

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**