

Eastern Service Area Authority
January 2017 Meeting Minutes

Following locations checked in: Big Timber, Billings, Broadus, Scobey, Glasgow, Malta, Miles City, and Lewistown.

Members present were Janice Reichelt, Barb Mettler, Brent Morris, Bruce Peterson, Phil Richmond, Lois LeBran, Jim Novelli, Kristy Mobley, and Janette Warner. Guests present were Antonia Klein, John Ronneberg, and Diane Ronneberg.

It was determined that there was quorum present so Chairperson Janice called meeting to order.

Janice asked Bruce if he would be interested in being taking minutes for ESAA meetings from this time forward and he agreed. She also suggested that we do not use the state suggested format and the consensus was that we drop the state format and go with a more straightforward narrative approach as was used by former minute taker, Colleen Forrester.

Barb moved and Brent gave second to approve minutes for last three meetings, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Janice expressed concern that DPHHS/AMDD does not seem to be aware of what ESAA is doing or should be doing. There has been a large turnover of personnel and new people are still learning the ropes. She sees the situation as an opportunity to influence the direction that state folks will be taking over the next year or so. Antonia suggested that we visit with Mindy Askelson of AMDD. Mindy is not able to be in this meeting today because the Western Region ESAA is having meeting at this same time. She said that she will contact the West to see if they would be willing to change their meet date that now conflicts with Eastern Region's long standing meeting date.

Janice said that at present time we have not had many requests for grants and if we do not get it spent we will be turning funds back to the state. Barb then urged that folks get serious about using the available funds, and she said that we all have worthwhile projects we can do. She does not recall that we had a problem of not using the entire budget in past years.

Janice said she wanted to follow up on what was found out about LIFTT and what they charge and what they do for the fees they receive. Brent gave some info on what LIFTT does for what they are paid. He was asked if he found data on numbers of hours worked and he said that he and Barb did not get that information.

Phil said he still was not sure as to what LIFTT is being paid to accomplish. Barb said that the \$5,250 was for services only and did not include insurance or website. Brent said that we need to continue discussion as to what we really are contracting with LIFTT. Janice thinks we need some sort of contracted person or company so that we are covered with state. Phil then wondered if we should not renegotiate with LIFTT for the amount they are paid each year. Was mentioned that we all need to recognize that at times we put Brent in an awkward position in that he works for LIFTT and is also the ESAA treasurer.

Janice said that LIFTT was told earlier this fiscal year that we would continue with their service as same price as in recent years, but we have never got around to officially approving the arrangement. LIFTT has continued to do their service despite never having official approval. Bruce then moved, and second from Brent, that we approve to continue our past arrangement with LIFTT for the present fiscal year which will end June 30, 2017. After some discussion the motion then included intention that LIFTT will be given 60 days to include more specific information as to hours spent and what actually is done, and that LIFTT will know that ESAA intends to renegotiate and continue discussion as to what service is provided, or should be provided. The motion passed unanimously.

Brent asked if all correspondence and information should now be forwarded to Bruce for dissemination. Janice asked if we want to replace Angie and the \$1,400 fee per year we pay her to keep the webmaster site up to date. Has been suggestion in past that Mindy's office could handle those duties but Barb wondered if they could be as timely as we would like. Antonia said she would talk to Mindy and Angie and will report at next meeting.

AMDD Report - There was no report as Mindy evidently was not able to leave the Western Region meeting .

LAC Reports:

Big Timber- John will apply to become a director. Email address is jr1959@itstriangle.com
At the LAC meeting the DUI problem in Sweet Grass County was discussed. The VITA program was discussed and a visiting therapist was encouraging people to be involved in LAC efforts. Will be a mental health First Aid training on April 4, and shelter homes and need projections were given. Was some good networking between the varied interests at the meeting. Big Timber LAC requests that they be put on the mailing lists for information and agendas.

Billings - Phil reported that they are still restructuring and also considering various events and education efforts, to include some sort of May Day event.

Broadus - Kristi said that the local VFW Auxiliary is sponsoring a "Day to Change Direction" which is an outreach to veterans. There is also discussion about having Mental Health First Aid presented in Broadus.

Columbus - Did not have meeting.

Glasgow - Next meeting is scheduled for February. The CARE coalition continues to meet and find ways to have an organization that is going to focus on community wellness, drug abuse, and mental health.

Glendive- no report

Hardin - Bill did not have anything to report and for now Billings LAC is covering and including folks from Hardin. Barb reported that there is effort to encourage the group to get active again.

Lame Deer - There evidently is no interest in an LAC in this community right now so they will be dropped from rolls.

Lewistown - Janette worried that sometimes there are noncertified providers handling serious problems for which they do not have adequate training; DUI problems were given as a specific. She would like to know where she can get clarification on this matter. Barb will follow up and get some information.

Malta- Janice reported that Malta is struggling to keep their ambulance service and that cost of air ambulance is very expensive. She worries that our ESAA may not spend all available grant funds this year and then has to turn them back to state, despite their being needs in our communities. Part of ESAA directors' job is to find good programs that will help the mental health effort. She said they are looking at the Ticket to Work program and that it may be one that could warrant an ESAA grant. She is also concerned about the future of Malta's local home and health community programs.

Miles City - Antonia reported that there will be Mental Health First Aid training in April. There is a recruiting effort being made to bring more people to participate in the LAC meetings.

Red Lodge - Did not have a meeting.

Roundup - Barb reported that they met recently and there was a discussion about proposed and hoped for legislation efforts.

Scobey - Lois reported that there was no LAC meeting this month but there is a lot going on in Scobey. Efforts being planned or have been accomplished are Mental Health First Aid, QRP, some good coordination through RSVP, PHQ training, education about handling stress, and developing a resource help list. The local library is promoting a stress free week. She said there is a new doctor in town and he seems to be very interested in addressing mental health problems and perception of those with problems. The school has also been very cooperative with LAC efforts.

Sidney - No report this month.

Provider Reports:

Southeastern Montana Mental Health Center

Barb reported that there was not a lot of new things going on but she had concerns with HB 95 as it would take away the "necessity clause" which helps limit the number of providers in an area if amount of service provided is sufficient. She also spoke to a bill that would expand efforts in suicide prevention and a tax on wine which would support the state hospital. She was at a meeting with Senator Tester who spoke to his concerns and problems that would arise with some suggested changes or repeal, of the Affordable Care Act. There is concern that if healthcare funding is switched to block grants that some states will not give level of Medicaid funding that is presently in place. Senator Tester feels that the ACA needs fixing but not repeal.

Billings Crisis Center

MarCee reported that there are requests to the legislature to provide more funding for CIT teams and trainings. One change that looks promising is to have the present grants be awarded on a two year basis which would, at least, mean less administrative time and paperwork.

LIFTT

Brent reported, as representative for LIFTT and stated that LIFTT is taking more efforts to educate through the various media.

Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center

Jim reported that efforts to establish some form of crisis center in eastern Montana are continuing. Parker Powell of the Glendive hospital is a big part of this effort and is trying to get such a center located in the former psychiatric wing of his hospital. Kay Loveland and Jane Smilie were successful bidders to receive grant money to conduct a study as to how eastern Montana could best respond to mental health emergencies through the presence of a crisis center. There will be meetings and input opportunities throughout the region before they produce report with recommendations.

Jim also spoke to HB 95 and he urged that people support the passage of the bill. He feels it will increase competition and therefore clients will get choice and better provider service.

CPO Report

Antonia reported that things going as usual and she hopes to attend the MOHAC meeting on 15 February.

Andy Boyer was not available to make comment.

MOAHC

Bill reported that there will be an Executive Committee conference call on 25 January.

There were no grant requests to consider.

Brent made some comments of explanation on the financial sheets he had compiled.

Public Comment: Phil said he is still trying to understand what is going on with ACA and is concerned that cuts in funding will be cutting mental health efforts. He said that a bill supported by Governor Bullock would not help the situation. John said that we have to wait and see what the Montana legislature does with revenue bills before we know for sure what will be happening.

The next meeting will February 28, 2017. There was motion, second, and passed unanimous that meeting be adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Peterson, ESAA Secretary

