

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
October 13 - 14, 2011
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
3170 N SANDERS
HELENA MT 59602

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 4:30 PM on October 13, 2011.
COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:25 AM and ADJOURNED at 12:00 PM on October 14, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Jason Billehus Janet Carlson, Melissa Clark, Sylvia Danforth, Isaiah Devereaux, Keough Duffy, Rep. Tim Furey, Brandi Long, Darwin Nelson, Shawn Parker, Tarra Thomas, Timm Vogelsberg, Jan Wenaas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Roger Holt, Barbara Olind, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Rudy Shiner, Diana Tavery, Brenda Walters, Anna Whiting-Sorrell and Sen. Carol Williams

LIASON MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Sturm

LIASON MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kimme Evermann and Barb Varnum

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Jeannie Brown, Ali Wibbeler, Kathy Zeeck and Sister Johnelle Howanach

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **October** agenda consisted of Executive Directors Evaluation presented to members, Executive Director's Report, Agency Reports, Member News and Workshop with Bret Romney of Ascend Strategies.

Chair **Connie Wethern** called the meeting to order with welcome and introductions. Welcome to new member **Tarra Thomas**. Tarra is a parent of a 7 year old daughter. New member **Brandi Long**, OPI was introduced later in the meeting. Brandi is replacing Sara Casey. Members also welcomed visitor **Jeannie Brown** who is a potential member who came to observe the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Deborah Swingley gave the Executive Directors report which included handouts and a PowerPoint presentation. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes. A few highlights include: Congressional Appropriation updates, Financials for Federal Fiscal Year End 2011, Council committees, Workgroups, Q Communications, 2012 – 2016 Plan of Action, 2010 Census information on the number of people in the State of Montana who identify with a disability, Annual signing of Conflict of Interest, Member Values and Expectations by members and signing of Support Persons Code of Conduct.

WORKGROUPS:

Don Berryman presented the Aging Issues report and recommendation which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Darwin Nelson presented the Dental Care report and recommendation which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes presented the Awareness of Council report, with **Isaiah Devereaux** as her backup, and recommendation which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Jan Wenaas presented the Self-directed Services report and recommendation which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Shawn Parker presented the Direct Care report and recommendation which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Members discussed issues that have been raised about the effectiveness of the CDS training, including ways to bypass the actual training module and going directly to the test option. Per the direction of the Direct Care Workgroup, Deborah solicited comments from providers on their likes and dislikes on the CDS, with 15 providers responding. The comments were itemized in a report and shared with DDP and providers were not identified in the report. Jeff Sturm shared history and background on the CDS with members. Members were invited to go online and do the training through CDS. A list of members wanting to take the training was prepared at the meeting and Jeff will have Bill Heinecke, CDS Administrator authorize access for these members.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Timm Vogelsberg, Rural Institute on Disabilities has submitted his retirement application. Timm submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Brandi Long, Office of Public Instruction did not have a report but would submit a written report after the meeting to be included with the minutes.

Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Kathy Zeec was introduced to the membership. She is the Self Directed Services Coordinator for DDP. Her contact information is kzeeck@mt.gov and phone is 406-444-5482.

MEMBER NEWS:

Janet Carlson shared the Malta People First chapter is no longer meeting. They are working to become a Kiwanis Aktion Club with Glasgow and Malta combined. Connie Wethern will be the advisor but must become a member of Kiwanis.

Jan Wenaas is going from 6 to 11 grand children. Teaches Holy Yoga, is now on the board for Choteau Activities and is also now retired.

Jason Billehus shared SABE talking about continued funding, marriage penalty, minimum wage rather than sub minimum and out of sheltered workshops. Dee is going to Phoenix with Jason as his support person.

Isaiah Devereaux enjoyed traveling to the meeting in his Mom's new van which has a DVD player!

Darwin Nelson, worked at the two People First garage sales and shared they made \$100 at each of them.

Tarra Thomas's daughter Emma is 6 going on 7 and started Kindergarten this fall. Tarra shared they are in the learning process and it is an exciting time right now.

Don Berryman says nothing new going on in Butte. His son Coach Cal did well in his 4H activities and continues as the manager for the high school soccer team and travels with the team.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes shared she survived another IEP meeting and that her older son is completing his Eagle Scout designation. His scout project has been preservation of headstones at the historic Marysville Cemetery.

Rep. Tim Furey told members ORI serves 400 persons every day, has approximately 350 staff members and experienced significant losses of \$600K in work contracts. ORI has a successful disk cleaning service which continues to increase. Tim updated the Council on the ORI farm which organically raises 10 steers for sale; 6 have been sold thus far with 4 left. The farm ventured into raising turkeys this year having 150 Heritage heirloom turkeys for sale which will range from \$4 to \$6 dollars a pound.

Due to the spring floods the farm lost its pumpkin crop so there will be no pumpkin patch this fall. ORI is developing a new product, the manufacturing and selling of green house kits. ORI's goal is to develop 10 full time jobs through the green houses. On a personal note, Tim and his wife Sue went to China for their 30th anniversary. Congratulations Tim and Sue! Tim and Sue are expecting the birth of their first grandchild this fall.

Melissa Clark told members Sister Lynn Meikle has joined their household. Sister Meikle is a child psychiatrist. Another new member of the family is their new kitten from the Humane Society. Melissa shared they have been communicating with Jennifer Bose, Research Data Coordinator, with the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts in Boston on employment related issues. She turned in pennies worth \$204.20 to Great Falls Humane Society.

Brandi Long is enjoying her new job at the Office of Public Instruction and is learning about how to find things in Helena.

Deborah Swingley was presented with an award to celebrate and acknowledge her 25 years of service to the Council. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a catered lunch with cake from the Park Avenue Bakery.

ASCEND STRATEGIES – BRET ROMNEY

Bret Romney worked with members and workgroups on the Council's identified goals, and all reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Representative Tim Furey reported on the 2011 Legislative session. He served on the Agricultural Committee which spent a lot of time on the wolf issues and the Business and Labor Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee. On the HHS 30% of the time was spent on health insurance and the PALPACA which is the National health care plan. The remainder was spent on Medical Marijuana. Tim shared this last session left him shattered many days because of the cuts that were made; cuts not just in funding but also in the ability to provide services. The majority party was in favor of 6% in cuts. A negotiated compromise of 2% reduction was made but many agencies are experiencing around 2.5 – 3% in cuts. Provider rates went back to 2008 levels. Tim sponsored a bill to give direct care staff a dollar an hour raise which was unsuccessful.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services received almost \$200 million from the Federal Government America's Recovery Plan. The Legislature decided what to do with these funds. Unfortunately only about half stayed with DPHHS to keep the current services level and the rest of the funds went to highways, schools & libraries. \$28 million of these funds were left over and went into the state's bank account, the general fund.

Tim shared this challenge; if we don't like how the funds are being distributed we have to become a part of the process. Discussions are already starting on the 2013 session with the Executive Planning process beginning in early 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sister Johnelle Howanach FAE Syndromes are not differentiated in any programs and she feels that any work in these Syndromes are setting up for failure. This component must be part of any program.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Don Berryman/Jan Wenaas** second –: Adopt June 2011 Minutes.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED
2. **Don Berryman/Isaiah Devereaux** second – Adjourn meeting.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED