

gratitude and obligation to them (collectively and individually). I desperately hope to honor their selflessness, conviction, and courage as we move toward a better future.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Respectfully yours,

Charlie Latta, Regional Planner, AMDD

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Central Service Area Authority**

The 2003 Legislature provided for development of a new system for publicly funded mental health services. Gallatin and Park are part of the 15-county Central Service Area Authority; one of the three geographical Regions planned to manage the delivery of mental health services in Montana.

A major focus of the new system is empowerment of mental health service Consumers, Family members, Service Providers and other Stakeholders in identifying needs and managing limited public funding in delivering core services. Senate Bill 347 requires that Service Area Authorities includes persons living with a mental illness, their families, mental health providers, advocates, law enforcement and all stakeholders be part of the planning process. The Task Force that was appointed by Stakeholders in the Central Region has been working for over a year planning for the transition to the new system will report its progress, seek public comment, input and participation at a Town Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at Christus

Collegium, 714 South 8<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman. Persons interested in participating in the development of this new publicly funded mental health system are invited to attend. A light supper will be served and childcare will be provided.

*We need to know how much food to buy. Please call Tom Peluso 585-8959, or E-Mail: tom.peluso@barnard-inc.com to tell me how many adults and children in your family will attend.*

## Central Service Area Authority Town Meeting

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>. 6:00 p.m.**  
Light Supper Served and Childcare Provided

**CHRISTUS COLLEGIUM  
714 SOUTH 8<sup>th</sup>  
BOZEMAN**

**Come and Listen --- Come and Learn --- Come and Participate**

If you are a person living with mental illness, or if you are a family member or loved one of a person living with mental illness, *you need to attend.*

If you are a provider of services for children or adults with mental illness, *you need to attend.*

If you are part of the Justice System, including Law Enforcement, and you deal with children or adults living with mental illness, *you need to attend.*

If you are an Advocate for persons with mental illness, *you need to attend.*

If you are a Legislator, *you need to attend.*

If you work in City, County, or State government and you provide services to persons living with mental illness, *you need to attend.*

For information call: Tom Peluso 585-5959

Central Region Service Area Authority Planning Meeting  
Helena, September 13, 2003

Members of the CSAA Congress met to continue work on the development of the SAA concept for central Montana. The meeting generally proceeded according to the following agenda:

- Meeting overview
- DPHHS Update
- AMDD SAA Plan
- Medicaid Utilization Review
- Reports
  - Communications Committee
  - Strategic Plan
  - By-laws and Articles of Incorporation
- MHOAC sub-committee report on SAAs
- New Business
  - Town Meetings
  - Transitional Board Election
- Concerns and Issues

Meeting Overview

Jim Fitzgerald introduced the meeting. He reminded the Congress of the importance of commitment. We do not know what the final SAA product looks like. But, we are committed to improving the public mental health system.

#### DPHHS Update

Gail Gray expressed her appreciation that the Central SAA Congress has followed through on its commitment to the SAA concept. Gail indicated that the Department does not have all of the answers. The Department needs the participation of people with an interest in the public mental health system in order to generate the best ideas.

Gail advised that the Department has initiated the Public Health redesign process. Most of the initial attention will focus on Medicaid. The Public Health Advisory Council does not take the place of the other advisory groups. Gail indicated that the current system is not sustainable. A major role for the advisory council will be identification of the principles that should guide system change. Everything will be on the table for consideration. The work of the advisory council will be short term but it may take several years to implement the outcome. Gail encouraged members of the Congress to attend the public meetings and to come to the meetings prepared to discuss principles and suggestions for implementation.

Gail also advised that the Governor's Health Summit is scheduled for September 24-25 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings.

#### AMDD SAA Plan

Dan Anderson advised the Congress that the Department is required to have a 4-year for phasing in the structure and management of the SAA concept by January 2004. Over the 4-year period, the SAAs should be prepared to assume responsibility for the functions defined by the statute with the expectation that full implementation would be preceded by a planning phase and a phase of shared responsibility.

Dan distributed a copy of the draft SAA Plan framework. The framework includes each of the functions, an opportunity to identify additional functions and three phases – organization and planning, advisory/collaboration, and management/risk. The completed plan will include a set of steps associated for each functions during each of the phases.

AMDD is sponsoring and SAA planning summit on October 1 and 2. Participants will include the CSAA Task Force, the MHOAC SAA Committee, invited representatives from the east and west SAAs and the Mental Health Bureau staff. The desired outcome of the summit is to outline many of the steps.

#### Discussion points:

- The strength of the outline is that it incorporates the concept of "readiness".
- The National Technical Center and TAC could be resources to help understand what other states have done to define readiness.
- The outline is congruent with the work that CSAA has already done.
- The Children's Bureau will be represented during the summit.

## Medicaid Utilization Review

Marcia Armstrong presented several examples of the kind of Medicaid utilization data that could be available to the SAA. Jim Fitzgerald encouraged the Congress to think about what kinds of data that might be necessary to better understand what is happening in the region or that might be happening in one community that could be learned and applied in other communities.

Members of the Congress identified the following information that could be useful:

- Percent change in numbers of individuals served and costs from one period to another
- Break out prior authorized services by SAA
- Therapeutic aids
- Adult and children breakout
- Identification of private and agency providers within the SAA
- Information about cost per client
- Information about diagnoses and costs per diagnosis
- For children, distinguish between the county of origin and the county in which the child receives service
- Data regarding transition from children to the adult system (or not)
- High end users – a case by case analysis and use as a basis for developing individualized solutions. Where are they? What services are available for them? What is working? What do they need relative to what is available?
- MSH commitments from the CSAA
- What services are available by county? What services are available in all counties?
- It might be helpful to look at data over a 2-year period or longer and to compare individual months in different years.

Additional comments:

- We should develop narratives that help us communicate to others, especially legislators, our interpretation of the data.
- We need to look at issues from the community level. We also need to develop an individual assessment tool.
- CSAA should develop a resource directory for consumers and providers – an active data base and available on line.

## Communications Committee Report

Mike McLaughlin reported that other members of the committee include Bill McCausland, Tom Peluso, David Dubois, Anita Roessmann, Marlene Disburg and Stephanie Davison.

Tom Peluso reviewed the communication tree.

Bill McCauslan reported that he is developing the communications data base. He requested help in getting contact information for Tribes, smaller communities, medical facilities, school

based services and TV and radio stations. **Members are encouraged to review the communication tree, identify people from their respective communities who should be included in the communication tree and provide the corresponding information to Bill.**

Additional comments:

- The Department will help the CSAA with a website
- The goal is to provide broad access to information about the CSAA.
- MHOAC and the Congress members should receive copies of all information that is distributed. Beyond that, the Task Force expects to develop a tiered system for information distribution that probably will include quarterly distribution of information packets.
- We need a system for providing historical information to new members as they join the congress, especially for consumers and family members.
- The Task Force (eventually the Board) will authorize the information that should be distributed.
- Stephanie Davison is working on a marketing package to communicate the SAA's potential and to help people better understand what they can do to help.

### Strategic Plan Report

Sally Miller presented the draft strategic plan. The target date for incorporation is November 2003. After incorporation, the Task Force will be looking for grant funds to support operations.

Concern was expressed about including grant applications in the strategic plan. We could be communicating the wrong message. Grant funds should not be used to alleviate the State's responsibility to fund public mental health services. It was explained that the CSAA would be pursuing system change grants, not grants to fund services. There was general agreement among Congress members that it would be appropriate to pursue grant funding to support CSAA transitional operations and that the CSAA would be careful to explain the purpose for grant funds.

### By-laws Report

Sally Miller presented a clean copy of the By-laws that incorporated previous Congress decisions.

Tom Peluso moved, Michael O'Neil second, to amend the purpose statement to delete the reference to AMDD and to add a phrase from the mission statement from the strategic plan, "...and to do this in a clinically and fiscally responsible way to ensure maximum usage, consumer choice and effective treatment." The motion carried, with one abstention.

It was noted that the Congress had already approved the By-laws. The question was raised about whether the Congress should follow the amendment procedures. After considerable

discussion, the group generally agreed that we are in the process of becoming the CSAA and that the By-laws will become effective upon incorporation of the CSAA. We are engaged in a process of learning by doing and while we are in this transitional phase, we should be a little flexible.

### MHOAC Report

Tom Peluso presented a brief summary of the recent MHOAC meeting. He also reported that MACO would be sponsoring a mental health summit on a date as yet to be determined. The November 7 meeting of MHOAC will include a panel/discussion related to SB347.

During his MHOAC report, Tom also referenced the CSAA progress report.

### Town Meetings

Jim Fitzgerald emphasized the importance of involving more people and more interests in the CSAA Congress. We need to more effectively communicate progress, explain how people can become involved and to encourage their participation.

Jim explained that the Task Force would develop the framework for the town meetings, including the information to communicate, the kinds of information that the CSAA should receive back from the meeting participants and suggestions for the constituencies that the CSAA is trying to reach.

Jim requested individuals to volunteer to lead community task groups to be responsible for planning town meetings. The community task groups would be responsible to select a date, make local arrangements, provide logistics and do the community outreach. CSAA will provide funds for food and baby sitting services to enable greater participation by consumers and family members. The following people volunteered:

- Helena – Gary Mihelish
- Bozeman – Dorothy Ek; meeting is scheduled for October 23
- Gt. Falls – Joan-Nell MacFadden
- Highline – Mike McLaughlin

Jim requested that the town meetings be completed by Thanksgiving.

Sally Miller suggested the following theme for the town meetings: “You CAN make a difference”.

### Additional discussion:

- We need an on-going process for periodically going back to the communities. How often? What should these meetings accomplish? Etc.?
- We should develop a list of the tasks that need to be done and develop a list of people who are interested in assisting with various work of the CSAA.
- The communication plan has to be the focus of our efforts and there is plenty of room for people to help with that effort.



### Transitional Board Election

Tom Peluso moved, second by Joe Moll, to elect the Task Force as a transitional board for a 2-year term and to include in the By-laws a definition of the role of the transitional board, including the understanding that the provision and the transitional board will dissolve when the board is elected. The motion carried with one abstention.

Considerable discussion attended this decision:

- The Task Force is anxious to complete the process for incorporation and to begin to pursue grants. A board is required to complete the process.
- We are in the process of becoming an organization and, until the organization is complete, some of the transition steps will be awkward.
- The By-laws were supposed to specify that providers should not be on the board.
- We need a definition for “provider” and whether it applies to all providers or just the large agency providers.
- The role of the Task Force has been defined and we should use that language for the transitional board.
- There is concern for conflict of interest – both real and perceived.

Anita Roessman agreed to lead a task group to review the record from previous meetings and do a final review and clean up of the By-laws.

### Other Issues

- Michael O’Neil advised the Congress that AMDD had just awarded contracts for adult MHSP services. These contracts will eliminate consumer choice. The decision was made without input from the CSAA or from others. He stressed that, if the decision is made to eliminate choice, it should be done in a public way. Michael encouraged people to read the RFP and the contracts.
- Jim Fitzgerald identified the importance of the active involvement of the new children’s bureau in the work of the CSAA. It was suggested that the CSAA request affirmation from John Chappuis that children’s services will be an integral component of the SAA and that the CSAA make it easy for Pete Surlock and/or his staff to be involved in the work of the CSAA.

### Next Steps and Assignments

- CSAA Planning Task Force will develop the framework for town meetings during its next meeting, September 26, 10 to 2 at Intermountain Children’s Home.
- The Bozeman town meeting is scheduled for October 23.
- The next meeting of the CSAA Congress will be on Saturday, November 1.