

MENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD OF VISITORS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 14 and 15, 2016
Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, Montana

Board Members Present

Tracy Perez, Chair
Dan Laughlin, Vice Chair
Jim Hajny
Amy Tipton – participated by phone, Friday 1pm

Staff Present

Janette Reget, Executive Director
Lisa Swanson, Advocacy Specialist
Craig Fitch , Legal Counsel
LuWaana Johnson, Paralegal/Advocate

Visitors

Dennis Nyland, Mental Health Ombudsman
Kari Hoscheid, Teacher/AWARE

Day 1, July 14, 2016

Introduction

Chair Tracy Perez 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 Perez opened the meeting with Board member and staff introductions and a review of the agenda. Minutes from the 2015 Annual meeting were approved.

Election of Board Officers

Election of Officers was opened the following officers elected by quorum unanimous votes:
Dan Laughlin, Chair
Jim Hajny, Vice Chair
Amy Tipton, Secretary

Site Inspection Schedule for FY 2017

The BOV discussed which facilities should be inspected this fiscal year.

Staff Reports

Helena Office: Lisa Swanson reported that the Helena office received approximately 325 calls, emails, and visits from constituents, their families and members of the public during the 2016 fiscal year.

Montana Developmental Center: Lisa Swanson gave a brief overview of SB 411, the bill passed by the legislature in the 2015 session to close MDC. The Governor has appointed a fifteen-person Transition Advisory Council (TAC) to meet monthly to help with closure and transition issues. MDC's Treatment Advisory Committee meets monthly to review treatment plans, restraints, medications, and goals. MDC's current census is 34. Sixteen residents have been transitioned to the community. Data was presented on abuse and neglect, and restraints (physical and mechanical).

Montana State Hospital: Craig Fitch presented a history of Montana State Hospital (MSH) and talked about statistics and trends from 2007-2016 and explained conditional releases, community confinement, and pre-placements visits.

LuWaana Johnson explained her role as a patient advocate and presented information on the weekly grievance committee meetings. She distributed statistical data on grievances, abuse and neglect investigations, seclusion and restraint information, and treatment plan reviews conducted by staff.

Dennis Nyland, Mental Health Ombudsman: Explained that the mission of the Mental Health Ombudsman is to represent the interests of individuals needing public mental health services. He assists them by providing mental health information, problem solving, and contacts agencies or personnel on the individual's behalf. Dennis was recently appointed for a four-year term. His newly hired Mental Health Services Specialist, Christina Ward, works part-time.

Jim Hajny, Board Member: Presented ideas on where he would like to see BOV go in the future. This led to a lively discussion with Board members and staff participating.

Quorum language of BOV Bylaws: BOV Bylaws, Article 4, Section 6. Quorum: Four (4) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board. It was discussed, voted on, and passed to change Section 6: *Quorum: Four (4) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board unless there is one or more Board position vacant, in which case three (3) shall constitute a quorum.*

The Board proposed meeting four times a year: One annual meeting in person at fiscal year's end and three meetings by phone, skype, or on-line meeting.

Day 2, July 15, 2016

Department of Public Health and Human Services Reports

Rebecca DeCamara, Bureau Chief, DPHHS: Explained about the group homes developed to take care of MDC residents (Benchmark, AWARE, Quality Life Concepts in Great Falls, and Flathead Industries in Kalispell). Benchmark is a new provider consulting with MDC to help direct care staff integrate Developmental Disability and Mental Health components as well as helping MDC develop Behavioral Support Plans for clients with difficult behavioral issues. Benchmark is a strong advocate for community placement. Twelve state-run group homes licensed as Community-Based Group Homes will serve 48 individuals. Legislative approval is not required for the state to create and run group homes.

The Governor's Transition Committee voted and will make a recommendation to the Legislature to keep MDC's acute unit (ASU) open with twelve beds. Staffing at MDC is difficult due to pending closure.

MDC's transition costs are \$180,000-\$300,000 a year/client with the average cost per client being \$200,000 a year.

Noveline Martin, Bureau Chief, Children's Developmental Disability Program: The program serves 700 to 800 children a month. The Department staff is in the process of helping disabled adults sign up for the new ABLE saving account program called Achieve a Better Life Everyone. To qualify for ABLE, a person must have a documented disability before age 26. The Department will soon be drafting Administrative Rules for ABLE.

Julie Prigmore, DPHHS, Addictive and Mental Disorders Department: Explained the Community Care and Crisis Stabilization program. Ms. Prigmore's last day at DPHHS is August 5, 2016.

Carrie Lutkehus, DPHHS, Addictive and Mental Disorders Department: Explained the Community-Based Care program.

Zoe Barnard, DPHHS, Children's Mental Health Bureau, DPHHS: Explained the four Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF's) for children, youth suicide prevention, the youth Crisis Text Line for suicide prevention, and crisis diversion. She also explained about children's substance abuse and mental illness issues along with integrated co-occurring treatment.

Additional Comment

New Executive Director: Janette Reget's last day is Friday, July 15. The Board discussed whether to delay hiring a replacement, to appoint an interim director, or to take steps to advertise and hire someone as soon as possible. Craig Fitch will update the job description. Jim Hajny and Dan Laughlin volunteered to help review applications.

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.