

# MENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD OF VISITORS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, 800 Casino Creek Drive, Lewistown, Montana

## Board Members Present

Brodie Moll  
Dan Laughlin  
Tracy Perez  
Jon Angel  
Miriam Hertz  
Amy Tipton

## Staff Present

Alicia Pichette – Executive Director  
Craig Fitch – Attorney  
LuWaana Johnson – Paralegal/Advocate

## Staff Absent

Lisa Swanson – Advocacy Specialist

## Introduction

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

## Election of Board Officers

Election of Officers was opened when Miriam Hertz offered a motion to nominate Brodie Moll for the office of Board chair. Dan Laughlin seconded the motion. Chair Moll was elected by unanimous vote of members present.

Dan Laughlin offered a motion to nominate Tracy Perez for the office Board Vice Chair. Miriam Hertz seconded the motion. Tracy Perez was elected by unanimous vote of the members present.

## Budget Review

Alicia Pichette presented and reviewed the fiscal year 2014 budget, Rose Harmon, Governor's Office, was unable to attend. The Board conducted six site inspections during FY 2014 and the costs involved were explained. No action was required of the Board.

## Site Inspection Schedule for FY 2015

Alicia Pichette presented a tentative site inspection schedule for FY2015. The Board discussion resulted in a decision to vote on a final schedule after the new Board members become more familiar with the Board requirements. Jon Angel offered a motion to vote on a schedule later in the meeting; Amy Tipton seconded the motion. Agreement was by unanimous vote of the members present.

## Department of Public Health and Human Services Reports

Drew Schoening, Director of Clinical Services, Montana State Hospital, presented an excellent overall report of services provided by MSH along with an explanation of the court commitments under which a citizen is committed to MSH. He also explained the various forensic court commitments and evaluations that are provided.

Ron Balas, Administrator of the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, presented a short talk on the Center's services and then folks in the meeting divided into two groups for a tour of the very nice facility.

Deb Matteucci, Chief, Mental Health Services Bureau, gave a brief presentation on the types of mental health services provided for all citizens in Montana. She also explained the important role Medicaid

plays in providing those services. The need is great and Medicaid funds are extremely limited. The Medicaid waiver program has been expanded to open 2000 slots for citizens and the Agency is going to asking the legislature to expand the slots to 4000.

**12:00 to 12:45 p.m. Lunch break.** A very nice lunch was provided by MMHNCC staff.

Rebecca de Camera, Administrator, Disability Services Division, gave a brief overview of services provided and explained that the Division is focusing on two important priorities for the next year:

1. To re-establish relations with community providers. The Bureau is trying to get away from “dictating from their Central Office”.
2. To make good use of all data collected to make “data-based” decisions.

Zoe Barnard, Bureau Chief, Children’s Health, explained that last year Children’s Health incurred a 2% decrease in budget. Even so, they are trying to increase Home Support Services in order to keep Montana youth in their own homes through behavioral coaching and access to 1915-I (“I Home”) federal money. Right now the services are available in Missoula, Helena, Great Falls, and Billings. One other concern Children’s Health has is trying to develop in-state services so they can reduce the number of children in out-of-state placements.

Noveline Martin, Bureau Chief, Developmental Disabilities Program, gave the Board an overview of the Developmental Disability program that serves people from birth to old age through the use of outside contractors. Medicaid has three waiver programs that serve DD clients:

1. Children’s Autism Waiver - serves 15 children up to age 8, it provides three years of in-home service for 20 hours/week.
2. Support for the Community Waiver - provides up to \$20,000/person (serves 55 children with 65 children on the waiting list).
3. The Big Waiver - serves 26 to 47 people and covers all expenses. The wait time for the Big Waiver is seven years.

Polly Peterson, Clinical Director, Montana Developmental Center, Boulder, gave a good overview of the services provided at MDC, focusing on the changes made in the last few years. MDC has 44 beds for clients.

### **Staff Reports**

Alicia Pichette provided an update on services provided to MDC by Lisa Swanson, BOV staff, who attends all the ITP planning meetings for MDC clients.

Craig Fitch provided the Board with an update of the BOV staff activities at Montana State Hospital. The BOV is responsible to act on behalf of all patients at the state hospital and participates in reviewing:

- Initial commitments
- Involuntary Medication Review Board (IMRB) process including: initial, 14-day, and 90-day reviews.
- Forensic Review Board Hearings (FRB), and
- Advocacy issues (grievances, investigations of allegations of abuse and neglect, treatment plan reviews, seclusion and restraint reports).

LuWaana Johnson reported on the MSH Grievance Committee process and procedure.

**Legislative Review**

Alicia Pichette explained the upcoming Legislative bills that will impact future mental health and developmental disability care.

**Additional Comment**

Brodie Moll announced that Alicia Pichette submitted a resignation letter effective August 22, 2014. She is retiring on that date and the Board wishes her well. Brodie will keep everyone informed about the hiring process during the search for a new executive director.

**Adjournment**

Miriam Hirtz offered the motion that the Annual Board Meeting for the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors be adjourned. Dan Laughlin seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.