



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2013  
MCDD CONFERENCE CENTER  
2712 BILLINGS AVE  
Helena MT 50601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 4:30 PM on  
JUNE 12, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Berryman, Jason Billehus Martin Blair, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Virjeana Brown, Erin Butts, Janet Carlson, Bob DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Debra Ekblom, Kimme Evermann, Jacob Harrison, Matt Kuntz, Jim Marks, Darwin Nelson, Shawn Parker, Diana Tavary, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Sen. Robin Driscoll, Denise Higgins and Charlene Lefthand-Irvine

**STAFF PRESENT:** Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

**GUESTS:** Cal Berryman and Kirsten Wethern

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**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

The **June** agenda consisted of approval of March Minutes, Executive Directors Report, Planning Outline/Overview, Small Group Discussion/Reporting, Member News and Agency Reports

Chair **Don Berryman** called the meeting to order. A card was passed around for the husband of Kim Evermann who was in a motorcycle accident recently. Don also distributed the annual Executive Directors Evaluation form, to be completed by members and returned or mailed directly to Don. Staff supplied Don with stamped return envelopes with his address to assist Council members wishing to complete the evaluation after the meeting.

Don requested approval of the March 2014 minutes. **Bob DesJardins** requested the minutes to be changed to reflect that at the March meeting he called for a vote on State Lands and no vote was called. Not all members or staff remembers him doing so. Policy 2.9 was read by Deborah at the Chairs' request. A member must ask for an agenda item then it goes to the governance committee and then can be voted on. Bob requested that an agenda item be placed on the next meeting regarding State Lands.

Introduction of new member **Cherie Bowman-Lyons** and all other members introduced themselves. Welcome!

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Deborah Swingley.** The ED report included handouts and a PowerPoint presentation. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes. A few highlights include Inclusive Transit Planning Round 2, Dual Diagnosis Task Force, Financials and the evening event at the Last Chance Ranch. Dual Diagnosis discussion about crisis centers and what details a crisis depending upon the system, i.e. Mental Health or Intellectual/Developmental Disability

**Matt Kuntz** shared that agencies are actually talking to each other now and no one knew, including the state, that they were using the crisis center. There are crisis centers in Glasgow, Helena, Billings (2), Missoula and Great Falls. Only Glasgow and Helena have an actual place. There are over 700 on the waiting list. The waiver is working and if you are in waiver services don't lose them. Crisis drives the system and has for over 30 years.

### **OUTCOME BASED FUNDING:**

**Deborah Swingley** passed out folders with handouts. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Members broke into 3 teams for discussion/reporting to understand, drill down the focus for new CFI's (Calls For Investment). What changes in a persons' life by what we do here?

- **Group 1:**
  - Employer Award - Benefits of having employees with disabilities
  - Higher Ed level curriculum
  - Continue Dual Diagnosis Task Force
- **Group 2:**
  - Remove Barriers - Life Checklist
  - Info dissemination Schools/Flyers/WIC
  - Florida Dental Modules
- **Group 3:**
  - Housing - Specifically what does it take to maintain your apt.
  - Health Care - nutrition classes
  - Dental - brush correctly
  - Calendar of events by Region
  - User Friendly Guide to Montana's System of CBS
  - Drivers Ed
  - Overwhelmed by the Social Security System
  - Sometimes providers aren't your best friend
  - Continuity through Regions
  - What and When Checklist
  - Single point of access

### **AGENCY REPORTS/MEMBER NEWS:**

**Office on Aging, Kimme Evermann**

Kimme did not have anything to report.

**Disability Rights Montana, Diana Tavary**

Diana submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities (New Name), Marty Blair**

Marty submitted a written report after the meeting which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**Jacob Harrison:** Special Olympics was great. His Dad passed away which is why he missed the last meeting. Seeing all new people which is great. He is looking forward to having more freedom and what his dad taught him. He is trying to work on the system running more hours so more people have access. He appreciated the cards from the Council. His work was nice about his personal tragedy.

**Debra Ekblom:** She has spent the last couple of years doing Rudy stuff. He has had difficult mental and physical health issues and problems with his van. Rudy keeps her busy and broke.

**Shawn Parker:** Had a niece born 3 weeks ago who is in the hospital her name is Galiana Dream.

**Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts**

Erin submitted the following after the meeting:

The 2014 Montana Behavior Summer Institute had nearly 1,000 people registered for the conference prior to online registration being closed one week prior to the conference. We were in the process of applying for two federal grants. The first is a SAMHSA grant. Our proposal included working with three school districts: Browning, Butte and Kalispell. The second grant our office was applying for is a state US Department of Education School Climate grant. This grant is focused on state education agencies and will be housed through the OPI. We anticipate knowing if our applications are accepted by the end of September 2014. Carroll College, Montana is hosting a My Life camp for high school youth with disabilities the week of July 21<sup>st</sup> in Helena. Erin has been part of the OPI's development of a suicide and crisis protocol demonstration project which will be taking place for the next 12 months on the Fort Peck Reservation, Glendive area and Bitterroot Valley. The first site visit for this trip took place the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This project includes contracting with Dr. Kurt Michael from North Carolina. Dr. Michael works at Appalachian State University. In late May, our office hosted the first professional gathering we referred to as the Community of Practice for professionals, educators and administrators working in high tiered systems. This CoP took place in Bozeman May 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. For this CoP we

used the Leading by Convening framework, the framework encouraged through the IDEA Partnership. At our CoP we had representation of professionals (primarily educators) from the following facilities:

- Montana State Prison
- Shodair Children's Hospital
- Yellowstone Academy - Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch
- Montana's youth detention facilities: Cascade County, Flathead County, Missoula County, Troy, Billings
- Reintegrating Youth Offenders
- Acadia Montana
- Intermountain Children's Home
- Turtle Bay Day Treatment Facility
- Pine Hills and Riverside Correction Facilities

**Darwin Nelson:** has new teeth and is still getting used to them. Having some difficulty speaking and eating.

**Janet Carlson:** Is spending 2 days a week at arts and saving money for a new TV set, hers is broken.

**Connie Wethern:** Life is changing; she has a new job as the Region I manager for Developmental Disabilities Program. Milk River broke ground for the new addition. They have gotten grants for the nutrition classes once it is up and running. She has a new foster child. She got him on Good Friday; he is 7 years old with ADHD and Autism and is a challenge.

**Isaiah Devereaux:** He is working on a derby car which he is not driving. He went to South Dakota and went in a cave. He did not think he would make it out, but he did. The cabin they stayed in was awesome.

**Jason Billehus:** People First had a competition selling raffle tickets for pizza's and he won a pizza. SABE meeting in Washington DC he skipped. The hotel had cockroaches and was in an unsafe area. SABE is going to do Webinars for winter meetings and travel in the summer. He is still at Summit and working with young people and YODA. He is job shadowing, doing games and video nights. They can earn YODA bucks to earn privileges.

**Nanette Whitman-Holmes:** She graduated a child from high school. Byron, who has autism, earned a 3.0 GPA. He got his learner permit and she is working on getting him a job. He will start college in the winter. They need to choose the right school with the right supports. She passed around a copy of his graduation announcement.

**Jeannie Brown:** She is busy after the primary election. She is running for Representative in the State Legislature in HD 67. She is very interested in a Representative in Congress from New York who is working on a caregiver credit bill. A person who leaves the workforce to care for a family member would get credit for 5 years towards social security. She was in Great Falls

for a family learning weekend for the visually impaired. Kids got to hang out with their peers. She has been very busy. **Deborah** shared past members have taken contribution in the past and donation envelopes for Jeannie were put on a table if anyone was interested.

**Bob DesJardins:** His son is now in a group home and it is going better than he thought it would.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation, Jim Marks**

**Jim** shared a newspaper article that a server at DPHHS got hacked. Everyone who is affected will receive a letter. They have an 800 number and website set up. Over 1 million letters are being sent out. There is no evidence that anything was taken but they are being cautious. VR's program is in order of selection. The most significant needs come first. They have 72 persons on a waiting list until they can get more resources at which time they will open it back up. They are now rationing. The extended employment program which is career long has 55% are persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities. A computer tracking system is totally state funded. Previously it was to keep providers in business now consumers will be able to choose who and what they want.

**Cherie Bowman-Lyons:** Her baby graduated from college in December, is gainfully employed and has moved back to Great Falls. She was sorry she missed the last meeting and wishes she had been here. The enthusiasm and passion by all the members is great. Happy Father's Day to all! Her family is on their way to a rafting trip on the Blackfoot River. Her son, who lives in Helena, is an industrial engineer and will be joining them.

**Tarra Thomas:** Life is full and busy. The Parent Partner Project is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and has had some expansion in other areas in the state. Butte will have 2 Parent Partners. Great Falls will have 1 at Benefis Hospital. Year 3 will be expanding to Missoula and Billings wants to double the number of hours. They have received lots of positive feedback. Since it is a pilot project it has been a learning curve. They are looking at ways to evaluate for funding streams and how it is working. Personal: Emma is a PATH certified equestrian. Special Olympics was great they ran into Jake. He gave Emma words of encouragement at the games. He got down to her level, which is great since he is so tall.

**Don Berryman:** Nothing is going on in Butte. Coach is busy with 4-H and is mentoring his younger brother on showing a steer.

### **WRAP-UP:**

The next meeting will be in Whitefish on October 2-3, 2014 and will be a retreat meeting.

### **MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Bob DesJardins/ Virjeana Brown second - Adopt March 2014 Minutes with changes.**  
**UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**