



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
March 13, 2014
Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities
Conference Center
2712 Billings Avenue
Helena MT 50601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:35 AM and ADJOURNED at 2:30 PM on
March 13, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Jason Billehus Martin Blair, Virjeana Brown, Erin Butts, Janet Carlson, Robert DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Senator Robyn Driscoll, Kimme Evermann, Denise Higgins, Matt Kuntz, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Jim Marks, Darwin Nelson, Shawn Parker, Diana Tavary, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Jacob Harrison and Blake Reese

MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED: Debra Ekblom

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Cal Berryman, Amanda Irvine-Louie & two aides, Chantel Brown and Lena Brown

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **March** agenda consisted of the Executive Directors Report, Employment Spotlight, Westmont Flower & Trading Post, Funding Overview FFY2014, Presentation: Accessibility and State Lands, Agency Reports and Member News with Optional CPR Training.

Chair Don Berryman called the meeting to order with approval of the January 2014 minutes. Don distributed a card for the members to sign, for Jacob Harrison and his family. His father is very ill. **UPDATE:** His father did pass away.

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.

PRESENTATION:

Robin Ferrell, Westmont Flower & Trading Post

Robin was a flower wholesaler and one of his clients was Westmont who he now works for. They have created a new vocational business. They have 20 persons in the program and work with 7-8 people on a daily basis. One client who is 6'6" and 350 lbs. has never fit in and now he has become a great floral designer. He is also able to drive and is approved to be the delivery driver for St. Peters Hospital and other places. They have a Capital High student with special needs working for them and want to expand to include 2 students by next fall. The flower shop had 75 Christmas trees, 250 wreaths and 250 poinsettias' for the holidays. They are totally booked for weddings for the summer. You can order online by going to www.westmont.org. They have done wedding shows, art walk and other venues. Jeff Sturm gave them a large amount of pheasant tails to use in designs. The Trading Post is trying to expand to sell 'Made In Montana' wares along with Westmont Salsa and pottery made by the clients. They have been open for 17 months and are now breaking even. Clients are paid lower than minimum wage which is determined by the amount of time it takes to complete a task. Time studies are done every 6 months for all the task functions.

FUNDING OVERVIEW:

Deborah went over Draft funding concepts/In-house work and FFY 2014 financial overview. Members discussed several options and directed staff to bring additional information to the next meeting. Members discussed accessibility in the sense of what challenges and barriers exist to community inclusion. Members volunteered to serve on a workgroup and report out at the next meeting. Those volunteering are Kimme Evermann, Carley Lefthand-Irvine, Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Connie Wethern, Isaiah Devereaux, Diana Tavary and Jeff Sturm. Deborah will be coordinating bringing the group together in the following weeks.

PRESENTATION:

Accessibility and State Lands, Dan Dobler, Trust Land Management

Dan shared the trust lands' goal is to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenue for the trust beneficiaries while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. Federal Trust lands were established in 1889 into 16 & 36 sections. A section is 1 square mile. The federal government granted states the right to manage. One thing they have to know is how much land it takes for animals to forage. The Bakken field has increased the state coffers. Many state lands are leased to businesses, oil and gas leases or any subterranean commodities. There are multiple education opportunities for any recreational activities on state lands. Licenses are either \$5.00 or \$10.00 depending upon the area which allows general recreation use on state lands. A disabled permit to hunt from a vehicle must have a doctors'

evaluation, this does not allow off road use. It can be used to hunt from any road which is not blocked by a barrier or gate. A person must have an orange placard on their vehicle. Inaccessibility is an issue for some areas due to the rules and regulations, if it is surrounded by private land and current laws. Fish, Wildlife and Parks game wardens are the enforcement agents. Dan provided handouts on: Montana's Noxious Weeds, Guide to Recreational Use of Montana's State Trust Lands and Montana Access Guide to State and Federal Lands.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Developmental Disabilities Program, Jeff Sturm

Jeff shared that each Regional Manager across the state are holding Town Hall meetings on the service delivery system which will be done by the end of April. The new waiver is self-directed living and working in the community. There are 20-30 new persons in services. One person just put in services was on the wait list for 18 years. Currently there are still 700-800 on the wait list. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) new 'Community Setting Rule' is a current discussion. What settings are appropriate for a person in the waiver? People living in homes have to have; a lease, access to food and applies to day and work centers not just residential. A large part of the plan is public comment which is currently very broad. They department will draft a document which will be broad and then they will submit an amendment which will have to be very detailed. Every amendment MUST have public comment. The department has been working on new Vision, Mission and Values statements They are also looking at adult autism pilot: what are best practices. The area is unknown and other states are not sure either. The EPP process is starting with state agencies and there is not a clear direction at this point. Bozeman has a new Employment pilot project.

Jeff also announced his retirement as of May 30, 2014. The Council chair Don presented Jeff with an award on behalf of the Council for all his years of service.

Vocational Rehabilitation, Jim Marks

Jim shared that Voc Rehab is having a town hall meeting also via Met Net on March 28th for VR and Independent Living Plans. Resources go to the most critical significant needs. They are closing priority 3 category. Category 2 is significant and category 1 is most significant. For the first time they will have a waiting list. Director Opper calls it rationing. For persons with an intellectual disability it should not have much impact. It is the counselors' decision on which priority a person is in. They have guidelines and functional limitations. Category 3 is zero or 1 functional limitation, 2 is 2 or more and 1 is 3 or more limitations. There are 2 major concerns: order of selection and counselors stop spending. North Dakota turned back \$7MM to the feds. They are not closing category 3, they are just not accepting new persons effective March 17, 2014. They will be turning on and off the categories so they are encouraging persons to still apply. Mike Hermanson provides career long supports with the Extended Employment Program. They contract with Rocky Mountain Rehab in Billings. The reforms promote integrated employment.

The program starts July 1st. Traumatic Brain Injury and mental Health after adulthood is why the program was started.

Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts

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

Maternal & Child Health, Denise Higgins

Denise submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Clarification on her report for Grant item #4= \$800,000 for 4 years.

Rural Institute on Disabilities, Marty Blair

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

Office on Aging, Kimme Evermann

Kimme did not have a report.

Disability Rights Montana, Diana Tavary

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

MEMBER NEWS:

Tarra Thomas: Project with P6 is still growing and developing. They are looking to expand. There are more families to serve than they have time. It has been good to see the families they started with and the fruit of their labors coming to fruition. Emma is back with horses and is doing well.

Don Berryman: Son -Cal is doing 4H, coaching, cooking, showed his steer & pig. Swimming, coaching on Tuesdays & Thursdays for Special Olympic State Games which are in Billings in May.

Jim Marks: added to his report. The Aspire grant, of which Montana is part of a 6 state consortium. It is SSI income and transition. Utah has the lead. They are recruiting for a main Montana person. Diana Tavary is on parents' intervention work group. Deliver a set of interventions control group 50/50 will get interventions and the other half won't. In the U.S 2 urban areas have high incidents of kids with SSI - Phoenix AZ and Missoula MT.

Bob DesJardins: He is advocating for access to public & state lands and is going to other agencies to get their support. He wants to speak for the Council if possible then plans on going to the legislature.

Note: The Council would need a vote to either endorse this endeavor or decline participation. If endorsed, the Governance Committee would be charged to develop a position statement for full Council consideration

Carley Lefthand-Irvine: She got a new van on Monday and is working towards getting a drivers instructor so she can learn how to drive.

Isaiah Devereaux: He got his license and had encouraging words for Carley.

Jason Billehus: At the National SABE conference in October he will be running one more time for the board. He may have one more meeting this summer. At Summit he is still helping out young persons for peer to peer job interviews, how to dress and manners. YODA, Youth group and teaching People First language to the youth.

Jeannie Brown: Has filed for House District 67 as a Democrat in Belgrade.

Janet Carlson: Is going to start walking to lose weight and plant flowers trying not to kill them.

Connie Wethern: Milk River got \$175,000 Murdoch Grant for their capital expansion. It will become a community Kitchen and they are hoping to do a training kitchen. Her husband Dennis broke his hip in 3 places at work.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes: Bryon is filling out job applications for a summer job. She scanned the application closer and under 'why are you applying for this job' he wrote because my mom made me. Under skills: None worth mentioning. The entire application was snarky all the way down. Typical teenager.

Senator Robyn Driscoll: She is thrilled to death to not have to have filed for office this year. She will be helping candidates and is doing the St. Patrick's Day parade this weekend. Her grandson who is 7, rocks her world.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Jason Billehus/Connie Wethern second -: Adopt January 2014 Minutes.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**