

**Montana Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors “BOV”  
Minutes from the Annual Board Meeting  
Fairmont Hot Springs, July 30-31, 2015**

**Day 1, Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015:**

**Meeting opened and roll call:** BOV Chairman, Graydon “Brodie” Moll, opened the meeting. Board members present were Miriam Hertz, Dan Laughlin, Tracy Perez, Amy Tipton, and Brodie. BOV staff present were Janette Reget (Executive Director), Craig Fitch (Legal Counsel), LuWaana Johnson (Advocate), and Lisa Swanson (Advocate). Members of the public present were Patti Jacques from Helena and Janice Reichelt from Malta.

**Vacant BOV Position:** A former Board member resigned thus there is an opening for a new Board member. Anyone interested may inquire at the Governor’s office or call the BOV office in Helena.

**BOV Chairman Retiring:** Brodie announced his retirement from the BOV as of January 2016. Thank you Brodie for all your years of service!

**MOTIONS:** First Motion: Dan Laughlin nominated Tracy Perez, to replace Brodie, as Chairman in January 2016. Motion carried. Second Motion: Amy Tipton nominated Dan Laughlin for Vice Chairman to begin January 1, 2016. Motion carried. Third Motion: Brodie nominated Amy Tipton as Secretary. Motion carried and effective immediately. Congratulations Tracy, Amy and Dan!

**2015-‘16 Site Inspections:** The BOV discussed the Site Inspection Matrix.

**New BOV Helena Office:** BOV is searching for new office space.

**Dennis Nyland, Mental Health Ombudsman “MHO” Report:** Dennis brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Governor Bullock has reappointed Dennis for a 4 year term. The MHO duties involve networking with other mental health organizations and providers, responding to, and advocating on behalf of constituents and consumers in need of services. Inquiry types include access to services, complaints, legal and criminal justice, availability of services, treatment and medical care, social security, employment, financial, housing, discrimination rights and more.

**Patti Jacques:** Helena constituent requested more BOV oversight over recovery, groups, and foster homes. Ms. Jacques would like to see the BOV inspect the

Montana State Prison's mental health unit. She would also like the BOV to interview clients, both present and former of these places.

**Dr. Polly Peterson:** Dr. Peterson gave an impassioned talk on Trauma Informed Care issues in general as well as the key elements of the trauma informed approach and universal precautions.

**Tara Veazey, Governor's Office:** Spoke on Medicaid expansion and what that looks like in the field of mental health issues in Montana. Tara explained SB 405-- Medicaid Waivers and Montana's Third Party Administrator model, SB411 requiring closure of the Montana Developmental Center "MDC", and the Transition Advisory Committee's duties, part of SB411, to create a plan for transitioning MDC residents out of MDC by 2017.

**Rose Harmon, Governor's Office:** Rose presented the BOV's 2015-2016 Budget.

**Janice Reichert:** A constituent from Miles City expressed her concerns over issues a family member encountered while receiving mental health services in Montana and out of state. She stated that SB 316 and Section 46-16-312 MCA are not being properly utilized.

### **BOV Staff Reports:**

**-Janette Reget** reported on the most recent Site Inspection of the Montana Developmental Center "MDC" on June 18-19, 2015. She reported that the Board was impressed with the positive changes such as staff attitudes, commitment of staff to serving clients, consistency of staff in implementing policies and procedures, the use of hall monitors and how they are helping to maintain a safe environment, and effective trainings of Staff. "Overall a good report." **Miriam Hertz**, Board Member, was also on the recent site inspection of MDC and reported that MDC is doing very well and praised the Treatment Mall model used at MDC.

**-Janette Reget** presented the 2015-2016 Work Plan to the Board. The Board discussed facilities to be inspected this coming fiscal year.

**-Craig Fitch and LuWanna Johnson** gave a report on Montana State Hospital "MSH". MSH is overcrowded and under-staffed and has been this way for over a year. The BOV is responsible to act on behalf of all patients at MSH. The BOV reviews MSH's initial commitments, the Involuntary Medication Review Board process (including initial, 14 and 90 day reviews), Forensic Review Board

Hearings and Advocacy issues. Overall MSH is providing good treatment under difficult circumstances.

**-Lisa Swanson** gave a report on MDC, the BOV's mission, SB411 and its effects on MDC clients and staff, and the Governor's Memorandum concerning SB411.

**Day 2, Friday, July 31, 2015, 8:30 am.:**

**Brodie** called the meeting to order.

**Department of Public Health and Human Services Panel Discussion:**

**-Zoe Barnard**, DPHHS Bureau Chief, Children's Mental Health, spoke of grants received for children's mental health and co-occurring treatment including but not limited to a quarter million dollar grant from HB 2 over the biennium for suicide prevention for Native American Children, a 1.2 million dollar grant for youth crisis diversion programs, and a Georgetown University assessment of Montana children's mental health issues.

**-Tammy Ross**, DPHHS Superintendent of Montana Developmental Center, spoke about MDC and the effects of SB411. She spoke of changes implemented and the concerns of clients and staff. She stated that Dr. Michelle McCall is the new contracting physician, replacing Dr. Caldwell, with DPHHS. Dr. Jean Justad also continues to have a contract with DPHHS. Tammy spoke of the State's contract with Bench Mark, an independent corporation, and positive changes Bench Mark has made such as helping MDC implement Behavioral Support Plans for all ASU clients and which reward clients for positive behaviors. MDC is working on doing the same model for all the other clients living in the Units.

**-Noveline Martin**, DPHHS Developmental Disabilities Bureau Chief, spoke of the Transition Crisis Team and how they will work with the Transition Advisory Team to help place MDC clients in the community. She discussed supportive recovery centers in Montana such as drop-in-centers in Helena, Butte, Bozeman, Kalispell Livingston, Missoula, and Billings where adults may go for social interaction, support, and some services. For example, the drop in center in Missoula helps young pregnant women with employment issues, the center in Kalispell sponsors community events and social interactions, the center in Helena is peer run in the afternoons and evenings and has art therapy classes as well as many other activities such as pool, foos ball, shuffle board, and 12 step meetings. Butte's drop in Center has a health care aspect where people can receive nursing and psychiatric services. Ms. Martin also spoke of a Virtual Drop-In Center which receives calls from all over the nation and which is operated by live staff all over the State of Montana.

**-Rebecca DeCamera**, DPHHS Administrator, gave details on the Transition Planning Committee "TPC" charged which is to come up with a discharge plan for MDC residents by 2017. Ms. De Camera discussed the DDP reimbursement system and how complex it can be to navigate. She stated that Dan Villa is doing

an excellent job of chairing the TPC. She encouraged the public to attend the open TPC meetings which will now be held monthly in Boulder. The agenda for the next meeting will include: What creates a new waiver, a report by MDC, an update on changes Bench Mark has implemented at MDC, a discussion about dividing into subcommittees, and creating deadlines for TPC projects.

**Debbie Moore**, Director of Nursing, Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center “MMHNCC” in Lewistown, Montana, stated that the local residents still refer to it as, “the Center for the Aged.” The current census is 95, they are licensed for 100 beds, with staffing at 77-80. Ms. Moore stated there have been many improvements on the Neuro Cognitive Disorder Unit which houses residents with Alzheimers and Dementia. She remarked that 67% of admissions at MMHNCC come from the MT State Hospital. MMHNCC’s mission is discharge. The MMHNCC is now using Aroma Therapy essential oils with success. She put in a request for extra funding for diffusers and essential oils which was granted. Ms. Moore stated that negative behaviors have declined since using Aroma Therapy.

**July 31, 2015, afternoon tour of Montana State Hospital:** The BOV toured the forensic and other Units of MSH. The tour ended with a panel discussion of the MSH Resident’s Council Committee.