

Eastern Service Area Authority Board Minutes
March 28, 2017

Present were:

Sidney - Judy LaPan

Lewistown - Janette Warner

Billings - Phil Richmond, Bill Hodges, Brent Morris, Barb Metler and guests Pam Bing, Martha Carstenson, and Bobbie Seawright representing Walla Walla University asking for a grant

Scobey - absent but proxy vote was given to Janice Reichelt

Malta - Janice Reichelt, Jennifer Marshall, and guest Paula Ankerud concerning her grant request.

Miles City - Jim Novelli, Kristi Mobley, Antonia Klein, Karalee Mulkey, Melissa Higgins and Jo Thompson from AMDD in Helena.

Big Timber - John Ronneberg, Diane Ronneberg, and Amber Martinson on speaker phone through the Billings site due to telemed complications.

Glasgow - Bruce Peterson

Janice called meeting to order and determined that we have quorum. She said that she was attending the Crisis Intervention and Jail Diversion meeting in Glendive tomorrow. This is an effort to address those issues in Eastern Montana.

Janice noted that the balance of funds in ESAA is approximately \$28,000 and with that said she would like to address requests for grants so that guests may be on their way. Kathleen Kaiser, a member of the Miles City Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council (BHLAC) in Miles City site was present and requested that the BHLAC receive \$204.25 to help pay for the manuals for a Mental Health First Aid training. Jenny moved with Bruce second and passed unanimously. Janice said that the Roundup request for \$300 for their LAC is approved automatically.

Guest Paula, who is social worker with the Phillips County Hospital had two requests and both deal with dementia. She would like help with work books, advertising and training to address the problem. Paula submitted a request for \$250 and another for \$200. Antonia pointed out that dementia and Alzheimer's are not considered a mental illness and as such are not eligible for assistance from ESAA. Antonia referred Paula to the Senior and Long Term Care division to inquire about potential funds.

Paula stated that while dementia is not listed as a mental illness, persons with dementia very often suffer depression, and are prescribed drugs associated with mental illness. Janice stated dementia should be addressed by the ESAA. Concern was expressed that if grants were approved then DPHHS may cut to ESAA. Judy moved that an ESAA grant of \$200 for the caregiver portion of Paula's request be approved and Jenny gave second. Motion passed.

Janice stated that because of definitions we will not consider the \$250 grant at this time.

Walla Walla University is basically asking for financial help to educate their students in trauma care and crisis intervention. At present time their students are doing free counseling in the immediate Billings area for clients who cannot afford such, and who do not qualify for Medicaid or other help.

There were questions as to why the University does not fund their students' education as is their responsibility to their tuition paying students. Response to question was that this grant could be viewed as helping needy clients receive and "pay", to Walla Walla, for counseling services. The Walla Walla reps also said that the University provides space, the internet, and flyers that ultimately help clients. A follow up remark was that while that is true it must be recognized that the University is getting clients, at no cost, for which students can do intern work.

There are about 80 patients per month that are served, though it was not clear if this meant 80 different clients or there is an average of 80 total visits per month. Walla Walla receives other grants to help fund their efforts. Judy said she noted that there are Richland people listed in the University client base and she wonders if they come to Sidney to work with those people. It was then reported that the clients are in Billings but have been referred by someone in Richland County.

There was a question as to the part of the request that dealt with supplies and other miscellaneous. Was moved and seconded that the grant be approved but for \$2,050, not \$2,500. Barb said she favors approving a grant because there are good number of people who receive free needed counseling. Jim feels that the University should be funding their own projects. The motion passed by what seemed to be a vote of 4 to 3.

Phil then moved that the whole \$2,500 be approved and was seconded and the vote was then 7 for and 4 opposed. Motion passed and Walla Walla will be sent check for \$2,500.

Jo Thompson then gave the AMDD report. She was not aware that this was normal part of the ESAA agenda so was not as prepared as she would have liked to be. She is new to the position and is learning and would like to gather more input before she gives a lot of definitive policy information. Jo stated there aren't any new legislation changes at this point and she is uncertain of the direction of the financial support for mental health services. She invites people to call her with questions and or input.

Melissa Higgins from AMDD said she is getting familiar with her new position and part of reason she is in the area is to get input.

Brent stated that he does not have a final agenda and speakers for the yearly summit as of yet and he is looking for some feedback on what he has put together already.

Bill reported that he had forwarded some of the material from the last MOHAC meeting to members through Brent. Janice said she was impressed with the Observation Sheets and that we should use those as a guideline for the relationship between AMDD and ESAA as it continues to evolve.

Antonia stated that the ESAA remains to continue to have a conflict with WSSA and that means that we will not get an AMDD report as we got today. Melissa will follow up with this and Jo said she is interested in the Observation pages, but she needs to check the specifics associated with the more general statements given in that sheet. Barb said that AMDD should already be familiar with the content in that she understood AMDD was at the meeting during which the presentation was presented.

There was discussion about the draft of the grant form request that Barb sent to directors. She wonders if we should tend to be more loose with criteria or be more strict which means that the form gets longer and more complex. Phil was concerned that there is no mention of how an approved grant will be evaluated, and he thinks that the request needs a place to show exactly where funds will be sent and to what specific person will have their name associated with the funds. Jim echoed sentiment in that state needs to know for their accountability purposes. After further discussion Barb stated that she will come up with a separate sheet that addresses those concerns.

Janice stated that April 5 is Mental Health Day at the legislature and if anyone can attend it could be of help as we try to influence legislators.

Janice noted that ESAA recently received a letter informing the ESAA Board that AMDD is requesting that we vote to determine who will be the representative from ESAA at the MOHAC meetings. Was discussed that in past the president has been the official rep. Bill said that he was president and when he left the chair he just continued to go to the meetings. After discussion it was moved and accepted that Bill would vote at the next meeting but then, following elections at the yearly Congress, the ESAA president will be the official vote. Janice will notify the MOHAC of that decision by ESAA.

LAC Reports:

Big Timber – John reported that there was good attendance at the last meeting and discussion included a report from Southeastern Montana Community Mental Health Center, some local concerns about closing down the local social work office, pending legislative DUE action, HRDC, and other local issues.

Billings – Phil reported that they are still doing their reorganization and that their yearly May event has been cancelled for this year, despite the success that was experienced last year.

Broadus - Kristi reported that they are working with a parenting class and the local extension agent is involved with the YAM program at the high school.

Columbus - Barb reported that they had a meeting and may be getting more active.

Hardin - Bill reported that it has been a while since last LAC meeting but they are having one in the near future.

Roundup - Barb reported that they have been having good attendance and good input at their meetings

Red Lodge - Barb reported that there is desire for more education and training and thus a QPR training is being scheduled and they are trying to get law enforcement involved.

Miles City - Jim reported that there has been sparse attendance and need to elevate the program. There will be a Jason DeShaw concert in May. Karl Rosston will present a QPR training and suicide prevention discussion in Miles City on May 31st at MCC, Room 106.

Lewistown - Janette reported that there was only two at their last meeting.

Sidney - Judy reported that there is a lot going on with 2 QPR trainers. One trainer is helping Daniels County where work is going on with the ACEs training. There is good interest in what will come of the Crisis Center grant, and the prep continues for the big table top exercise this fall. She had suggestion to Brent for a Congress presenter, that being someone from the research crew at MSU.

Glasgow - Bruce reported that work continues within the Care Coalition and especially the mental health group of which he is a member.

Malta - Janice recounted a recent suicide attempt and they wonder how they could better respond to such a situation. Perhaps something that could be discussed at that meeting is to have a mobile unit that could respond to mental health crisis.

Providers reports:

Barb expressed concern that we are not giving enough input at to what will be presented at the upcoming Congress meeting.

Brent spoke to potential presenters at the Congress and he would like to have some input. Names mentioned were Joey Trawick, Zoe Barnard, ACES training, Trauma Informed Care training, Mental Health America, and a presentation of results from QPR surveys. Janice suggested that maybe we should have grantee recipients come and give results of their efforts. John suggested that the Sheriff of Sweetgrass County may be available for a session. Jim said he could report of the status of the Eastern Montana Crisis Center effort. Brent set a tentative schedule and email to directors for their input.

Barb predicted that we will probably have the usual 25 people at the Congress and perhaps we should invite people from all over the state after ESAA goes through the effort to provide a day of learning. She wonders if at present time if we are just preaching to the choir. Seemed that there was consensus that ESAA should discuss making the Congress a statewide event.

Barb moved and Brent second and unanimous pass on the minutes from February meeting. Antonia then said there were some spelling corrections to be made and she will do that and then send to Bruce.

The meeting was then adjourned.