

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2012
FISHER VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICES**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 10:10 AM and ADJOURNED at 12:10 PM on January 12, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Billings: Tarra Thomas

Butte: Don Berryman

Great Falls: Melissa Clark and Shawn Parker

Helena: Debra Ekblom, Kimme Evermann, Darwin Nelson, Rudy Shiner, Diana Tavary and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

Missoula: Jason Billehus, Rep. Tim Furey and Senator Carol Williams

Malta: Janet Carlson, Isaiah Devereaux and Connie Wethern

Miles City: Sylvia Danforth

Baker: Barb Olind

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Keough Duffy, Roger Holt, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Jeff Sturm, Barb Varnum, Timm Vogelsberg, Jan Wenaas and Brenda Walters

STAFF PRESENT:

Helena: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS PRESENT:

Great Falls: Sister Johnelle Howanach

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **January** agenda consisted of the Approval of October minutes, Executive Director's Report, Ascend Strategies review of Goal Activities, Committee Reports, Agency Reports, Workgroup Reports and Member News.

Chair Connie Wethern convened the meeting with welcome and introductions were made by each site.

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.

Deborah also shared with members that **Darwin Nelson** is also on the SELN committee and will also be attending the Self Advocate Summit in Seattle in May along with Jason Billehus. Members were also advised that the Council has switched to **Employers Preferred Insurance Company**, which will save the Council almost 50% in workman's compensation insurance. **Deborah** shared with members that **Brandy Long** who was the Office of Public Instruction Representative left her job and is no longer on the Council.

ASCEND STRATEGIES/BRET ROMNEY:

Members reviewed the Goal Detail Reports. Corrections were emailed just before the meeting and not all members got them. Attached to the minutes are the corrected reports in order.

COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP REPORTS:

The minutes of the Governance Committee and Public Policy Committee reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The minutes of the Dental and Aging workgroups are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Kimme Evermann, Older Americans Act submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Diana Tavary, Disability Rights Montana (DRM) shared a report would be forthcoming from DRM. Diana did share that a new Special Education Director for the Office of Public Instruction has been chosen, Frank Podgnik.

MEMBER NEWS:

Sylvia Danforth shared the DEAP also got a Mental Health Trust grant for Autism and is working with Eastern Montana providers. They also applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from Autism Speaks.

Tarra Thomas went through the training and was certified to be a Support Broker. The State of Montana Developmental Disabilities Program has been very supportive.

Jason Billehus, Missoula: Jason is moving into a new apartment next week and for the first time will not have a roommate. He and Dee will be going to Las Vegas for the next SABE meeting in February.

Rep. Tim Furey, Missoula: reminded members that the campaign season is coming up and he encouraged everyone to meet the candidates and talk to them about the rates.

Melissa Clark, Great Falls: shared that she is part of a National Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and will soon be going to Arlington Virginia. She also shared the correct spelling for Sister Lynn Mousel.

Barb Olind, Baker: Shared that they put in a snow fence this year and now don't have any snow. She also warned everyone to be careful in Eastern Montana because of the Sidney school teacher who went missing.

Rudy Shiner, Helena: shared that he is going to be an Uncle again.

Deb Ekblom, Boulder: shared she is going to be a Grandmother again.

Darwin Nelson, Helena: shared the People First of Helena are no longer holding their meetings at Disability Rights Montana offices but at Plymouth church on Tamarack Street. He also is now on the SELN board.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Helena: shared that she and Diana Tavary are giving Autism Training to Middle School teachers.

MISC:

Deborah Swingley shared with members that the first report for the Montana Mental Health Trust Grant will be submitted soon. The trainings are being set up for April and September. She also shared with members how Council offices are receiving more information and referral cases. She is currently assisting a Utah family whose son with a disability is in Deer Lodge.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Jason Billehus/Janet Carlson** second – Approve October 2011 minutes.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED