

Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities
Policy #8.6
Adopted June 19, 2008

**MONTANA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Members of the public are invited to address The Council in accordance with the guidelines below. This policy applies only to those members of the public that have not been formally invited by the Council as guest speakers.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage public comment in a fair, consistent, and informative manner.

Background:

The Council recognizes the importance of remaining open to the receipt of public comment on issues of concern to the Council. Comments from the public very often prove invaluable as the Council deliberates upon specific matters and general issues which come before it in the course of business. On the other hand, in certain circumstances, uncontrolled or ill-timed public comment has the potential to interfere with the conduct of the Council's business. As a result, it is necessary for the Council to establish a consistent method for receiving public comment which provides for adequate access by the public and does not give rise to uncontrollable circumstances of public comment.

Policy:

Oral Comments - The Council will provide approximately 10 minutes total for public comment at or near the end of the final day of the first and third Council meetings of the fiscal year. Each individual speaker will be afforded a maximum of two minutes to speak.

Written Comments - Written communications to The Council are always welcome and can be mailed to the Council Offices at PO Box 526, Helena, Montana 59624.