

2013-2014

Service Area Authorities (SAA's) Biennial Report

**Central Service Area Authority
Western Service Area Authority
Eastern Service Area Authority**

Report compiled by Andrea Lower, CSAA President

October 31, 2014

Montana Code Annotated sets the foundation for the development of a Service Area Authority, public meetings must be held in communities throughout a Service Area as defined by the department (DPHHS- Addictive and Mental Disorders Division) The purpose of the meetings is to assist the department to establish a stakeholder leadership committee (otherwise known as: Local Advisory Council) The meetings must be designed to solicit input from consumers of services for persons with mental illness, advocates, family members of person with mental illness, mental health professionals, County Commissioners, and other interested community members.

§53-21-1006 (5)(a), MCA. A service area authority board must collaborate with the department for purposes of planning and oversight of mental health services in the service area. These meetings are established as the Western, Central and Eastern Service Area Authority.

Representatives from each Service Area Authority region meets together quarterly. These meetings are typically held in January, April, July and October with the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) also hosting and attending these meetings. Over the last two years, there have been changes to the AMDD staff and the elected SAA Executive Boards. The group has encountered some challenges and changes to the structure of these quarterly meetings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Service Area Authority Summary	
Western Service Area	5-6
Central Service Area	7-8
Eastern Service Area	9
Reports from Local Advisory Councils	
-Central and Western	
Anaconda "Tri-County"	10-11
Bitterroot Valley/Ravalli County	12-13
Blaine County	14
Broadwater County	15
Butte/Silver-Bow County	15
Cascade County	16
Dillon/Beaverhead	17
Ennis/Madison County	18
Gallatin County	19-20
Glacier County	21
Hill County	22-23
Kalispell/Flathead County	24-25
Lewis & Clark County	26-27
Libby/Lincoln County	28
Missoula County	29
Park County	30
Polson/Lake County	31
Superior/Mineral County	32
-Eastern	
Yellowstone County	33
Powder River County	34
Custer County	34
Fergus County	34
Phillips County	34
Dawson County	34
Richland County	34
Daniels County	34
Big Horn County	35

Topics covered during SAA Summit meetings held in 2013-2014:

AMDD Updates:

- New positions were introduced;
 - Glenda Oldenburg, AMDD Administrator;
 - Deb Matteucci, Mental Health Services Bureau Chief
 - Kenny Bell, Community Program Officer
 - Carrie Lutkehus, Community Resources and Support Manager
- The Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC's) Tool Kit revision
- Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)/CPO Location map update
- Website consolidation and sharing of information across the SAA's
- EPP and Budget Program Proposal based on input from the Service Area Authorities
- Short presentations were shared by AMDD to include:
 - Tom Nielsen- 189 transition funds from Montana State Hospital
 - Marcia Armstrong- Peer Recovery Services and Medicaid Expansion
 - Dr Bobbi Renner- Quality Assurance and Data information
 - Marlene Disburg-Ross- Mental Health Oversight Advisory committee overview

SAA Summit Discussion:

- 'Starting from scratch' with reporting requirements to include the Biennial and End of Year reporting along with LAC and MHOAC reporting formats. Reports are duplicative and repetitious in content which become lengthy and burdensome.
- Overview of Colorado crisis system as a model.
- Legislative priorities list compiled and surveys sent out to LAC's to be included in the ranking of priorities for the 64th Montana Legislative Session.

Gaps identified during the Summit and SAA Board Meetings:

- Improvements to collaborate and communicate with Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD)
- Protocol of Discharge from Montana State Hospital
- Mental Health Service Plan (MHSP)

64th Session of the Montana Legislature

In April 2014, the Service Area Authority Summit held their quarterly meeting. During this meeting a list of legislative priorities was composed. This list is not all inclusive, but reflects the working list of priorities of the SAA's.

- 1) Medicaid Expansion
- 2) 16 bed treatment bed in Eastern Montana preferably at Glasgow
- 3) Community group homes for the mentally ill
- 4) 1915 I money recovery
- 5) 72 hour crisis money continued and expanded to five days in certain cases
- 6) Forensic group homes-financed by the state, but run through the mental health facility
- 7) Sustainability and dependability of present programs
- 8) Language changed and mental defect substituted with behavioral mental illness
- 9) Peer support funding (this may need to be a line item in the DPHHS budget)
- 10) Support of all prevention and early detection and best practice methods of treating mental illness
- 11)MHSP waiver expansion

Western Service Area Authority

There are nine counties that are represented at the Western Service Area meetings. Anaconda/Tri Counties, Bitterroot Valley/Ravalli County, Butte/Silverbow, Dillon/Beaverhead County, Kalispell/Flathead County, Libby/Lincoln, Virginia City/Madison County, Missoula County, Polson/Lake County, and Superior/Mineral County. The LAC's meet monthly and information is shared at each of the WSAA Board meetings. Mini grants in the amount of \$3000 were awarded to the communities within the Western Service Area thought out the last fiscal year.

Guest speakers attended and information was presented by the following people:

Father Joe Fleming- personal story with mental illness

Helen Orendain, Attorney-Mental Health Advocate

David Cockrell- Missoula LAC rep, writing screenplay of journey with mental illness and recovery
MT Representative Ron Ehli, House District 86

Michael Moore- United Way of Missoula County

Sindrie Kennedy- Family Resource Officer, Title I Project Coordinator, Missoula County Public School District

Rena Ayres-MSW, Adult Protective Services

Mission of the Western Montana Adult Mental Health Service Area Authority (WSAA)

The Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) was established by State statute to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and Local Advisory Councils (LACs) in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a consumer-driven, recovery-oriented and culturally competent public mental health care system. Our mission is to assure that consumers, their families, and other interested community stakeholders have a strong voice in defining, developing, managing and monitoring public mental health care delivery in Montana, with a focus on the western region of the state. The primary objective is to ensure that consumer's needs and preferences are at the center of the services provided.

Objectives of the Western Montana Adult Mental Health Service Area Authority (WSAA)

1. The Objectives of the WSAA are to insure that care provided to individuals with mental disabilities in (Western) Montana is:
2. Consumer-Driven, so that consumers' needs and preferences significantly influence the services provided, and so that consumers have some choice regarding their services and providers.
3. Family-Centered, thereby insuring that consumers and their families assume greater leadership in the public mental health care system (for instance, have a stronger voice in managing funding of services, treatments and support system.)
4. Clinically Effective and Evidence Based, in order to enhance accountability, ensure a continuum of care and promote "best practices."
5. Fiscally Responsible, to ensure the most efficient use of resources possible, given the budget constraints for each service region and the state as a whole.
6. Recovery-Oriented, that is, focused on meeting basic needs, enhancing coping skills, facilitating recovery, promoting independence and building resilience.

7. Locally-Informed, that is, reflective of and responsive to the needs, exigencies and solutions identified by significant stakeholders from the communities in which it is delivered.
8. Well-Coordinated, when necessary or appropriate, to be coordinated with what is provided in the other areas of the state.

Goals for AMDD and Providers (*Adopted at December 2005 WSAA Congress*):

1. To improve crisis stabilization services in this region. The WSAA will make recommendations for the most appropriate implementation. For example, the Gilder House Proposal in Butte and West House Crisis Stabilization Facility development in Hamilton.
2. To develop peer to peer initiatives (i.e., peer-to-peer employment and peer-run Drop-in Centers, with Medicaid reimbursement for such services).
3. To develop and implement a State policy with necessary resources for transportation of consumers with services that respect dignity.
4. Funded access to community-based mental health services regardless of income.

Central Service Area Authority

There are 15 counties within the Central region. The CSAA includes the counties of Blaine, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Teton, and Toole. Three Indian Reservations are included in the CSAA: Blackfeet Reservation, Browning; Rocky Boy Reservation, Box Elder, and Fort Belknap Reservation, located in Blaine County.

There are seven Local Advisory Councils (LAC) within the CSAA: Park County; Gallatin County; Lewis and Clark County; Great Falls; Havre-Hill County, Hays – TiNellnKiin and Glacier County-Blackfeet Family Wellness Center. End of year funds for FY13 in the amount of \$1147 and end of the year funds for FY14 in the amount of \$1900 were shared with each of the LAC communities that participate within the CSAA.

Presentations were scheduled to educate and share information:

Alicia Pichette with the Mental Health Board of Visitors

Bob McCabe and Terry Workman -VA Local Recovery efforts and VA Peer Support

Annual NAMI Conference- Discussion led by Brian Garrity

Luke Berger with the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office on Emergency Detention hearings and commitment process

Gary Travis, MT Peer Network board member

Sue O'Connell- Legislative Services Division

Mission of the Central Service Area Authority (CSAA)

The Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) was established by State statute to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and Local Advisory Councils (LACs) in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a consumer-driven, recovery-oriented and culturally competent public mental health care system. Our mission is to assure that consumers, their families, and other interested community stakeholders have a strong voice in defining, developing, managing and monitoring public mental health care delivery in Montana, with a focus on the Central region of the state. The primary objective is to ensure that consumer's needs and preferences are at the center of the services provided.

Objectives of the Central Service Area Authority (CSAA)

The Objectives of the CSAA are to insure that care provided to individuals with mental disabilities in (Central) Montana is:

- Consumer-Driven, so that consumers' needs and preferences significantly influence the services provided, and so that consumers have some choice regarding their services and providers.
- Family-Centered, thereby insuring that consumers and their families assume greater leadership in the public mental health care system (for instance, have a stronger voice in managing funding of services, treatments and support system.)
- Clinically Effective and Evidence Based, in order to enhance accountability, ensure a continuum of care and promote "best practices."
- Fiscally Responsible, to ensure the most efficient use of resources possible, given the budget constraints for each service region and the state as a whole.

- Recovery-Oriented, that is, focused on meeting basic needs, enhancing coping skills, facilitating recovery, promoting independence and building resilience.
- Locally-Informed, that is, reflective of and responsive to the needs, exigencies and solutions identified by significant stakeholders from the communities in which it is delivered.
- Well-Coordinated, when necessary or appropriate, to be coordinated with what is provided in the other areas of the state.

In FY2015, the Central Service Area Authority will continue the conversations at every meeting among LAC's, Individuals with Lived Experience, Providers, Family Members, and representatives from AMDD and other stakeholders. Board members will continue to develop committees and discussions to fit on-going needs across the Central Service Area. Work is being done for Townsend-Broadwater County and Blaine County to join the CSAA. Speakers will continue to be scheduled monthly to help educate the Board on various issues. And, most importantly, the CSAA will continue per contract to identify system needs and issues central to the public mental health system and coordinate and partner with the Department in Service Area Authority development and planning activities to address identified needs within the catchment area

Eastern Service Area Authority

Summary- see attached report pages 33-35

Purpose of the Eastern Service Area Authority (ESAA)

The purpose of the ESAA is to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and to assist in the management of public mental health care. The ESAA's primary purpose is to ensure that consumers of public mental health care, their families and other interested community stakeholders may actively collaborate with the State of Montana in defining, developing, managing and monitoring the systems of public mental health care.

Objectives of the ESAA

The objective of the ESAA is to ensure that consumer's needs and preferences are at the center of the services provided.

Principles of the ESAA

This consumer and family driven process is based on these principles:

1. Services and treatments must be consumer and family centered, geared to give individual consumers' real and meaningful choices about their treatment options and the providers of those options. These would be options not simply oriented to the requirements of bureaucracies.
2. The ESAA process is developed to give consumers and their families a much greater voice in managing the funding for their services, treatments and supports. This design gives consumers a vested economic interest in using resources wisely to obtain and sustain recovery.
3. Care must focus on increasing individual consumer's ability to successfully cope with life's challenges on facilitating recovery, meeting basic needs and building resilience.
4. Overall the ESAA process will ensure a consumer-centered, recovery oriented mental health system in Montana that provides every individual consumer served in the public mental health system a greater voice in the system that serves them.

Anaconda/"Tri-Counties"-

Reported by Charlotte Moran: Nine attended in August. Discussed how to increase attendance. Intend to hold an art event on Dec. 1st at local library; meeting with County Commissioners to gain acknowledgement of their group. Want to fundraise for future events. Eleven attended in September; many consumers. Moving ahead on planned Dec. 8th Art Show. Will also have the HS choir perform; collecting donations for raffle drawings. Artists can sell their pieces; may be juried for prizes. Continued discussions how to increase attendance (including inviting students from HS student council); encouraging participation as board members. In November, the LAC met at Community Service building; 10 attended (consumers and providers). Planning continues for Art Show on Dec. 8th at Discovery Buick in Anaconda: have developed flowchart of responsibilities for volunteers to be organized.

Public Service Announcements were written for local newspapers. Dec-Kenny reported that they are doing very well. Had the Art Show on Dec. 8th with seven artists displaying (30 had RSVP'd, but the weather was bitter cold). Artists were mostly consumers, also patients from local hospital who had created things in Art Therapy. Had donated door prizes from local businesses; singers from the HS choir; had a cookie-decorating station. Great coverage in local newspaper (had ads and article before the event; front page article with pictures of the event); had posters printed by PepsiCo (Greenville Printing in Butte) to put up around town. They want to buy a banner that identifies the Tri-Counties LAC. May do an Arts & Crafts show annually. Had a good location at Discovery Buick in Anaconda, but may want to be more central.

February 2014, Kenny Bell reported that Gallatin County LAC member Sally Miller is scheduled to speak February 27, 2014 at this LAC. Keeping consistent attendance to meetings has been a problem. He'll attend an Anaconda community public health board meeting to educate members about the LAC. May look into holding Crafts Sales at a local Saturday market. In March, Kenny reported that Sally Miller met with the group and gave a presentation/talk on the history of LACs and the wider mental health system in Montana. Members enjoyed the presentation and are looking at holding a town hall meeting to increase awareness of the council and membership from local stakeholder etc. If needed, meetings can be held in Deer Lodge, Anaconda and Philipsburg to increase awareness, define needs, and build partnerships across the three counties. In April twelve attended, most with agency affiliations; Sally Miller from Bozeman attended for second time.

LAC planning a town hall meeting at Metcalf Center in Anaconda to educate public on what LAC is, can do and have done; possibly in connection with MHAM; evening in early June. Will invite Law enforcement agencies, pastors, teachers, and others who interact with mental health population. Compiling a mailing list; will provide childcare; making banners for LAC use. Tobacco Cessation program may have money to help LAC and MH population. Kenny announced LAC holding a town hall meeting on June 4, 6-10pm at Metcalf Center in Anaconda. Hope to educate public and recruit new members. Looking to establish a MH counselor to visit Philipsburg on occasion, not just with CRT (Crisis Response Team). Hoping to encourage more CIT trainings in Tri-counties area. Had a large banner made to use at various events. Working with Pintler Suicide Prevention for Awareness Walk in Anaconda in August. In June, Kenny announced LAC held a "town hall meeting" (THM) on June 4, 6-10pm at Metcalf Center in Anaconda; 20 people attended with 8 regular LAC members included; local media covered the event. Speaker Sally Miller spoke on her mental health experience as related to community service needs. Looking to hold THMs in other counties. Will be able to hold "GoToMeetings" at local hospital for video conferencing/internet connection. Trying to bring CIT training into law enforcement agencies of three counties. Met on July 13th with 13 in attendance. Do not have 50% consumers yet. Kenny Bell was acting Chairperson. Introduced Carrie Lutkehus, the new

Community Resources Director; had a guest speaker from the State Hospital. They held a successful Town Hall Meeting in Anaconda. Discussed goal of increased membership of consumers. Planning to use tele-meeting sites in Deer Lodge. Concerns with clients having to advocate for themselves in regard to the waiver program and losing their accustomed case management. Next month plan to meet in Deer Lodge: primary goal is increasing attendance.

Upcoming events: Remembrance Walk August 2nd for suicide awareness; Aug. 5th National Night Out in Deer Lodge – LAC plans to have a booth there. Aug-Kenny reported. Have been working hard to hold a Town Hall Meeting (THM) in Deer Lodge, 9/25, 6-9pm. Making flyers to advertise, PSAs in newspaper; Sally Miller will facilitate meeting. Working to get MOU with all counties to coordinate as one LAC; meeting with county commissioners to explain circumstances (geographic coordination, population needs, etc.) Next THM planned to be held in Philipsburg. Sept-Lots happening! Met 9/9, have 3-month, temporary motion, have elected executive board positions. Moving ahead with Town Hall Meeting (THM) in Deer Lodge, September 25, 2014, 6-9pm. Have flyers to advertise, PSAs in newspaper; Sally Miller will facilitate meeting. Next THM planned to be held in Philipsburg.

Bitterroot Valley/Ravalli County-

LAC Representative and Alternate were chosen. Discussed “kickstarting” MindSpace Montana website; got flyers printed, donated by Jim Olsen. Slow planning for MHFA presentation; Sara Brighman plans to attend the NAMI-MT Walk in Helena and will distribute them. In October Sara reported that they were appreciative of new meeting location, even with slight constraint on meeting time. Decided to adopt the “Cookies for Kindness” project. Meeting next month to decorate and distribute 30 dozen cookies to various mental health advocates in Ravalli County. Sara has an extensive background in cake decorating and will arrange the decorating materials for LAC members to use. Making progress to coordinating with the new NAMI-Bitterroot chapter. Coordinated ride-sharing for consumers to attend the NAMI-MT Conference in Missoula.

In November Shirley Gamma reported Cookies for Kindness project continues; plan to decorate November 26th. Will decide how to best deliver the 30 dozen decorated cookies to MH advocates/businesses Dec-Cookies for Kindness project continues: “The Cookie Committee” (four LAC members) decorated 30 dozen cookies on Tues., Nov. 26th, arranged nicely on real plates with ribbon and a greeting card, and committee members delivered them valley-wide to MH advocates/businesses who have “gone above” standard practice. Shared photos of the decorating party and the finished project! Several stories of recipients’ surprise and gratitude were shared. Members definitely feel that they want to do this type of project again. No meeting scheduled in December. In Jan 2014- Cookies for Kindness project continued: “The Cookie Committee” (four LAC members) decorated 30 dozen cookies on Tues., Nov. 26th, arranged nicely on real plates with ribbon and a greeting card, and then committee members delivered them valley-wide to MH advocates/businesses who have “gone above” standard practice.

February meeting discussed the mental health priorities that our community recommends to SAA: primarily, youth-to-adult services transition; also, supported employment. Networking ideas for a MHFA presentation. Next up is planning the public film viewing for “Call Me Crazy” in May for MHAM. April meeting had six attend, including a NAMI-BV member. Planning discussion for the public film viewing for “Call Me Crazy” on May 6th and other activities for MHAM. Have invited more community agencies to attend LAC meetings. May meeting held successful public film viewing for “Call Me Crazy” on May 6th with 17 attendants, mostly attended by people who saw PSA in newspaper. Other activities for MHAM: info table at Riverfront 5K Fun Run and Farmer’s Market; West House CSF holding yard sale. Printed new BVLAC brochures and Acronym Bookmarks for handouts at events. Changing meeting day to first Wednesday each month, 10:30am-12:30pm; to begin in June.

In June, Donna White reported on her participation in the NAMI training for Family to Family classes. She and husband Terry were only participants from Bitterroot; with only about 10 others from around state. MHAM West House yard sale raised \$600; dinner raised \$1200, run raised \$1K. MHC is expanding ADT activities with field trips and will expand to some new space in adjacent WMAS building. Looking to hire a new staff person 10-15 hrs./week (need 10:1 ratio), may be a consumer. Have been getting 20-25 clients attend ADT daily; can only bill for 3 hrs/day, but are open 5 hrs. Before the primary election, ADT held a civics lesson on why to vote. Discussed what is involved with staffing a Ravalli County Fair information booth to increase our visibility. Decided to hold topically-related public movie nights in fall/winter. Making initial plans for summer party.

In July, ten people attended last meeting; planning for summer party at River Park on Saturday, August 9th. Having a BBQ with all fixings, but on a limited budget. Discussed how to solicit donations from local groceries and other stores for little “door prizes.” Committee formed,

will meet July 21st. A new manager at local Summit ILC (Joel Peden) plan to invite him to LAC meetings. Sara announced that she has decided to cease operations of the MindSpaceMontana website that was intended to provide online social support to those in MH recovery. Acknowledgement of a job well done for three years, and a good idea that just didn't "take off" and seems not worth the time or money to continue. In August Denelle reported. Group decided to cancel the public party/BBQ in the park. Will hold a social meeting for "core" members next month and intend to start planning a public party earlier next year with more volunteer help. Therefore, BVLAC will not accept the mini-grant offer of \$100 that was awarded for the purpose of holding our inaugural public event. Affiliated NAMI-Bitterroot chapter is beginning a 12-week Family-to-Family class, Tues., Sept. 2nd. Elections at next month's meeting. In September Denelle reported. Shirley has resigned from role as LAC Rep. Alternate to WSAA, she still attends BVLAC. Group discussed and elected Jenny Monson as new LAC Representative and Sara Brigham as LAC Rep. Alternate. Affiliated NAMI-Bitterroot chapter has begun a 12-week Family-to-Family class; well-attended with eight participants (& two facilitators). Holding a social meeting later in September 2014.

Blaine County-

2013 has been an extremely difficult year for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and especially the Hays-Lodge Pole area of the reservation. Since January 2013, our community has experienced 30+ deaths. For a small isolated community, this has affected each and every member. When losses of this magnitude occur, everyone is affected. Healing circles, sweat lodges, ceremonies have played a central part in the healing process. The local advisory committee has been an integral part of this healing process. Number of participants have included anywhere from 5 participants to 50+ participants. While funding is miniscule from the Central Service Area Authority, each penny is appreciated. It is used towards food and healing expenses. As a result of several events, the LAC's have had numerous guests. The week before Lodge, the lodge leader passed, which meant a four day ceremony. There were many challenges to the ceremony as a result of the enormous rain, the flooding and the unsafe quality of the water. The lodge leader had mentored several others, so they stepped forward.

Lenore Stiffarm talked about his contribution to her and the community. Lenore described the ceremonies and how they conduct the burial. Indigenous women's gathering included women from Toronto as well as tribes from South America. She shared the different ways the tribes heal and their beliefs around healing take place through various rituals. She talked about her own healing and transformation through healing which made way for a new position. She is now the Health Policy and Research Analyst. The Hays Pow Wow will use their LAC funds to provide alternative healing for their people at the Pow Wow. They include the veterans because they are the ones who made the largest sacrifice; we provide a ceremony for healing for all. Who is the LAC? It is really the community where everyone comes and shares. Lenore will be submitting a proposal to the Mental Health Trust to acquire grant funds to support an offender reentry program.

Broadwater County-

Broadwater County has officially started meeting as a mental health local advisory council. This meeting has been attended by the County Commission and Sheriff, Center for Mental health as well as community members.

Butte/Silver-Bow County-

In September 2013 they reviewed the survey of needs to identify gaps in services and what they want the LAC to prioritize. And plan to move LAC meeting time and location; maybe in a few months. In October, Kenny reported they're developing a brochure; new location at public library on Mon., Oct. 28th. Bill Johnson, at MHC Drop In Center is a good contact. Have 7-8 members who are fairly motivated to participate. Speaker Sally Miller will present on Jan 27th on how to educate public (especially County Commissioners) on mental health issues. In January 2014, Kenny reported they're now meeting at the public library on Mondays. Had 16 attend on Jan 27th.

In March, Kenny reported they're meeting this upcoming Monday; looking at holding the same type of town hall meeting as the Tri-County. In May, Kenny reported a few people are thinking of holding a town hall meeting or something to determine local interest in reviving LAC membership. Have a core of about 8 people who are working to make LAC active again. Meets 4th Monday at Butte Uptown Library.

In June, Kenny reported and wants to encourage public to attend LAC; eventually will hold a town hall meeting in fall to determine local interest in reviving LAC membership. Have a core of about 4 people who are working to make LAC active again. Looking for a theme for their "voice." Meets 4th Monday at Butte Uptown Library; will get contact names/info later and help them to elect an LAC Rep to WSAA board. In August the LAC is holding an Open House at the public library to promote LAC, 4th Monday, 1-2pm; with donated cookies & drinks.

Cascade County-

A plaque and refreshments were purchased for Joan-Nell MacFadden's reception. There are plans to use the rest of the funds to do a strategic planning retreat in the fall and hire a facilitator. There are plans to host a speaker to inform us about Public Defenders and their work with the mentally ill. We had 10 meetings this past year and have 15-20 active members. Top priorities are: Transitions, Speakers Bureau Exchange, Growing the LAC, Children's Crisis Services, Homelessness, and Veterans. The top three challenges are: Getting more participation in LAC, lack of funding for mental health services in Cascade County, lack of children's crisis services. A Legislative breakfast is hosted in the Fall each year to discuss topics and issues. In 2014, efforts are currently toward reorganizing and revitalizing the LAC to increase involvement. The LAC was working on a commitment to request HB 130 money to train more CIT officers but the County Commissioners felt the match was too high and not a priority with budgets at this time given the lack of communication.

The LAC used the CSAA monies for Strategic Planning and invited Becky to come in and facilitate. There are about 15 members in attendance at the meetings. The facilitator helped to develop a plan for increasing community stakeholder's participation and issues to work on. The priorities of focus will be; data, crisis; 72 hour, CRT teams, committee to look at what providers and stakeholders want. LAC will not be meeting during the summer. Priorities include Needs Assessment for youth advocacy, a 72 hour crisis response house. Planning for mental health treatment court is underway. More coordination with Child Protective Services is needed.

CSAA funds were used for a Strategic Planning Workshop which was 2-four hour sessions facilitated by Beki Brandborg. This included Beki's fee, the venue, and refreshments for the participants. Several community stakeholders were present at the Strategic Planning and we did a SWOT Analysis for the LAC. As a result, we came up with an order of priorities. The priorities we identified were; conducting a Community Needs Assessment regarding mental health, develop a Youth Advocacy Group, develop a 72 hour Crisis Response House, advocate for a Mental Health Court, and collaborate with Child Protective Services.

Currently, we are working on the Needs Assessment and have formed an active committee working on a Community Assessment, and they are making progress toward this goal. In the next year there are plans to publicize the LAC, provide refreshments for meetings, and cover expenses in order to continue with the Community Assessment until its completion and start working on our next priority. Ten meetings were held this past fiscal year. There are 15-17 active LAC members. The top three challenges are expanding membership, getting buy-in from community stakeholders and involving more LAC members.

Dillon/Beaverhead County-

Planning to coordinate with Madison County stakeholders for combined co-LAC, but there has been some dissension about a partnership. Beaverhead is proceeding with some projects: including training at local hospital QPR on Suicide Prevention; later, NAMI IOOV, and an educational film, "Call Me Crazy" (linked to MTV film, "Love is Louder") to encourage discussion after viewing. Speaking with Commissioners to officially recognize the LAC. Also working on LAC resolution and by-laws. In November a community needs assessment survey done by Madison County Health Dept. determined need to reduce suicide, increase awareness of MH services and reduce stigma for receiving help, access to treatment services. December meeting- Moving ahead with LAC activities: had a topical movie night, QPR presentation, etc. Intend to present Mental Health First Aid training in 2014.

Madison County Health Dept. staff is very excited to proceed with the formation of their own LAC. Eventually, will probably combine with Dillon for LAC Representation and carpooling to WSAA meetings. Will have a new PT psychiatrist based in Dillon, beginning in January. Butte LAC members came to Beaverhead to work together with LAC. Jefferson County also interested to coordinate. Madison County Health Dept. staff is very excited to proceed with the formation of their own LAC. In February, Kenny reported that they have officially combined with Madison County/Ennis/Virginia City for LAC meetings. Still establishing details. In March the Advisory Council passed the LAC By-Laws. Met last Friday with 12 in attendance.

Reported that Madison County is going ahead to form their own LAC and Beaverhead will be supportive and help where they can. April's meeting held with 10 in attendance. Will hold Mental Health First Aid presentation soon. University of Montana Western hosting free conference: University Counseling Center for Competency on veteran's population with PTSD; education for college counselors. Plan to apply for HUD housing opportunity funding for eight communities in MT. Planning a Veteran's Stand-Down in September; LAC assisting with planning; several members intend to participate May- Researched online to find grants (e.g., SAMHSA), but didn't find much. New psychiatrist begins in June; Jim Sommers will retire in June.

The BHMU (Behavioral Health Management Unit) meets at college at 11am. They are looking to have people and materials for information tables at local events. Holding MHFA on Friday, May 30th; county will pay for books, co-sponsored by college. June was very busy with education programs and presentations in community; including MHFA. The next meeting will list priorities and make action plan. Have \$3K from County Commissioners for LAC expenditures. Meets in the Courthouse, but room may be too small in near future. Melinda Newman is the new WMMHC Director. Met July 11th, working on getting sub-committees CSIM; projects; county fair will have a booth there; race for renewal; Sept. 30th Stand Down (for military veterans) will have a booth. Scheduled a QPR (suicide prevention/first aid) training.

In August, Jenny Given reported developing a critical stress management team; Patriot's Day September 11th, will have an information booth at "Resource Fair"; On September 10th, a public presentation on suicide prevention by Tom Thelen, professional motivational speaker. Need to find funding to be able to put on public presentations.

Ennis/Madison County-

In February, Kenny reported that they have officially combined with Madison County/Ennis/Virginia City for LAC meetings. In March, Kenny reported they had their first meeting 12-14 people attended. Very positive group, well-motivated and ready to start defining community needs, building partnership with stakeholders and increasing membership. LAC meetings will take place on every third Tuesday of each month, from 4-6pm, length of meeting may change. Location to be determined. In May, Virginia City/Madison County Doris reported the newly-formed LAC, established by resolution of County commissioners at end of December 2013. Have 12 appointed members: PHD nurse, Co. Commissioners, family members, teacher, consumers, providers; to represent wide interests. Adopted By-Laws yesterday; new project to create a Behavioral Health Resource Directory. Next month will elect officers and select Representative and Alternate to WSAA. Meetings held at Public Health Conference Room, Nevada City, on 3rd Tuesday at 4pm.

In June, Doris reported that they adopted By-Laws, held elections for officers and LAC Representative and Alternate. Have funding from county to pay travel reimbursement for members. LAC had poster/brochures at County Health Fair at PHD. Working on a Resources Directory, will have draft for review by next month. Want to have conversation with "first point of contact" personnel for people in mental health crisis; to clarify roles & responsibilities. This will help prioritize county needs assessment. Finding geography to be a challenge in their county; as west half looks to Dillon for services, east goes to Bozeman. July meeting, Margaret reported their local newspaper ran an article on July 3rd about the LAC, mental illness in general, and lack of mental health services in Madison County. LAC met on July 15th; current Council consists of 14 members. Had discussion with county-wide "first responders" regarding current mental health crisis response protocol. Those in attendance included Ruby Valley volunteer ambulance rep, Madison County Attorney, Madison County Sheriff, Ruby Valley hospital rep, and Western Montana Mental Health rep.

First draft of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Directory for Madison County was reviewed for content and format. Discussion included adding website information as well as phone numbers. The 2011 Health Needs Assessment for Madison County was reviewed with 4 challenges identified:

- *Sparse population across large area
- *Not enough resources
- *Lack of public transportation
- *No locally-based mental health professionals (now have 2 or more)

August meeting, they updated their membership list; discussed need for 51% consumer membership. Very dynamic group; "not just chatting." Mental Health First Aid in October. Developed local resources brochure. The Carter Center (Rosalyn Carter established) to have journalists write on mental health topics. A Billings journalist will write AP series of articles on waiting children with mental health issues. Claire inquired if hotel reimbursement might be available for LAC Reps, as they drive over four hours each way, which makes for an incredibly long day. Chris declared that it sounded fair and that she would consult with Paul to see how the budget could handle that expense.

Completed their local Resource Directory. Had a "folding party" for brochure, printed 700 copies, at expense of County Commissioners. Mental Health First Aid was held in conjunction with Gallatin County Mental Health Center providing lunch. Applied for \$1100 to MHTF for workbooks for MHFA & other services. A Needs Assessment exploration committee began. Madison Public Library holding public talks on MH topics; may have IOOV presentation. Looking into movie nights, discussed legislative issues.

Gallatin County-

In 2013 to date, \$201 has been spent of the current allocation of \$406 for a legislative luncheon to bring legislators in our area up to date on our concerns. There is a proposal to spend another \$108 for a printing of 300 of our Mental Health Resource Guides. The remaining funds to further our “Faces Campaign” – an initiative designed to address the stigma associated with mental health issues by putting real faces and real stories before the public. Three local legislators attended the luncheon. The Council and advocacy members spoke candidly about the mental health needs in our community and legislative priorities. In turn, the legislators that attended presented their view on funding of things such as Medicaid Reform. The Mental Health Resource Guide is a useful tool for providers, physicians, churches and other agencies and organizations that work with people from the community and often encounter folks in need of services of one kind or another. Copies are distributed throughout the community as well as made available throughout the year for various programs such as CIT Training.

The Faces Campaign has recently kicked off with the creation of a Facebook page (Gallatin County Sharing Stories) as well as a beautiful brochure that discusses stigma and invites community members to share their stories. Remaining funds from the CSAA grant will allow the printing and distribution of the pamphlet. In addition to furthering the efforts of the Faces Campaign (additional funds are needed to cover printing costs), Gallatin County is seeing an increased need for education and outreach and are considering possible workshops for the school district, local churches, and others. These programs are in the initial planning stages, but seen as an area where the money may be best spent. Gallatin County supports programs which are in dire need of funding, but the CSAA funds could not hope to make a dent in the funding need. The top 3 LAC priorities according to our current list are: Drop-in Center for Mental Health Consumers; Expand peer support recovery programs in the county; Mental Health and Criminal Justice. However, Bazelon made the following suggestions for priorities: A Detox Unit locally, a Ride-Along program for Mental Health professionals with Law Enforcement, and additional Supportive Housing units. Current work has been focused on: a campaign to address the stigma associated with mental health and addiction issues. The top three challenges continue to be consistent participation/attendance by those appointed members. This is improving, but still not where we want it to be. Maintaining focus in the midst of economic budget cuts, which create distractions for members as they deal with the real-world issues of maintaining programming and moving the agenda forward between meetings.

In 2014, there is continued work on the Faces Project, a Facebook sharing stories website. They applied for the HB 130 money. Gallatin County works from a spreadsheet monthly that was the originating form for the SAA/MHOAC updates and is reviewed to keep on track with goals. The Drop In Center and funding has been an ongoing topic of discussion. Open Access has been limited to certain days and times. The LAC scheduled a “Parents as Teachers” presentation; the presentation is two and a half hours. The intention of the course is to help educate others as to how to be aware of the issues with early illness, stages and behaviors that may need further intervention or referrals. MSU hosted an ASIST training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) as there has been a high suicide rate on campus. The I-Home state representative is attending the LAC; focus will be on priorities. They will continue to use the Bazelon model and guideline for jail diversion such as social detox, mental health and collaboration with detainment and onetime law enforcement follow up so they do not decompensate. The LAC talked about submitting for the Lilly Trust Grant to support jail diversion. Bozeman hosted a Train the Trainer to be CIT facilitators/trainers. The focus of the LAC meetings has been Children’s Services and Transitional Youth. One meeting was dedicated to discussion with many players and a huge list

of 'wants' or suggestions for needs and change regarding youth. This meeting included MSU, Health Department, Youth Probation, and Law Enforcement along with regular LAC members in attendance.

There has been discussion over trying to figure out the Medicaid waiver and who qualifies. WMMHC is completing strategic plan to help make financial/business decisions. The mental health center received a supported employment grant for the Bozeman area. Bozeman will help Lewis and Clark County to assist with their jail diversion program. Jail diversion was initially funded with grant money and received Dept of Justice money, (\$100,000 for two a half years), in the Bozeman area.

Two different PSA's have been produced - one before the holidays about holiday blues and giving people contact information to help and another to promote our "Faces" project. These each cost \$175.00. We produced a flyer for the Faces project and our annual reproduction of our Resource Guide (~\$100.00). In addition we also committed funding in the amount of \$750 to the Mental Health & Happiness Resource Guide and the Happy Montana website at www.HappyMontana.com. The contribution is a backstop if they are not successful in obtaining a grant. We wanted to insure publication of this important resource guide. The main goal of all of these activities is awareness and reduction of stigmatism. While those are both difficult to measure, we have received a lot of good feedback from the PSAs as well as many stories (14) have been shared on the Faces Facebook page.

The Resource Guide continues to be an ongoing, invaluable resource to providers, consumers and others in our community. We expect the Mental Health & Happiness Resource Guide will be as well. We hope to continue to support the newly created programs from this year (Faces Project, stigma reducing PSA's and other similar efforts) as well as the ongoing Resource Guide and new involvement with the MH & Happiness Resource Guide. We also hope to find ways to address our other priorities (see below), though we don't have specific uses for the funds in mind at this time. 10 LAC meeting have been held this Fiscal Year. There are 20 active Gallatin LAC members.

The top priority of the LAC is youth services, diligently working to bring more local services to our area, including a Hope House type facility for youth which we hope will reduce the number of our youth in crisis from being relocated to other parts of the state and even outside of the state. These efforts include committees considering: legislative changes, programming, finance, location/site, and outreach. 2) Stigma reduction. 3) Awareness. The top three challenges for the Gallatin LAC are: 1) Funding; 2) Legislation/Rules and/or political climate; 3) Coordination and cooperation of all those involved. In October 2014, Gallatin County LAC again held a luncheon with legislators and elected officials to share stories and provide information surrounding mental illness in our community.

Glacier County-

Glacier County was added as a new board member to the CSAA. Dr Evans has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She talked about consumers having choices in providers and believes that there aren't enough providers for their area. She believes there needs to be treatment options that are culturally sensitive. Crystal is a provider and a family advocate. They are currently remodeling the office and meeting space where the Blackfeet Family Wellness Center is located in Browning. The Blackfeet Family Wellness Center is a licensed mental health center. Dr Evans has also met with the County Commission to establish an LAC in Glacier County. Jane Wilson has been working with Crystal to meet with the County Commissioners to talk about the benefits of developing a LAC in Glacier County. Crystal Evans met with the disaster and recovery coalitions to develop a buy in from other agencies to attend the LAC. They believe that by becoming more organized they can expand their mental health services. Jane talked about the need to organize more involvement in the LAC's from the high line. They are considering trying to develop a "high line" consortium.

Crystal talked about progress, new employees on board and having Jane come up when she meets with the Glacier County Commissioners. They had a second site visit on October 15th and passed even with all of the renovations. She talked about creating 1st and 2nd level staffing with training but not necessarily members with BA's or college degrees for case workers and support. Wrap Around training has been problematic; there is a lack of interest and staff not wanting to attend for four days. It would work well, and a better fit culturally. Other organizations do not want to participate because it is not 'client-plan' oriented. In November, Crystal reported that they are still hanging in there-last paycheck was 6 weeks ago. They are trying to resurrect the LAC in her area. She met w/ the County Commissioners to talk about what they can do to initiate representation and participation.

The Northern Winds Recovery Mental Health Center licensing underway and the LAC is under development. Main issues are supervision hours and locating licensed providers. Crystal reported that they are in the new the building. The application for license is in and they are waiting for the endorsements and license to come through. Monies have been used to purchase copies, create material, and distribute to possible LAC members in Glacier County. The LAC is almost completely formed and anticipates having the first LAC meeting in July 2014. CSAA monies again would be used for training, continuing to recruit LAC members, educational materials for the County residents. Two meetings with Glacier County Commissioners and possible LAC members have been held and there are approximately 10-15 members identified. The top priorities are getting established, promoting membership, recruiting local providers and community members. Current challenges are that Glacier County is large, encompasses both the County and the Blackfeet reservation, getting contributing members; and County – Tribal Relations.

Hill County-

The committee will utilize funds for marketing/public relations endeavors including, but not limited to: website development, brochure development and printing, and advertising. One of the Hill County LAC's primary challenges is consistent community wide participation in our meetings. It is our hope that by developing a presence on the internet as well as increasing awareness of the mission and goals of the LAC we will be able to increase participation in our meetings. We are hopeful that with additional participation and awareness, we will be better able to address our priorities as well as identify and attend to community needs in regard to mental health. Ultimately, marketing and public relation endeavors will help us better serve our mission: to increase education and access and reduce barriers and stigma associated with mental health. The Hill County LAC would like to continue working on the priorities identified in our strategic planning meeting last fall as well as continue identifying and addressing challenge. We had 8 meetings in 2012 and have had 3 in 2012.

Participation in meetings varies, however, there are about 10 members who regularly attend meetings and/or attend to committee business through email. The top priorities are: collaborate with populations affected by mental illness, reduce mental health stigma, improve access to mental health care, advocate for mental health consumers, identify gaps in mental health services. The top 3 challenges are to attain consistent community wide participation in LAC meetings, Develop a peer support network with a sufficient number of trained peers to sustain the service Identify and effectively address community education needs in regard to mental health.

In 2014, a letter of intent for HB 130 funds for peer services and jail assessments. They continue to do more outreach. Funding lacks for the uninsured. Lack of prescribers for children, grants for peers is out there, but the sustainability is questionable past the grant. Peers often assist with getting people the help they need. Affordable housing is a significant need. If you don't have a credit history or have been incarcerated you may not have the resources to gain appropriate housing. The cost of renting appropriate housing is going up and is becoming less affordable. No crisis response teams; there is no one working afterhours during crisis's. Getting people to attend the LAC's is difficult; collaboration between the agencies is needed. In January they will join forces with the health care consortiums to prioritize.

They are developing their goals and objectives and researching how to get better trained on the mental health first aid. Domestic abuse hotline gets a lot of mental health calls so there are thoughts of partnering to get more people trained on mental health along with new provider and Addiction Counselors.

The Havre-Hill County LAC is in the process of developing a website. MTGrafix has estimated the initial cost at \$1,110 to \$1,500 for 5 Page Website Package and is a one-time fee. Domain Registration for Website - Billed Annually, ICANN Fees (This is a mandatory charge for the Internet Association of Names and Numbers) - Billed Annually, and Content Management System Integration - One Time Fee, this enables user to make changes at any time. We have met with a website design company and the committee members are in the process of compiling information to be included on the site such as: the history of the LAC, board members (with pictures and contact information), Partners (with links to their websites), upcoming events, agendas & minutes, and other resources.

The LAC is also developing a plan for trainings related to mental health and addictions that may be beneficial to be brought to Hill County with the use of the funds that we currently have. One identified need was to train additional Mental Health First Aid trainers and to utilize the funds to send someone to the National Training. We had 2 people identified and then timing was not right for those people last year. It is our hope that this website will help address a

couple of the goals from our strategic plan including: collaborating with populations affected by mental illness, reducing mental health stigma, improving access to mental health care, advocating for individuals with lived experience, and identifying gaps in mental health services.

Kalispell/Flathead County-

LAC & NAMI chapter are co-sponsoring to hold MH First Aid program Saturday, November 9, 2013 (New, 8-hour version) at Syke's Pharmacy; may still have space available. They have organized to participate in NAMI Walks in Helena with van available to transport. Expanding RxFlex Fund donation canisters around town for additional donations to psycho-pharmaceutical prescription fund for underinsured consumers. Conference at FVCC on October 4th on geriatric mental health. Attempts to organize CIT Trainings have not been successful; Sheriff's Office has not responded as hoped.

In October Vicky Varichak reported. LAC & NAMI chapter are co- sponsoring to hold MH First Aid program Saturday, November 9, 2013 (New, 8-hour version) at Syke's Pharmacy; may still have space available. Looking to move to new location. Melody (NAMI Basics instructor) planning another class in Spring 2014. Expanding RxFlex Fund donation canisters around town for additional donations to psycho-pharmaceutical prescription fund for underinsured consumers. LAC decided to contribute \$100 to fund and organize CIT Trainings have not been successful; Sheriff's Office has declined participation. Just had a SWAT team shooting of a suicidal woman, because no CIT trained personnel available to handle situation more appropriately (after 4 hour negotiation with her; she exited building with a handgun and was shot by SWAT team.

In November Vicky reported looking to fill Alternate position. Meeting held in November, 8 attended. Celebrated success of Mental Health First Aid presentation just held 11/9 at Syke's Pharmacy; 28 attended. Changing LAC meeting day to 2nd Tuesday of month in order to use room at the Summit, a large rehabilitation facility). Combined LAC/NAMI, holding a holiday gathering 12/17, 6-8pm at the Summit. In December Vicky reported changing LAC meeting day to 2nd Tuesday of month in order to use room at The Summit beginning Jan. 14 at 1pm. Combined LAC/NAMI held a holiday gathering December 17th, 6-8pm at the Summit, 25 people attended (including kids!) and had lots of fun.

January 2014, Eileen reported a "retreat"-type meeting was held to brainstorm ideas. They are organizing to personalize brochures on LAC. Membership Drive and fundraising work; donated to Rx FlexFund. Rented a van to attend NAMI-Walk in Helena. Held successful Mental Health First Aid presentation at Sykes' Pharmacy, with about 30 attending; also held a Health Fair with raffle (raised \$110); plan to have MHFA presentation for teachers in August. Changed LAC meeting day to 2nd Tuesday of month in order to use room at The Summit. Continuing efforts to bring CIT training to Kalispell next year. Shared their Strategic Planning for upcoming year; write and review Mission and Vision statements and plans of what is wanted to accomplish. The Ponderosa Peer Support Program connected with NAMI to create a support group meeting at public place (local bakery).

In February Vicky reported on some transitions happening; due to work needs, Travis Schule feels compelled to withdraw from board; Eileen Lowery will be LAC Representative. Holding their LAC meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 1pm at The Summit (Kalispell Regional Med. Center). Joan Schmidt, Children's MH, planning MHFA presentation for teachers in August. Continuing efforts to bring CIT training to Kalispell; Deb Matteucci met with Sheriff Curry to try to break through some resistance from law enforcement agencies.

In March fifteen people attended (half community, half consumers) at their LAC meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 1pm at The Summit. Joan Schmidt, Children's Mental Health, planning MHFA presentation for teachers in August 22nd with Karl Rosston. Continuing efforts to bring CIT training to Kalispell; Community member Matt is helping this effort due to a personal experience with untrained law enforcement personnel and the resultant trauma. Putting together a panel to speak on the topic of suicide (to be held at local community college),

hopefully in May. Ponderosa Peer Support Group meets once weekly, information sharing and support. Just discovered that the NAMI-Flathead lost its nonprofit status because they didn't renew for three consecutive years; now have to reapply with full application and \$400 fee.

Flathead, now breaking ground for an Intermountain Youth Home. New facility: The Newman Center, outpatient mental health clinic (www.kalispellregional.org) In April Vicky reported that eight people attended. Some new people; coordinated meeting with NAMI-Flathead chapter. Dealt with application to re-attain non-profit status that was inadvertently let expire. Looking to invite previous Police Chief to speak (he's running for H.D. legislature); he's very supportive of CIT training.

Travis Schule has resigned from his time commitments to NAMI and LAC; he's still active with RxFlex Program. Promoting Depression Support Group (through Pathways Treatment Center and Courtney Rudbach). Plan to hold another MHFA presentation in August, targeting educators. In June they discussed pros/cons about combining LAC and NAMI meetings; it's usually the same population and have not had conflict or concern for alienating any portion of the population. Three members attended NAMI trainings in Helena; August 12th, party in the park. Holding support group at Wheat MT, as a more public space than MHC, every Thursday. Joan Schmidt who will present MHFA on Aug. 21, 22 to educators and school staff. Frustrated with trying to get CIT training in area, will have Jim Anderson from Gallatin County, and Law Enforcement Academy and many stakeholders to promote CIT planning.

In July, Bob Rowe reported they met on July 8th at Summit with 10 people in attendance. Discussion about upcoming party in the park. Also discussed upcoming elections. Chairperson Joe Estenson passed away and they took a few minutes to remember him. Aug- Had their LAC Picnic at Lone Pine State Park; 26 attended with representation from all partners, included 50% consumers. Raffle raised \$38.00; music by Vicky on guitar with sing-alongs. Sent flyers to all NAMI/LAC members. Holding Youth MHFA on Friday, with CEUs available; LAC providing treats. Beginning new class NAMI Family to Family next week. Will work on new Strategic Plan after elections next month. Participating in NAMI Walk in Helena. In September Eileen reported that the new Rep 1st Alt, Judy Doyle and 2nd Alt. Brian Buschang. Youth MHFA training was held last month and began new class NAMI Family to Family. Participating in NAMI Walk in Helena.

Lewis and Clark County-

The LAC provided the money to support for two endeavors: money has been used by Our Place, the local Drop In Center, to fund open house costs. Money has also been used to buy consumables for Our Place Members (e.g. Coffee and other treats). The open house was a huge success, experiencing about 75 people at the event. On a daily basis, Our Place serves about 45 people on the average. Money also went to supporting a Mental Health Month Presentation in the month of May. Dr. Gary Mihelish and Robert McCabe (VA) both volunteered their time for a community presentation on Wellness and Recovery. This year the LAC worked on its goal of developing CRT, crisis services and CIT training to its officers. All three initiatives have move forward with positive success. The newly structured CRT in Helena has now been functioning for 1.5 years and is now an integral part of the community. Community members have also met frequently and worked hard on the development of the new crisis center, Journey Home. The projected date of ground breaking will be October 2013. Finally, CIT is seen as accepted practice by law enforcement. Officers are regularly trained at CIT officers and they too are seen as an integral part of the community.

In 2014, the LAC is focusing on three primary projects; Drop in Center, Journey Home and Crisis Response Teams. They will be looking at their sustainability to figure out how to keep funding in place. Our Place had a community parking lot sale last Saturday to raise money to support its' cost. NAMI Helena donated \$500 for the over head expenses for the sale. Brian believes they have raised \$1500. The next Our Place advisory meeting will scratch out the process and determine if it was an effective way to make money. It really increased visibility in the community.

Brian Garrity reported for Lewis and Clark County. A list of priorities was established. They included long term financial stability for crisis services, stable funding for drop in centers. Second priority; adequate reimbursement for crisis stabilization services in communities; crisis stabilizations facilities and CRT community based evaluation teams. AMDD will need to find ways for fully funding these programs. Ongoing stable funding is needed to encourage the state to identify long term strategies to support and enhance community based mental health. To date the programs most at risk will be the Drop in enter; there are not a lot of billable services to support this operation. Many people that visit Our Place are not clients at the Center for Mental Health and therefore services are not billable. We are working on staff and volunteers to explain how we are trying to move towards participating for sustainability. County Commissioner Mike Murray stated that there are about 13-20 members at any LAC meeting.

Journey Home broke ground and will be run by WMMHC and modeled after Bozeman and Hamilton's facilities. The LAC is looking at overall funding for MH Services. They are trying to understand funding gaps and how the system works. Trying to figure out how to support or educate those decisions makers or legislators. We haven't had meetings monthly for a while. They've talked about going to committee meetings in between. The focus for so long has been crisis and drop in services for adults in the communities. Now they are trying to focus on their sustainability. Brian reported that Cooperative Health Care officer, Melody Reynolds is on the LAC and her county health is putting together a five year health plan. Stakeholders were invited to help identify the needs of the county around health care.

In the past few years, the LAC has focused on CRT's, crisis stabilization and other adult services. The LAC is now putting in an effort to include a focus on children services. They've created a couple of new committees; children services committee and mental health services funding. Advocacy is ongoing to expand the mental health training at the Police Academy. Follow up is needed with coordination with behavioral health at St. Peter's Hospital which seems to be morphing into geriatric services. The LAC distributed the funds to the local Drop in Center,

Our Place. Our Place until recently has not been a recipient of the DPHHS recovery funds. Our Places' operations have ran on a shoe string and the staff work hard to garner donated monies to enhance the operational support that Lewis and Clark County provides. The two fundraisers provided staff and community members with an opportunity to get to know the Drop in Center as well as what the service offers (groups, linkage, advocacy and support). Both of these fundraisers ended up adding additional monies to the Our Place Foundation. This account is accessed to pay for items that are over and above the normal operation expenses.

If the LAC were to receive CSAA end of the year funds again this year we would consider distributing those funds across three services or operations: CRT Journey Home, our new crisis stabilization center and the Drop in Center. All of these programs are underfunded and in need of fiscal support. The Lewis and Clark LAC met 12 times this past year. There are 21 board members and average 18 participants at each meeting.

We are proud of the commitment shown to the LAC meetings by both board members and community stakeholders. Our three top priorities have been continued crisis response team sustainability and support, sustainability and development of the Drop in Center, Our Place, and the development and opening of a crisis stabilization center with secured bed access. Our top 3 challenges are sustainable funding and consistent State support for programming determined to be essential to the community and individuals with lived experience representation on the Board.

Libby/Lincoln County-

Vicky reported that in October, they met with 4 in attendance; possible problem with some to afford transportation to meetings. Vicky will give staff presentation on Oct 31st at WMMHC to explain and encourage their participation in LAC. (She's available to speak with other MHCs in other LAC areas.) Next meeting scheduled at same time/place on November 12th in basement of WMMHC. Met on Nov. 12 with 5 in attendance; small holiday party. Looking for new meeting location, possibly at library, better than at MHC that may put off possible attendees. Making flyers to promote the change. Probably will suspend meetings during worst winter months and reconvene in March.

December meeting making flyers to promote the change. May look into WebX meetings with Kalispell. No meeting held until decision on new meeting location and time. March meeting, tried to hold meeting at previously identified time/place, but no one else showed up. Changing to 2nd Weds. at 2pm at MHC. In April Vicky reported that nine attended, including County Attorney, Sunburst MHC staff, WMMHC staff, and more. Decided to focus on getting more active: will plan elections; Alyce Anderson, temporary Chair. Next meeting May 14th at WMMHC Drop In Center and may utilize reminder calls to increase attendance. Looking to hold MHFA Presentation.

June Party in the Park this summer; potluck side dishes, plus donations. A few new members attending including Mental Health Center. May try to resurrect planning a fall health conference. Looking to hold MHFA presentation in the county. August Party in the Park at Fireman's Park. Finalized plans for putting it on, finding donations for raffle baskets; considered renting Baptist Church's bouncy house, but they decided that the cost was too steep as they are not allowed to sell popcorn, snow cones, etc. Next meeting will be in September with elections for chair and vice-chair. Party in Park was successful with attendance by providers, agencies and consumers; 40-50 attended. There was a big raffle, with over 25 prizes; karaoke singing.

Had front page notice in local paper; on local radio; flyers to advertise. Seems that many people came to get information/ ask questions about MH services. LILAC has Facebook page, maintained by Sunny Terry-Kuehnel. Sept- LILAC has Facebook page, maintained by Sunny Terry-Kuehnel. Meeting attended by 3, did not elect Rep/Alt. It's hard to get regular attendance at meetings.

Missoula County-

Sylvia Carollo reported that September's meeting started with reading Purpose Statement; want to re-write own version to reflect Missoula LAC-specific statement. Recapped Party in the Park event. Thinking to hold luncheon in January. Elected officers. David Cockrell has been working on a DVD presentation of a consumer living with a mental disorder. Want to form focus group to work on specific local issues (e.g. jail diversion); will have break-out discussions at next meeting. October meeting discussed MHFA and looking to arrange presentation in Spring 2014. Priorities on mental health topics discussed: jail issues, supported employment, housing, etc. Trying to arrange for occasional speakers: R.I., David Rewriting the LAC Purpose Statement to reflect Missoula LAC-specific statement.

November's meeting discussed looking to purchase a banner. Discussed what logo and content they want to display. Planning MHFA presentation in February 2014, location TBA. Long-term planning to hold an arts/crafts show in a downtown art gallery in 2014. Noted LAC toolkit; reported on the jails/medications problems in the county. Committee met to develop Mission Statement.

Continue planning for MHFA (2/21/14); currently have 70 registered. Vicky shared an idea formaking painted rocks (a la Cookies for Kindness project): paint river rocks with inspirational/motivational sayings. March guest speaker, Jim Olsen spoke on how Ravalli County worked to get a crisis stabilization facility built. Had the MHFA presentation (2/21/14); 55 attended. NAMI provided snacks & lunch; very well appreciated. May want to hold it again next month. Interested to get speaker to teach about Internet Security to help people avoid being scammed online. (Maybe through the Attorney General's office or AARP, as helpful to seniors; share this idea with NAMI-MT for speaker at next annual conference.) Missoula Indian Center has new MH program www.missoulaindiancenter.org

Sylvia reported to LAC on a CIT group meeting; need to coordinate efforts, but having trouble with time conflicts. Shared information about the State website: look for link "Check My Benefits" for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), to inform applicants about what other benefits are available for qualifying people. Discussed future guest presenters, including panel on housing. May meeting discussed WSAA mini grants. Speaker Micah Nielsen, MT Women Votes, working to get low income women to polls. Reviewed online survey that Monique developed to determine what priorities are important to LAC members.

Franklin Park, party for members have small door prizes for everyone. LAC will provide fried chicken, cake, & drinks; members potluck side dishes. They transport people from MHCs to park. Karen Ward mentioned "Rent Well" program (out of Oregon), to help landlords work with high risk renters; teaches living skills related to housing. Want to hold another MHFA in January. July meeting, panel discussion on jobs; discussed Party in the Park planned for July 31st; discussed nominations for leadership team. Party in Park was held July 31st; in combination with Missoula NAMI chapter; over 100 attended. It was held at Franklin Park (on public bus line). Everyone received a raffle ticket to be eligible for prizes.

In September, speaker Tessa Heurmann, MSW from Poverello Center (in conjunction with Valor House for vets): 500+ homeless in Missoula; they will no longer serve homeless who are under influence. New facility of 115 beds will open in December 2014; (compared to 57 at previous facility) reserve 30 beds for vets, some detox beds, and some medical respite rooms (for recent discharge from hospital). It is three-story with an elevator. May stay for 45 days with option of 15 days extension. Must be away 30 days, then may re-qualify. Planning to hold Open House sometime before opening to public use.

Park County-

Park County LAC has struggled with a lack of participation and focus along with absence by Board members. There seems to be a lack of direction and commitment. Huge transitions have taken place with a new hospital CEO and County Commissioner. There is also a new CPO and Mental Health Director for Park County. With some of the new transitions, the hope is to bring about renewed interest in participation of the Park County LAC. Monies received from CSAA have been used for outreach and accruing funds for future efforts. They are focusing on increasing the membership. They have an action plan they are developing to determine priorities and goals.

They are trying to get the message out that they are meeting again. There have been a lot of changes in county representatives. Transitional services have become a need for this county. There is good representation of family and consumers. More professionals from other agencies are needed to attend. The service is good in the area, its involvement in the LAC that is struggling. In November, Park County is using the Tool Kit to see how it fits with what they are working on. Rebuilding and strengthening efforts continue. Ongoing collaboration with alcohol and substance abuse services going well. Gallatin and Park County have teamed up to provide CIT training. There are currently 17 members of the LAC and have met six different times this past year. Their current priorities are: continue combined CIT class efforts and more community involvement in the LAC.

Polson/Lake County-

Meeting is held at Soup's On, combined with local NAMI chapter, at 6:30 p.m. on first Monday of month. New time/place may be difficult for some to attend. Had 6 present at October meeting. Planning to show movie at library and facilitate the showing and discussion; first Monday in May 2014. May discuss holding meetings in alternating place and/or time to encourage better attendance.

In November, Vicky and Royalee reported. Planning activities for May's MHAM by showing related topic movies at library; will advertise and provide popcorn. Holding separate meetings on north and south ends of county: meeting at Soup's On in Polson, combined with local NAMI chapter, at 6:30 p.m. on first Monday of month; meeting at 2pm in south (St. Ignatius?) on same day; Vicky will attend both. This plan is because many consumers expressed difficulty attending evening meeting so far away. Vicky and Royalee reported that they continue planning activities for May's MHAM including, showing related topic movies at library; will advertise and provide popcorn. Holding separate meetings on north and south ends of county. This plan is because many consumers expressed difficulty attending evening meetings so far away.

Tammy Toste represents the south-end meetings: they had increased attendance; looking at projects like Cookies for Kindness in the near future. Local newspapers carrying PSAs of the two valley meetings. February became new member to WSAA. Tammy has moved from area. Brandon Burke will be the new LAC Alternate. Confirmed the roster of movies that will be shown every Monday in May at the public library. Titles to be shown: A Beautiful Mind; Girl, Interrupted; Silver Linings Playbook; The Soloist; will provide snacks. (Another suggestion: Canvas) In April, it was reported that there continues to be difficulty with time/distance for people on south end of county making the meetings. Sponsoring movie nights at 6:30pm on Mondays in May. Sponsoring movie nights at 6:30pm on Tuesdays in May (The Soloist, Silver Linings Playbook, As Good As It Gets, Temple Grandin's biography); cosponsored by NAMI chapter. Have been very popular so far, with increasing attendance every week.

June sponsored four movie nights Similar problem as other counties with large geographic separation and long travel times; difficult to resolve question of meeting places. Want to hold MHFA in Polson. Monthly meeting with S-K Tribal to deal with teen suicide; last meeting had law enforcement speakers. Have had ASIST trainings and will have Karl Rosston as a speaker (to be videotaped). Mandy reported they've had increased attendance at The Village (affiliated with Sunburst, Kalispell). Mental Health First Aid planned for October 24th.

Superior/Mineral County-

Vicky has followed up and hasn't received answer to emails to find out what's happening with the LAC or the status of the Community Recovery Garden. Tyler noted that Secretary Shirley and Treasurer Roger are still "hanging in there" until meetings can be revived. Mostly, they just focus on what's happening at local Mental Health Center; want to "regroup" and find out extent of continued interest of elected positions and local peers to keep LAC active. Will meet next month at Superior ambulance center, across from MHC. Elected officers: Tyler, Co-Chair; Zachary, Co-Chair; Shirley, Secretary; Roger, Treasurer.

Received EIN from state to become a registered nonprofit group with state; able to conduct fundraising. Discussed MHFA training in future; looking to get CEU credit for some hospital workers. Zachary presented a MH Services Assessment survey that they propose to distribute; designed for MH Service Providers to share their opinions of gaps in the mental health services in Mineral County. Asked for feedback from WSAA members.

In March Vicky reported that Tyler Steinebach and Zachary Pingatore have effectively resigned as Co-Chairs, as they have moved from the western region. Vicky will try to meet with others remaining to see if there's enough interest to continue. In April, Vicky sent email reminder and several people attended. Elected Roger Brown temporary Chair, Stephanie Quick, Vice Chair. He's involved with group "We Care" and wants to coordinate those groups' work.

June meeting, Vicky reported that embers want to hold MHFA training to bring community together; hope to hold after Labor Day. Still struggling to get participation in LAC, with continuity and a sense of team. Hope the MHFA in fall will kick-off interest in LAC. Mental Health First Aid presentation scheduled for October 3rd with Karl Rosston of AMDD; to be held at ambulance barn in Superior. Focus on up-coming MHFA training; hoping that exposure with this event will help with LAC attendance.

EASTERN SERVICE AREA AUTHORITY
FY 14 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 to JUNE 30, 2014

To: Glenda Oldenburg, AMDD

From: Bobbie Walstad

Mental illness can strike anyone at any time. To address this issue the legislature identified the importance of Local Advisory Councils (LAC's) in 1999 and passed bill 53.21.702(1) (b). LAC's are one of the elements of a public mental health care that emphasizes the importance of local participation. This participation is vital in planning for effective, individualized mental health services in each community with goals and objectives between Service Area Authorities, LAC's, Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council and Department of Health and Human Services Addictive Mental Disorders Division (DPHHS-AMDD).

The purpose of the Eastern Service Area Authority (ESAA) is to collaborate with the DPHHS-AMDD to assist in the management of public mental health care. The ESAA is a consumer driven board with primary and secondary consumers, their families and other interested community stakeholders actively collaborating with the State of Montana in defining, developing, managing, and monitoring the systems of public mental health care. This process allows every individual consumer served by public mental health system a greater voice in the system that serves them.

The ESAA covers half of the State of Montana or 271,966 square miles. The 28 counties served are: Yellowstone, Big Horn, Custer, Roosevelt, Carbon, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Dawson, Valley, Musselshell, Phillips, Sweet Grass, Sheridan, Fallon, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Daniels, McCone, Powder River, Carter, Garfield, Golden Valley, Prairie, Wibaux, Treasure and Petroleum.

During this reporting year the ESAA approved \$15,434 or approximately 44% of its budget to provide Education & Awareness mini-grants to provide communities with access to resources available. This year the ESAA website was revitalized and is a great resource to access. Please visit our site at www.esaamontana.org. It is with energy and enthusiasm that I relay the tremendous amount of work stakeholders have committed to improving the lives of persons living with mental illness in Montana.

Education & Awareness Projects- FY 2014

Billings LAC continues to reduce stigma in this community by outreach and has presented at various agencies. The Billings Community Crisis Center continues to be full every night and have secured funds for a Chemical Dependency Counselor. They have continued to find innovative ways to use beds and funding. They applied for and received HB 130 and HB 131 funding. They are looking at the Kentucky Model for jail diversion which includes: 1) Suicide prevention for all jails 2) assists communities with jail screening of individuals, and 3) mental health professionals would visit jails and begin having an open dialogue to addressing access to mental health services while in jail or correctional facility. The Billings Community Crisis Center is extremely busy with Access to Recovery and Jail Diversion grant. The Jail Diversion Grant is winding down and they are looking at adding another dual recovery group to keep up with the demands of crisis center. The 24th Annual McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence-Understanding the Impact of Life Experiences was supported and attended by board members to promote healthy relationships and to provide resources to families experiencing domestic violence. Let's Talk

Billings presented a skit at the Annual ESAA Congress with more than 60 in attendance.

Broadus LAC continues to be active in the schools. This year they have supported activities for Student's Against Destructive Behavior Anti- Smoking Campaign. Posters for this campaign are being distributed in the community.

The Miles City LAC worked to bring the Out of the Darkness Walk to their community again this year. This is becoming an annual event to bring awareness to Suicide prevention. The community walks are the signature events of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) the nation's leading nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide. By walking in the Out of the Darkness Walks to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), you will be walking with thousands of people nationwide to raise money for AFSP's vital research and education programs to prevent suicide and save lives, increase national awareness about depression and suicide, advocate for mental health issues, and assist survivors of suicide loss. Miles City LAC worked together with Global Health to bring Let's Talk Miles City to their community. This resource lets persons with mental illness know that they are not alone and wants someone who is sad or is thinking about hurting themselves to talk to someone about how they are feeling. Their website at www.letstalkmiles.com provides resources and hotlines numbers that can be accessed day or night. Miles City also secured funding to bring the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for community members and service providers to attend. This workshop offers intensive training for front-line workers and community members. The emphasis is on teaching suicide first-aid to help a person at risk stay safe and seek further help as needed. ASIST provides practical training for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Big Timber LAC secured funding to purchase new books for Addictive Disorder support group. The addictive disorders meeting in this community has a good turnout and a Community Health worker is helping individuals with medications. A new worker from mental health center is a resource and is providing training to local bars and their employees because the Justice of Peace has seen a significant increase in drugs and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Lewistown LAC members are working with National Alliance for Mentally Ill and worked with NAMI to write a Crisis Intervention Training grant which was funded by the Montana Mental Health Trust. This CIT training will be held later this year. This community is providing counseling and support groups for gambling addicts.

Malta LAC is working with the Montana Nurses Association to provide continuing education credits for ASIST and Mental Health First Aid training.

Glendive LAC brought NAMI- "In Your Voice" presentation to our community for Mental Health Awareness Day. They are also are working with NAMI to bring a support group to our community. The LAC is looking to find two consumers to go to NAMI training. The ESAA has been participating with the Veteran's Administration, Job Service and Eastern Montana Stand Down planning committee to bring this event to Glendive in September. The Stand Down will bring surplus supplies, resources, services and medical treatment to homeless veterans and their families.

Sidney LAC had a county conference with 200 participants attending. There was a great response with school board members, developers, county commissioners and community members signing up for action groups to improve services and expand resources due to the influx of the growing community due to the Bakken energy boom.

Scobey LAC is providing community outreach for Mental Health Month to enhance visibility of LAC.

Hardin LAC Received \$20,000 last year and sent two family practice doctors to Toronto, Canada to attend a conference on Medications and Behaviors in the emergency room. They brought back this

training to the community and presented at Indian Health Services. Hardin LAC also accessed monies to bring Neuro Tek & Biofeedback and Happy Heart Lapsan 400 to their community.

Karl Roston has been to several schools and communities this past year educating the people of Montana on the Signs of Suicide. This is a wonderful resource that the LAC's have been using readily.

The ESAA looks forward to another successful year working with stakeholders to improve the lives of Montana's living with mental illness.