

MENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD OF VISITORS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2019
Montana State Hospital

Board Members Present

Daniel Laughlin, Chairman
Melissa Ancell
Jeffrey Folsom
Sicily Morris

Board Member Absent

Amy Tipton

Staff Present

Craig Fitch – Attorney
LuWaana Johnson – Paralegal/Advocate

Visitors

Dennis Nyland, Mental Health Ombudsman
Julaine Beatty

Introduction

Chairman Daniel Laughlin 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. The minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved.

Election of Board Officers

The Board voted to re-elect Dan Laughlin as the Board Chair and Amy Tipton as the Board Secretary. Jeff Folsom was voted Vice Chair.

Budget Review

There was little discussion about the budget as the Board is working with a full budget for this fiscal year. The Board did revisit the topic of raising the consultant fees for consultants hired to participate in site inspections. The Board passed a resolution to create a tiered system for Board of Visitors (BOV) Consultants that participate in site inspections under 53-21-104 and 53-20-104. The Board will pay each professional, non-BOV staff or Board member, a professional consultant fee of \$500/day of work and \$500 dollars for the consultant's report after it has been delivered to the executive director of BOV. Each Board member who participates as a Board consultant will receive a per diem of \$100/day and \$100 for the report after it has been delivered to the executive director of BOV. For all other official administrative Board activities that require a substantial investment in time or labor, the Board members will receive a per diem of \$50/day.

Hiring Committee – New Executive Director

The Board passed a motion instructing BOV staff to move forward on the process of hiring an executive director. The motion set the advertisement date at November 1st at the latest, with an expectation that the position will be filled by mid-December.

Site Inspection Schedule for FY 2020

A tentative site inspection schedule was settled on and will be posted on the website asap.

Staff Reports

BOV staff provided a brief update of the past year's activities.

Mental Health Ombudsman Report

Dennis Nyland has recently been reappointed for four years as Montana's Mental Health Ombudsman. This year, 2019, marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Mental Health Ombudsman's office.

(Dennis discussed out-of-state placements for children needing services because Montana currently needs more children's residential treatment facilities. The budget for out-of-state children's services is running out of money.)

Department of Public Health and Human Services Reports

Zoe Barnard, Administrator of Addictive and Mental Disorders Division of DPHHS, joined the meeting by speaker phone. Zoe gave a brief overview of the current happenings at the following facilities:

- MMHNCC – Lewistown
- Montana State Hospital – Warm Springs
- Montana Chemical Dependency Center – Butte
- Central Bureau – Helena

Adjournment