



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2014  
FISHER VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICES**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 10:10 AM and ADJOURNED at 1:11 PM ON JANUARY 16, 2014.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Billings:** Tarra Thomas and Senator Robyn Driscoll

**Bozeman:** Virjeana Brown

**Butte:** Don Berryman

**Dillon:** Bob DesJardins

**Great Falls:** Cherie Bowman-Lyons and Shawn Parker

**Helena:** Darwin Nelson, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Matt Kuntz, Jim Marks, Jeff Sturm, Diana Tavary and Nanette Whitman-Holmes

**Kalispell:** Charlene Lefthand-Irvine and Blake Reese

**Malta:** Janet Carlson, Connie Wethern and Isaiah Devereaux

**Missoula:** Jason Billehus and Marty Blair

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Kimme Evermann and Representative Clarena Brockie

**MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED:** Debra Ekblom and Marla Swanby

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**Helena:** Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**Kalispell:** Amanda Irvine-Louie

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**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

The **January** agenda consisted of the Approval of October 2013 minutes, Executive Director's Report, Review of Forum Report, Selection of issues for further research/CFI, Funding Overview, Agency Reports and Member News.

**Chair Don Berryman** convened the meeting with welcome and introductions were made by each site. New Members introduced were Senator Robyn Driscoll and Matt Kuntz. Welcome!

**Deborah Swingley** shared with members' pictures of former OPI representative Sara Casey and her family. She is in New York City and now has two children, Bannock and Ismael. The minutes for the October 2013 meeting were approved.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Deborah Swingley** gave the Executive Directors report which included handouts that were emailed to members prior to the meeting and a PowerPoint presentation, which was visible to members. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes. Members were asked where they would like to hold the retreat, topics were discussed on what they wanted and moving the retreat to September or October. Staff was instructed to get quotes from a few locations around the state for consideration and cost effectiveness. At the March 2014 meeting members will be given the financial overview in detail so Calls For Investment can be discussed for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 funding. Members were advised that Federal Fiscal Year 2013 funds were just fully expended this week which is why they did not receive a detailed financial report.

### **REVIEW OF FORUM REPORT:**

**Deborah Swingley** went over the trends that came out of the report. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**Deborah** also shared that the City of Helena has applied for a grant to address transportation. It would create a consumer council, transportation coalition, expansion of service and look at intelligent mobility management. Members will be updated on the status of the grant. She also mentioned to members that the Coordinated Transportation Handbook, which the council funded, has not been updated since 2006. Members may want to look at having another update done.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Jim Marks**, Vocational Rehabilitation had to leave prior to his report but shared with members received a Promise Grant for 2-3MM over 5 years. It is an academic study delivering a fixed set so they can show what does and does not work.

**Jeff Sturm**, Developmental Disabilities Program.

Jeff shared the department is working with Michael Schnull to write a new Mission Values and Vision Statement. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) are coming out with a new rule today for the definition of Community. Rule becomes effective in 60 days. It is currently on the CMS website. If members want a link or hard copy please contact the department. Jeff shared a PowerPoint presentation on Agency with Choice, 0208 Comprehensive Waiver and 1037 Supports for Community Working and living. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Jeff also shared that Accumen and the department are close to finishing negotiations on a rate change.

**Denise Higgins**, Title V, Maternal and Child Health will submit a written report to staff after the meeting which will be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**Marty Blair**, Rural Institute on Disabilities submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**Diana Tavary**, Disability Rights Montana (DRM) submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**MISC:**

**Jeannie Brown** submitted a draft waiver newsletter to the Council members and Developmental Disabilities Program staff, including Lindsay Carter the new waiver staff member, for revisions. Council members approved the distribution of the newsletter by email and other means. The newsletter will be done quarterly.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

**Jason Billehus, Missoula:** Attended a SABE meeting in Nashville TN. For the Marriage Penalty Project they need stories from people who have been affected or would lose benefits. They are going to give the stories to a person named Troy at the SABE Conference in October in Oklahoma City. They will also show the video Jason was involved in. another issue that SABE is continuing to work on is the closure of all institutions especially in Texas. People First in Missoula is selling things to make money and fundraising.

**Janet Carlson, Malta:** Just going to work and slipping on the ice but she hasn't fallen.

**Bob DesJardins, Dillon:** Wants case workers to be trained as advocates and wants more accessible state lands.

**Tarra Thomas, Billings:** Her work with P6 continues to grow and she is excited the program is being expanded. Emma is doing great and horse riding is starting up again. Emma just turned 9 years old.

**Jeannie Brown, Bozeman:** Getting on the Council and the grass roots training she received in October was great. She and Lena went to Washington DC in December and made the Rachel Maddow show while they were advocating for Social Security changes. Advocacy is very empowering; focus is not about Social Security but economic equality.

**Shawn Parker, Great Falls:** Wishes it would quit snowing. His area of the state has had a lot of snow this winter.

**Carley Lefthand-Irvine, Kalispell:** Her sister Amanda is having a baby.

**Blake Reese, Kalispell:** Going to college has its ups and downs. He is taking 2 classes a semester, Physical geography and math.

**Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Helena:** shared that her son Brian is a senior and they are dealing with the SAT's and ACT's.

**Jacob Harrison, Helena:** Meeting was good and it is a nice brief of what others are sharing and a break from work. He wants a Sonic restaurant to come into Helena because he likes the food.

**MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Diana Tavary/Jason Billehus** second – Approve October 2013 minutes.  
**UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED**