of the SAA process is all three SAA's working together, all on the "same page", and supporting legislation. Working together is how to get the needed services. The hope is that by working all together a system can be made that can work, and working together can make that happen.

Joyce De Cunzo reviewed the AMDD Strategic Plan. Of primary concern is the development of crisis response, and SJ41. Crisis response needs vary among communities, and some communities have put into practice what works for them. The State level is to support what communities have grown in their own response. The role of the State is to deal with consistency of services, a standard of care and treatment. Administrative Rules will need to be developed that show how crisis response will be implemented and paid for and these Rules will evolve as progress is made in crisis response.

All three SAA's are now incorporated and strategic (business) plans are under consideration. The purposes of the strategic plans are a means of identifying gaps.

The SAA's will be successful if all three are successful. All three have a common issue and yet each is different from the others. Communication is vital between all three SAA's. It was agreed that each SAA secretary send minutes of their meetings to Carol in Helena, who will then send out by e-mail and regular mail to the other SAA's. Each SAA is to have 2 individuals elected to a standing communications committee at their next meeting who will be responsible for funneling information to and from Helena.

During the lunch time, Jim Littler presented his proposal for a website for the LAC's and SAA's, and the capabilities of the website, including the ability to vote on-line. No decision was reached whether to go with his proposal or not. The issue was assigned to the Communications Committee that will be developed by each SAA.

Anita Roessman presented a Crisis Response Assessment tool as developed by the Helena LAC. Her suggestion was to use the assessment tool as a discussion guide. Individuals who work with crisis response in various capacities would be invited to take part in discussion. Prior to the discussion, each would be given an assessment tool to look over and make comment notes. She suggested having a discussion with all those individuals in a group with the LAC of the community, and has a facilitator moderate the meeting and prepares notes from the meeting. Because of the cost involved, Lou made the suggestion that this would be a good start for the field staff to act as facilitators for these discussions. Applications are being taken now for three field staff members who will work in the various regions. All the information gathered from the group discussion could be shared with the other SAA's. Carol was assigned the task to send an electronic copy to the SAA's and each LAC will decide whether or not to use this tool.

The question was presented to the group whether or not the SAA's should have a representative on the Preferred Drug List Committee. This is a committee made up by the State, and applies to drugs used by Medicaid and MHSP. The representative(s) would be part of a standing committee and would make no decisions, but would be in a monitoring capacity. A motion was made and seconded to have one member from each SAA as a representative to this committee. An amendment was then made and seconded that the total number from the SAA's statewide would be one representative to this committee.

Jim FitzGerald presented a proposal to the Summit regarding a grant for which Intermountain Children's Home would be applying. The suggestion would be to partner ICM with the SAA's for this grant. If the application is successful, the funds could be used to procure a grant writer for funding grants for the SAA's.

The motion was made, seconded and carried granting permission for the SAA's to partner with the Intermountain Children's Home on this grant application.

Because some SAA's did not have Executive Committee members in attendance that could make decisions relating to business submitted at this Summit, the suggestion was made for each SAA to include on their next meeting agenda to add to their by-laws that when issues with no perceivable affect on the SAA are presented to the Summit, Board members present can make the decision for their SAA.

Joyce advised that AMDD would be conducting their "Listening Tour" later this fall, gathering information for the upcoming Legislative session. She asked if each SAA could come up with 3 to 5 locations to host the Tour. This would involve inviting attendees, which would also include local law enforcement, Sheriff's offices, commissioners as well as stakeholders; setting up locations for the meetings, and sending out announcements and information regarding the meetings. This Tour is scheduled to start in October, so the SAA's will need to act soon. Information will be passed on when the SAA's have identified host cities. Dates for the tour will be forthcoming within the next couple weeks.

Dee Holley brought up the need for Indemnity Insurance on Board Members of each SAA. It was suggested to visit with the State Insurance Commissioner to see what exactly is needed by way of insurance. Various SAA's are asked to check with insurance agents within their areas to see if it would be possible to get three policies at a discounted rate.

The next Summit meeting was scheduled for November 2, 2005 in Great Falls prior to the NAMI Mental Illness Conference being held there November 3 and 4, 2005. It will be decided at that time whether to meet quarterly or semi-annually.

In conclusion, it was determined our main goal at this time is Crisis Services. We are reminded what we learned today was that if we use each other's strengths, and work together, we can create a healthier Mental Health system across Montana.

## **Recap:**

### **Items agreed upon by Summit:**

1. Identify one (1) member to the Preferred Dug List Committee
2. Each SAA will host the AMDD Listening Tour in their area this Fall
  - a. Include on next meeting's agenda
  - b. Arrange for meeting room
  - c. Invite all interested parties and stakeholders in their area to attend, including local government and law enforcement
  - d. Provide advanced notice to communities regarding meeting
3. Establish a Communications Committee of 2 members from each SAA to be in charge of communications between all three SAA's.
4. Support the Crisis Services Assessment tool by implementing in their areas. Carol will send copy of document to each SAA.
5. Each SAA will send copies of their minutes to Carol who will forward them on the other SAA's.
6. Agreed to sign-off on the NIMH grant application as proposed by Intermountain Children's Home, represented by Jim FitzGerald. Intermountain would complete the RFP.

### **Follow-up for next meeting**

1. Indemnity Insurance issue
2. Permission by amendments to by-laws to allow Board members to make certain decisions for their SAA at Summit meetings

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