

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors Annual Board Meeting Minutes August 9, 2011

Members Present:

Joan-Nell Macfadden–Chair
Brodie Moll – Vice Chair
Lin Olson

Members Absent:

Sandy Mihelish
Betty Cooper

Member Arriving Late:

Patricia Harant

Staff present:

Alicia Pichette, Interim Executive Director
Craig Fitch, Attorney

Leigh Ann Holmes, Advocacy Specialist
LuWaana Johnson, Paralegal

A quorum was not present when the meeting was called to order.

The Annual meeting of the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors was called to order by Board Chair Joan-Nell Macfadden at 8:45 a.m. Chair Macfadden reviewed the Agenda. Board elections; and, acceptance of the proposed FY 2012 site review schedule were postponed until a quorum was present.

Board Chair Macfadden recognized and credited Gene Haire for 15 years of excellent service to the Board. The Board congratulated him on his new assignment as Superintendent at the Montana Developmental Center at Boulder, Montana.

Carol Smith, Rose Harmon and Leigh Ann Holmes reviewed the FY2012 Board of Visitor’s budget. FY 2012 budget will see a slight reduction over the FY 2011 budget. Budget reductions of 3% have been requested for the biennium. Board discussion centered on possible cost saving considerations included consultants, travel, etc.; the ability of the Board to carry out the site review schedule for FY2012; and whether adjustments to those site reviews will be needed to meet the budget.

Craig Fitch, LuWaana Johnson and Alicia Pichette presented an update to the Board about the BOV staff activities that represent the interests of patients at the Montana State Hospital (MSH) and ongoing meetings with the MSH leadership regarding the implementation of the Board of Visitors 2010 Site Review recommendations. Craig and LuWaana presented information about the number of individuals who contacted BOV staff at MSH in FY2011.

A quorum was established.

Election of Board officers:

Brodie Moll nominated Joan-Nell Macfadden to be re-elected to the office of Board Chair. Lin Olson seconded the motion. Chair Macfadden was re-elected by a unanimous vote of members present.

Lin Olson nominated Sandy Mihelish to be elected to the office of Board Vice-Chair. Brodie Moll seconded the motion. Sandy Mihelish was elected by a unanimous vote of members present.

Site Review Schedule for 2012:

Alicia Pichette offered a proposed site review schedule for FY2012 and Chair Macfadden led a discussion about the number of reviews the Board could complete with the budget available. Brodie Moll offered a motion to accept the proposed schedule as offered, with detailed information about locations and Board Members who will participate in those reviews to follow as the sites are confirmed. The proposed schedule was adopted unanimously by a vote of Board members present.

Lou Thompson, Division Administrator, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) updated the Board on the impacts of legislation from the 2011 Legislative session and introduced Dr. Lee Simes, Medical Director for AMDD. Dr. Simes provided a brief overview his assignments as the Medical Director and the duties and responsibilities he will have on behalf of individuals served at the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center and the Montana Chemical Dependency Center. He will also be available to consult with physicians in rural hospitals and remote communities.

Bob Runkel, Division Administrator, Disabilities Services Division provided an update about the current status of the work taking place at the Montana Developmental Center to clarify the mission and purpose of the facility to better serve the individuals who are served there. He also briefly discussed the changes to the Administrative Rules that will be proposed this year to establish how services can be provided in the community using provider contracts.

Bonnie Adee, Bureau Chief for the Children's Mental Health Bureau provided an update on the current work being done at the Bureau. She focused on the Wraparound Initiative that was recently funded by grant funds provided through the Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust. A primary focus for 2011 will be to train Wraparound Facilitators across the state to implement a community based Wraparound program for services to families.

Leigh Ann Holmes and Alicia Pichette provided an update on the current status of the ongoing meetings between the BOV and the leadership at the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) regarding the implementation of the Board of Visitors 2010 Site Review recommendations. Leigh Ann provided information about her advocacy responsibilities at MDC on behalf of the individuals being served at that campus and also an update on the current census and status of placements into the community from MDC.

Jennifer Hensley, Mental Health Ombudsman and Brian Garrity Program Officer for the office of the Mental Health Ombudsman provided an update of the number of individuals served by that office and the type and scope of issues Montanan's are reporting to that office.

Craig Fitch and Chair Macfadden excused Alicia Pichette and lead a discussion to establish the process for recruiting and selecting a permanent Executive Director before the end of 2011.

At 2:45 p.m. Chairman Macfadden called for public comment.. No member of the public offered comment.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p. m.