

MSOTA Minutes

7/17/2015

Cascade, MT

- I) Brief Introductions:
 - a. Shawn's new Intern Tanya - art therapy and chemical dependency interests. Her original focus was re-entry and she has a \$20, 000 Art Therapy program form ideas from Prescott College, Arizona. See The Con Artist Club-Con. Wants to develop a program for all types of cons to use art as medium of expression. Asked for feedback. Her “grand plan” includes a mobile art therapy studio to serve rural ex-cons and assist with re-entry.

- II) Attendance : Chris Nordstrom ; Tracey Vaughn; Andrew Edgar; Fred Lemons; Anne Harris; Karen Bowman; Charmaine Nicholson; Tanya Richem ; Shawn Abbott ; Chris Quigley

- III) Reading of minutes
 - i. Deputy Secretary Chris Quigley read the Spring minutes and they were accepted as read Moved, Seconded, and Passed

- IV) Officer reports/Presentation by Rick Deady and P&P
 - a. President
 - i. Bob said that he’s adding a new agenda item from a county attorney about why prosecutors are losing their respect for us
 - b. Vice President No Report
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Checking Balance= \$9,000
 - ii. Savings balance=
 - d. Secretary
 - i. Web Page has been revised, our current web master is a friend of Anne’s Melissa Siltner of Missoula

- V) Committee Meetings/Reports
 - a. Ethics: No Report
 - b. Education/Public Affairs: No Report
 - c. Legislative: No Report
 - d. Membership: Andrew Edgar passed his oral interview during committee time and is the newest MSOTA member
 - i. Yvette Heintz is a new Associate Member working with Brenda.
 - e. Standards: No Report

- VI) Old Business
 - a. Nominations for Board officers will be made at the Fall 2015 Meeting
 - b. Ballots will be mailed out in November with Addressed Return envelopes. Office is for two years.
 - c. Alfred Plea clients in Treatment
 - i. Some plea to criminal endangerment and if so Chris Q uses only

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- ii. Phase I for treatment.
- iii. Failure to pass polygraph may maintain individual in group,
- iv. If denying the offense find another issue to focus the work on and move in the direction of breaking denial
- v. Should this be addressed specifically in the Standards of Treatment?

VII) New Business

- a. Some Risk Assessments done by our membership have included evaluators opinion of the evidence of the case posing arguments as to the guilt or innocence of the client. This includes some done as PSI, after conviction or plea agreements have been concluded by the court.
 - i. This is different than a suggestion for the “least restrictive supervision.”
 - ii. There have been notes from local prosecutors and the AG’s office that this effects the credibility of MSOTA evaluators in general.
 - iii. Specific evaluators were identified by the offices that complained and requested clarification that MSOTA as an organization enforce our Standards of Assessment and Evaluation to avoid commenting on guilt or innocence. There is an assumption that this excludes members called as witnesses during trial to offer professional opinions but acting in this role should ethically exclude a participant from acting during the Pre-Sentence phase of trial except as identified by our Standards.

VIII) Next meeting time and location: 11:00 AM, October 2, 2015 at Georgetown Lake, contact Chris Quigley for specifics.

IX) Adjournment: 3:30