



Central Service Area Authority Board Meeting centralsaamontana.org

December 22, 2023

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Zoom Meeting

All Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) Board meetings are open to the public

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT: In accordance with 2-3-103(1), MCA, the CSAA Board will hold a public comment period. The Open Forum is the public's opportunity to address the Board on any public mental health issue. While the Board cannot take action on the issues presented, the Board will listen to comments and may place the issue on a subsequent agenda for possible action. The Chairperson of the meeting determines the amount of time allotted for public comment

Statutory purpose: *To collaborate with the BHDD and LAC's, to promote consumer and family leadership, and to foster individual choice and access to a continuum of mental health services in the Central Service Area.*

Statutory duties: *(1) Collaborate with the BHDD on the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the mental health system. (2) Submit a biennial review and evaluation of mental health service needs and services within the service area. (3) Review and monitor crisis intervention programs within the service area.*

CSAA Minutes

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Crystal Laufer

Board Members Present: Crystal Laufer (Hill), Gilberta Belgarde (Chippewa Cree Wellness Coalition), Tom Peluso (Gallatin), Jolene Jennings (Lewis & Clark), Bob Mullen (Jefferson),

New Board Member: Eric Szemes (Gallatin)

Board Members Absent: Curtis Smeby (Hill), Julie Anderson (Park), Cindy Fitzpatrick (Hill), , Tina Mord (Blaine), Melinda Holom (Broadwater), Greg Tilton (Cascade), Pat Moritz (Broadwater), Darby Salmond (Teton), Jennifer Whitfield (Cascade County),

Staff: Lori Reynolds (CSAA Administrative Support)

Guests: Ashley Moniz (Lewis & Clark)

BHDD: Brent Morris

MH Ombudsman: absent

Board of Visitors: Jeremy Hoscheid

Votes:

No votes were taken due to not having a quorum.

Meeting Minutes

Lori went over the October/November Minutes. The vote will be completed via email.

Treasurer's Report

Tom reported he is still waiting to receive the current expense report. Lori discussed the previous expense report.

Public Comment:

New Business

Updated Schedule for CSAA Meetings

Crystal and Lori discussed the change in schedule due to the holidays.

Governor Gianforte Invests \$17.5 Million to Boost Community-Based Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Lori reported on the article. ([Read article](#)) Jolene and others discussed it.

988 Updates

Lori reported that SAMHSA put out information of 988 with social media advertisements that people can use and frequently asked questions. Brent commented that John Tabb appreciates input, so please email him with comments and ideas about 988. Jolene reached out to John after discussing 988 in another meeting about setting up Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), suicide prevention trainings regionally. Eric suggested that we recommend people call 211 as a faster link to a local call service. Lori discussed that 988 uses one of the three 211 call centers in Montana and that if the person's phone number is a different area code than 406, the call will go to that state's call centers. Jolene questioned whether there was validity to comment on 211 being faster than direct to 988 in conversation as she understands 988 is direct for Crisis, the 3 statewide Call Centers answer both but 988 and 211, but 988 is the nationwide 3-digit number for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. This is something we should explore further. Eric reported that 988 has a delay in the beginning of the call because you need to choose which number you need. Eric shared about the website: montana211.org that has a map and shows the different regions and 211 call centers across Montana.

Montana Community Reinvestment

Lori shared that the Department of Commerce is having a virtual town hall meeting on January 4th at 11:00 am as an opportunity for representatives from cities, towns, counties, and tribes to learn about the grant opportunity to provide planning and zoning reforms to increase Montana's housing supply per HB 819. A recording of the town hall meeting will be available on the website [here \[lnks.gd\]](#) under the "Trainings and Recordings" tab.

Mobile Units – transporting to and from inpatient treatment

Tom had discussed in a prior meeting about an idea to create a program where statewide mobile transportation units, for example three regional mobile units, could be used by a trained team of people (therapist, peer support, law officer, etc.) that could transport people to and from Montana State Hospital or other inpatient treatment facilities. By providing this service regionally, it would take the pressure off each county having to provide these services, when some counties don't have the financial means or the manpower to provide it. The team would also help ensure that the person has safe housing, meds, and is connected to other services when going back into the community. Jolene reported that the current Lewis and Clark Mobile Response Unit is not approved for transportability for several reasons, especially issue of safety for all. She also said that HB 872 is having conversations around Montana State Hospital transports, mostly by getting people evaluated quicker in community under a Near Term Initiative (NTI), which could help reduce the need to go to the Montana State Hospital (MSH). Tom explained that this would allow the person to not have to be transported in shackles by law enforcement but would be in a more patient-friendly situation. Brent asked what role the SAAs would play in this. Tom said it would divide the effort, and SAAs could have reporting authority to say whether they're working in providing the services needed, the same way we have oversight in everything we do.

Jeremy said there are issues when people are discharging back into their communities. There has been a changeover at MSH, and they are working on reestablishing something that will involve the communities more when someone is transporting to home. The way the law is now, the patient is under the care of law enforcement until they are handed off to MSH but that is something that could be changed. He thought it was a good idea. He suggested looking at where the heavier utilizers of the state hospital are, and looking at the

data, the western side now is the primary user of Montana State Hospital (MSH), so would the western side of the state be overburdened with this transportation piece? Particularly the way the Future Generations Committee is discussing regional behavioral health facilities, this might make more sense, and might ease some of the transportation concerns. Tom recommended we repair or restart the Admission and Discharge Review Team (ADART), which is something that is within quick reach. Jeremy said Jackie Evans just got promoted to a Clinical Manager role at MSH and she was involved with ADART back in its heyday when it was really going, and this is one of the tasks she wants to get going. Bob mentioned that not everyone is very easy to transport, and some people who are discharged don't want to go back to their community, that some of these discharges become very difficult. Bob said that more of the responsibility needs to go on the state hospital. Crystal shared about someone from her community who was released from the state hospital, he's been missing for two years, and no one knows where he is. His sister worries everyday about whether he is alive or not. Jeremy reported that sometimes people want to be discharged into homelessness, and from the legal aspect that is still their right.

Ongoing Business

MESAA Planning Meeting – Recommendations to HB 872

Brent shared that MESAA is coming together to discuss the needs in their rural area that need to be brought to the attention of the HB 872 commission. He said Jackie Jandt would like people to share their ideas with her.

Lori reported that some of the topics talked about were transportation for those needing to leave their counties to receive services, and who pays for it; jail diversion and moving out of jail, getting timely evaluations; primary prevention versus crisis care; building new brick and mortar versus funding the facilities that are already there; and stigma reduction.

Brent stated that in regard to the school programs that we had discussed, something they are looking at doing is having the Prevention Specialist be a part of the school programs to lead that, so the school staff aren't burdened with it.

Tom said it was a wonderful experience to attend this meeting because it gave him the opportunity to see what they are doing in the eastern region. He said they are working very diligently on prevention issues and doing prevention in the schools with these programs (Hope Squad, Youth Aware of Mental Health YAM, Character Strong, etc.) We could improve in this area to bring these services to our counties. Bob reported that in Jefferson County they are converting to the Survivors of Suicide (SOS) training instead of the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) because it's too difficult for the schools to implement.

There was a good discussion that started when Eric asked how other LAC representatives share back with their LACs all the information that is being presented in the CSAA meetings.

WSAA Update

Lori reported that the WSAA had their monthly board meeting this month, the first time since August. There were two new people who attended from the western region. They still need two to three more people to serve on the committee to oversee and review their contract, make suggestions and they need to add more active members. They haven't had a treasurer for some time now. Stacey Wheeler asked Brent if the state would allow her to resume the role of treasurer, she believes that Winds of Change would be willing to be their fiscal agent if she were the treasurer. Brent asked her to send him a letter requesting that, and he would talk to Jami Hansen about it. There was someone from Mineral County who said they are working to reestablish the LAC there; they have a treasurer already in place from the previous LAC group. She is going to contact MESAA about LAC funding through them. There were two people from Madison County who shared what they are doing in their LACs. Brent and Lori shared with WSAA that there is a lot of funding still available for their LACs to get their programs going and to get built back up and to please reach out to the CSAA and MESAA for help with that.

SAA Update

Lori shared that in November, BHDD introduced Lonni Starceovich who oversees Communities That Care (CTC) and the PAX Good Behavior Games in the schools; Aly Holly with the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery (SUPTRS) Block Grant Program; Amanda O'Dell who discussed the SUD Treatment Program; Dana Geary who oversees the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program.

For the December SAA Update, Jami Hansen said Brent Morris is the direct contact and is the SAA Liaison. Brent reported that the RFPs will be out in January and said the contracts are getting signed and out. Jami said that 3 of the current PATH programs in the state are coming up for their 7-year renewal and they want to add three more. PATH only receives \$300,000 with a \$100,000 match and will need to request more funding through the Mental Health Block Grant. Amber Rogers shared a PowerPoint with a proposal from Mountain Pacific to do social media for the SAAs. Jessica Gilbert will be hosting the next SAA on January 19th from 10:00-12:00.

Montana Alliance of Prevention (MAP) Update

Lori sent out the update for MAP.

UPDATES

BHDD

Brent had to leave before reporting on BHDD updates.

Board of Visitors

Jeremy reported that they have wrapped up traveling for the end of the year; the last site visit they did was at St. Patrick Providence Hospital in Missoula, which has an inpatient adult and adolescent unit and partial hospitalization. The next site visit will be at the end of February in Kalispel to visit Logan Health.

LAC UPDATES

Jefferson County

Bob said that they did the Screening Linked to Care with the Boulder Elementary, sixth and eighth graders and screened about 40 students; about 40% had issues, either depressive or major anxiety issues. About 12% had concerns with suicide, which he said was consistent with the numbers around the country. About 40% of the tested needed some attention. Their Health Department did most of the work and said it is a major task, but they feel it needs to be done and they're glad to do it. He shared that they are converting their schools to using the Survivors of Suicide (SOS) program for their prevention program in the county.

Lewis and Clark

Jolene shared that the Lewis and Clark County LAC has their three-year strategic planning session scheduled for February 6th at 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. They are renting the Intermountain Conference Center, and have a consultant, which is being paid for by part of the money they received from the CSAA, so she said thank you for that.

Ashley shared that she is working on doing parenting groups for those who need help with court papers, and other resources. She does a lot of that kind of work with her case management services. She is going back to college and working with Dr. Munn to start an evidence-based research program working with people who have schizophrenia.

Gallatin County

Eric reported that they are going to create an outreach event as a way to establish community connectors. They want to establish a website to be an information clearinghouse for the local services in Gallatin County.

Hill County

Crystal shared that next month they will be voting on a new Chair. Currently they meet on Zoom but have been talking about meeting in person. They are trying to get with Chippewa Cree Wellness Center out of Rocky Boy.

Many Rivers Whole Health

Bob reported that Many Rivers Whole Health is having discussions with Western Montana Mental Health Center (WMMHC) about partnering down the road but nothing to report on yet.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.

Next Board Meeting Friday, December 22nd 8:30 – 10:30 am

Table 1. List of Acronyms

211	Hotline for Crisis and Emergency Services Referrals
988	National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Hotline
ADART	Admission and Discharge Review Team
BHDD	Behavioral Health Behavioral Health and Disabilities Division
CSAA	Central Service Area Authority
HB 872	Behavioral Health System for Future Generations Committee
LAC	Local Advisory Council
MAP	Montana Alliance on Prevention
MCA	Montana Code Annotated
MESAA	Montana Eastern Service Area Authority
MSH	Montana State Hospital
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
PAX	PAX Good Behavior Games-School based program
QPR	Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Program
RFP	Request For Proposal
SAA	Service Area Authority
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SOS	Survivors of Suicide
SUPTRS	Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
WMMHC	Western Montana Mental Health Center
WSAA	Western Service Area Authority
YAM	Youth Aware of Mental Health

CSAA December Board Meeting

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/user171736338/csaa-december-2023?share=copy>