



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 2 - 3, 2014  
GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE  
2 FAIRWAY DRIVE  
WHITEFISH, MONTANA**

**COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING CONVENED AT 8:40 AM and  
ADJOURNED at 11:45 AM on OCTOBER 2, 2014**

**RETREAT CONVENED AT 1:15 PM AND ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM  
ON OCTOBER 2, 2014**

**RETREAT RE-CONVENED AT 8:30 AM AND ADJOURNED AT 12:45  
PM ON OCTOBER 3, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Berryman, Jason Billehus Martin Blair, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Virjeana Brown, Erin Butts, Janet Carlson, Rebecca deCamara, Isaiah Devereaux, Sen. Robin Driscoll, Kimme Evermann, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Darwin Nelson, Shawn Parker, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Bob DesJardins, Debra Ekblom, Matt Kuntz, Jim Marks, and Diana Tavary,

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

**GUESTS:** Amanda Irvine-Louie, Cindy Powell, Elizabeth Andrews, Dr. Jean Justad and Chad Sinanian

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**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

The **October** business agenda consisted of approval of June Minutes, State Lands Question/Vote, Executive Directors Report, Calls for Investment/Funding Opportunities and a presentation by Chad Sinanian, Self-Advocate from Danbury, CT. The **RETREAT** agenda consisted of Trainings by Elizabeth Andrews on Issue Advocacy and Education and by Cindy Powell on ADA Training.

**Chair Don Berryman** called the meeting to order.

**Rebecca deCamara** introduced herself as a new member on the Council. Rebecca represents Title XIX (or 19) on the Council. Welcome Rebecca! All other members introduced themselves.

## **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 Grant Round 2, Dual Diagnosis Task Force, FY15 Legislative Session, Financials and the FY2015 Master Calendar.

## **2015 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Members received handouts. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The funding proposals were:

- State Wide Employer Awards
- Educator's Award
- Continue Dual Diagnosis Task Force
- User Friendly Guide to MT's Community Disability Service System
- Things I Should Know
- Dental
- Postural Care USA
- Guardianship
- Support Jason Billehus to attend SABE meetings

**Dr. Jean Justad** spoke about Postural Care USA. She told members that most people on average adjust their posture or position 30 times a minute. She spoke about 3 cases of persons who need postural care and looking at prevention instead of treating the medical issues related to rotation and organ displacement due to poor posture. Some persons have died due to distortion of organs. Dr. Justad wants to convince everyone to prevent these issues, which only takes training and inexpensive items to reposition a person to prevent distortion. **Tarra Thomas** spoke about her personal experience with the training and how Emma has now been evaluated and is in the program. If funds are pooled from other sources it is possible to train the trainers across the state. The website for members to look at is: [www.posturalcareusa.org](http://www.posturalcareusa.org).

Members voted for their top 3 funding opportunities on paper which were tabulated at lunch by **Don Berryman, Tarra Thomas and Deborah Swingley.**

The members chose:

- Postural Care USA - Call For Investment
- Dual Diagnosis - In-House
- Guardianship - Network Collaboration

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Chad Sinanian, Self-Advocate from Danbury Connecticut**

Chad is an advocate for persons with disabilities and stressed anyone can be an advocate. Self-Advocates want access to supports and services and to live independently. He works for Ability Beyond Disability which is a non-profit provider corporation in Connecticut. . The importance of advocacy is to make yourself heard. The main advice he can give to others is to educate yourself and be part of the team. He is on several state and regional boards and has spoken at many conferences both local and nationally.

**ISSUE ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION:**

**Elizabeth Andrews, EA Community Engagement Services**

Members received handouts which are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**ADA TRAINING:**

**Cindy Powell, Camel Community Living Center, Denver Colorado**

Members received handouts which are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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**Carley Lefthand Irvine** introduced Council members to her niece **Cheyenne Lightly** who was born on July 9<sup>th</sup>.  
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**MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Jason Billehus/ Cherie Bowman-Lyons** second - Adopt June 2014 Minutes.  
**UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**
  
2. **Nanette Whitman-Holmes/Jacob Harrison** second - State Lands does the Council want to take on this as a Council initiative, Yes or No vote.  
**YES - 1 NO - 18 - MOTION FAILED**