

ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – April 9th, at 12:00pm

Those present: Chelsie Fuchs, Jerry Mahlum, Susie Mosness, Pastor Joel Brosten, Diane Ronneberg, Ed Gust, Karla Dawson, Keith Pendill, Al Buerkle, Laura Harper, and John Ronneberg.

John called the meeting to order.

Chelsie Fuchs, MHC Administrative Assistant, asked John if it was possible for our office to put in for some of the ESAA money to get some more AA and 12 and 12 books for the office. It was agreed that she would submit a small order to John to get these books ordered.

Keith Pendill, Licensed Addiction Counselor, reported on client numbers for February and March. He was ill for two days in February and our numbers reflected a lot of cancellations than normal due to this. We did not have an ACT class in February due to no DUI or MIP clients. However, we did have a class in March and received a few treatment clients from there. The high school has been sending over students for alcohol/drug violations to do the class portion of ACT and this has been going well. They all show up and participate in the class. We have started doing the class in our offices instead of the conference room due to smaller class sizes. We will transfer back and forth for now as class numbers fluctuate.

Susie Mosness, Sweet Grass County Commissioner, reported that they recently had a Mental Health Governing Board meeting and things are going well in Billings. Funding streams are stabilizing and more money is coming in. Everything is running smoothly. She also reported on a seminar she attended called, TED Talks, which was a study that a high school science teacher in did in Bozeman on client's feelings during class time and learning patterns. She found it very interesting and thought we could pull up some of the videos during another meeting to view some of the results.

Al Buerkle, Superintendent of Schools, reported that they are making it through the recent situation with students involved with alcohol/drugs at the school. They had multiple violations in the policies and hope that most of that has come to an end. It is prom weekend and a very busy time at the school with sports and extra curricular activities going on. He also stated that he really appreciated Keith's work with the students that did come and attend the ACT class from the high school.

John Ronneberg- ESAA and Ambulance Crew, reported that the ESAA congress will take place on May 13th at the Billings Hotel. Attendants will have to register beforehand and this information is available on the ESAA website. He also reported on funding for our county for Teens At Risk, which could be used to help pay for counseling needs of teens who do not have the means of funding or parents that will not pay for it. This was discussed with Keith, because the Mental Health Center does get teen aged kids in our office and it is hard to get them to buy into the education when they have to pay for it and don't always have the money to do so. John also commented on the vendor server class that Sheriff Tronrud was starting to organize

and the 24/7 program that Judge Jessie Connolly was having issues with being able to order. These topics will be discussed at a later date as Judge Jessie and Sheriff Tronrud were not able to attend today's meeting.

Laura Harper, Chemical Dependency Coordinator for Mental Health Center, reported that she was here to do chart reviews today as the state will begin auditing charts in our offices this summer. She was thoroughly impressed with the charts here and Keith's work with clients.

Pastor Joel Brosten, Interim Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran, reported that he is part of the Ministerial Association and they try to provide funding and resources to those in great need. A lot of the time it goes to help people passing through who break down or go through some sort of crisis. They have provided bus tickets to people in the past and other situations that they see to meet their criteria for need. "Where there is need, we attempt to respond."

Karla Dawson, Community Health Worker, is a new member to this group. She is the new community health worker and reported that her job is to help clients stay in their homes longer. These duties include coordinating services such as someone to come in and do laundry, bathe clients, and get them to take their medications. She also provides assistance to clients signing up for Medicare and Medicaid or Public Assistance benefits, such as food stamps. She has 13 clients right now and works 10 hours a week. She would like to see her position acquire more hours as it is a very time consuming job and she anticipates more clients in the future. She would also like to see more services open up for clients that need transportation out of town to get to medical appointments and have no way of getting their.

Jerry Mahlum- Sweet Grass County Undersheriff, reported that they have had some DUI charges lately. There was a vehicle last week that purposely ran into the back of a semi with children in the car. There was suspicion of suicide in this incident. They had an arrest for someone using "Spice" and he stated that they have a really hard time being able to test for these types of drugs. It really screws up the individuals mind and some don't come back from the affects. The Sheriff's Office is sending one of their officers to a training soon called, "Over service is a Disservice". It will focus on bartenders over serving individuals in bars.

Submitted by:
Chelsie Fuchs
Big Timber MHC secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD August 7th, 2014