

MENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD OF VISITORS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
July 24, 2012

Members Present

Brodie Moll
Lin Olson
Patricia Harant
Connie Frank

Members Absent

Betty N. Cooper
Nancy Morton

Staff Present

Alicia Pichette-Executive Director, Craig Fitch-Attorney, LuWaana Johnson-Paralegal, Leigh Ann Holmes-Advocacy Specialist

The Annual meeting of the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Brodie Moll. A quorum of the Board was established. Vice-chair Moll opened the meeting with board member and staff introductions and a review of the agenda.

Election of Board Officers

Lin Olson offered a motion to nominate Brodie Moll for the office of Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Patricia Harant. Moll was elected by unanimous vote of members present. A motion was made by Chair Moll to nominate Lin Olson for the office of Vice Chair. Olson respectfully declined the nomination and offered a motion to nominate Patricia Harant for the office of Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Connie Frank and the motion carried unanimously by members present.

Chair Moll read a letter from former Chair Joan-Nell Macfadden thanking the Board and staff for the collaboration she experienced during her 10 years of service to the Board. Ms. Macfadden's contributions to the Board were noted and cheered. Macfadden retired from the Board on June 30, 2012.

Budget Review

Rose Harmon reviewed the budget for FY2013. Salary adjustments made in FY2011 created a deficit in the Personal Services area of the budget. Harmon noted that there is budget authority to cover the deficits. The increased rates for Personal Services will be reflected for the biennium (FY2014 and FY2015). Harmon reported that there is currently a mandate of 7% vacancy savings.

Leigh Ann Holmes reported on the costs of site review conducted by the Board of Visitors in FY2012. The Board conducted a total 8 site reviews; costs for the reviews varied based on distance travelled and team composition.

Site Review Schedule for 2013

Alicia Pichette offered a proposed site review schedule for FY2013 and discussed the rationale for conducting the suggested reviews. Chair Moll led the discussion of the proposed schedule and questioned whether it was necessary to return to the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) in Boulder during FY2013, after having completed a site review in 2010. It was also recommended that the Board complete a site review of the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center (MMHNCC) in Lewistown. After discussion by the Board and staff, Patricia Harant offered a motion to accept the proposed site review schedule, substituting the MMHNCC for a youth service provider on the schedule for June 2013. Connie Frank seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by vote of Board members present.

Department Reports

Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided legislative and agency work updates from DPHHS. Interim Legislative Committees will have bill draft requests filed by December 2012. Director Whiting-Sorrell reports that DPHHS has very few requests for legislation, and has instead focused efforts on completing tasks assigned from the 2011 session

Director Sorrell shared that the Medicaid caseload has stabilized, and additional resources have been directed to the Montana State Hospital for facility improvements that will increase patient and staff safety. Chair Moll asked Director Sorrell about the recent discussions regarding the closure of MDC in Boulder. She responded with an assurance that DPHHS considers MDC a necessary component in the service delivery system for individuals who have intellectual/developmental disabilities paired with mental illness diagnoses; the Department is committed to keeping those services available at MDC. She further discussed the improvement and progress being made MDC for system change. Director Sorrell discussed the need to eliminate “silos” in the service delivery system for individuals who have disabilities and provide a stronger continuum of services between communities and both facilities. A brief discussion about the impact of the oil industry on providing quality services in Eastern Montana followed. Alicia Pichette thanked Director Sorrell for her dedication and work at DPHHS and asked if she had any parting advice for the Board. Director Sorrell suggested that recommendations in Board site review reports be clear and priority focused

Cindy Jensen, Mental Health Clinical Program Officer, and Marcia Armstrong, Mental Health Medicaid Program Manager, provided the Board with an update from the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD). Jensen and Armstrong presented an overview of the various programs administered through AMDD including MHSP, HIFA waiver, SDMI waiver (RISE), 72-hour program, and PACT. Craig Fitch noted that FY2012 saw fewer court hearings and commitments to the Montana State Hospital (MSH) and shorter lengths of stay; most likely due to the addition of new community-based crisis programs. Armstrong reported on work being done by the Peer Support Task Force and announced a training offered by SAMHSA on Trauma Informed Care.

Bob Runkel, Division Administrator, Disability Services Division provided an update on the Developmental Disabilities Program and the Children’s Mental Health Bureau (CMHB). Runkel reported that CMHB has focused efforts in FY2012 to better align services. CMHB is reviewing services and designing a service system that is complimentary and connected. Specific projects designed to meet this goal include Wraparound Training for service providers and CSCT programs in the schools. The Bureau is looking at ways to expand CSCT programs to identify and serve more children. Runkel discussed a project that with the University of Montana to prepare graduate students more adequately to address the needs of children served in the schools. Runkel echoed the sentiments of Director Sorrell regarding treatment services at MDC. He indicated that he considers the systemic changes occurring at the facility to be dynamic and positive.

Mental Health Ombudsman Report

Brian Garrity, Program Officer, Mental Health Ombudsman Office, provided an overview of the Ombudsman role and updated the Board on the types of issues that have been reported in the past year.

Staff Reports

Leigh Ann Holmes provided the Board with an update on the work at MDC. Current projects/activities include providing input in the transition from the Personal Support Plan to a new treatment planning document called the Individual Treatment Plan; participating in treatment and transition planning meetings; and attending and participating in the Treatment Advisory Committee (formerly Human Rights Committee) meetings. She presented a report on the MDC Annual Inspection that occurred in June and included admission and discharge data for FY2012

Craig Fitch and LuWaana Johnson provided an update for the Board on the BOV staff activities at MSH. Admission increases were discussed as well as current theories as to the cause of the increased numbers.

Craig reported seeing an increase in admissions of individuals with dementia, substance abuse issues and developmental disabilities. He reported that there are fewer recommitments, fewer court hearings and shorter lengths of stay. Numbers of individuals reviewed by the Involuntary Medication Review Board have increased.

Board members indicated interest in visiting MSH. Several toured MDC on July 23, 2012 and found the visit helpful. Alicia Pichette will organize a visit in the future.

Other Business

Alicia Pichette proposed changes to the By-Laws to include language for email and telephone voting in Article IV, Section 5, and in Article IV, Section 8, to add language to clarify that letters of resignation must be sent to the Governor with a copy to the BOV as required in Statute. Connie Frank made a motion to accept the proposed changes to Article IV, Section 5; Lin Olson seconded the motion. The changes were adopted by unanimous vote of the members present. Lin Olson made a motion to accept the proposed changes to Article IV, Section 8; Patricia Harant seconded the motion. The changes were adopted by unanimous vote of the members present.

Pichette noted that it has been two years since the Standards for Site Reviews have been updated. She asked for a Board direction to staff regarding updating the Standards. Board discussion followed. Patricia Harant offered a motion to direct staff to review the Standards, research current evidence based practice, and recommend changes to the Board by December 31, 2012. The motion was seconded by Connie Frank and was carried unanimously by the members present.

Pichette presented the Strategic Plan for Board discussion. Discussion focused on whether it was necessary for the Board of Visitors to have a strategic plan when the activities are clearly defined in statute. Craig discussed the pros and cons of strategic planning. Alicia presented the option of having an annual work plan that is approved by the Board each year. Connie made a motion for the Board to adopt a Proposed Work Plan annually in lieu of a Strategic Plan. Patricia seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

At 3:00 p.m. Chair Moll called for public comment. With no public comment offered, Connie Frank moved to adjourn and Patricia seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.