

Service Area Authorities

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of an SAA is to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to assist in the management of public mental health care. An SAA's primary purpose is to ensure that consumers of public mental health care, their families, and other interested community stakeholders may actively collaborate with the State of Montana in defining, developing, managing, and monitoring the systems of public mental health care. The objective is to ensure that consumers' needs and preferences are at the center of the services provided.

The SAA is a consumer and family driven process based upon two principles:

- 1) Services and treatments must be consumer and family centered, geared to give individual consumers real and meaningful choices about treatment options and providers-not simply oriented to the requirements of bureaucracies. The SAA process is developed to give consumers and their families a much greater voice in managing the funding for their services, treatments, and supports. This design gives consumers a vested economic interest in using resources wisely to obtain and sustain recovery.
- 2) Care must focus on increasing individual consumers' ability to successfully cope with life's challenges, on facilitating recovery, meeting basic needs and on building resilience.

Overall, the SAA process will ensure a consumer-centered, recovery oriented mental health system in Montana that provides every individual consumer served in the public mental health system a greater voice in the system that serves them.

If you would like more information on the Service Area Authority process taking place in your area contact: Toll free: 1-888-866-0328

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