

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2013
FISHER VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICES**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 10:00 AM and ADJOURNED at 12:15 PM on March 7, 2013.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Billings: Tarra Thomas

Butte: Don Berryman

Glasgow: Connie Wethern and Isaiah Devereaux

Great Falls: Melissa Clark and Shawn Parker

Helena: Darwin Nelson, Jeff Sturm, Marla Swanby, Diana Tavary and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

Missoula: Jason Billehus

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Keough Duffy, Janet Carlson, Sylvia Danforth, Debra Ekblom, Kimme Evermann, Bob Norbie, Barb Olind, Jan Wenaas and Rudy Shiner

STAFF PRESENT:

Helena: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS PRESENT:

Great Falls: Sister Johnelle Howanach

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **March** agenda consisted of the Approval of January 2013 minutes, Executive Director's Report, Funding Overview, Agency Reports and Member News.

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

The minutes for the January 2013 meeting were approved.

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. The membership was updated on the Governor's office timeline for appointments they are stressing attendance at meetings. The members were also given the financials for the 30% administration/planning funds. The financials are for the actual 49% of award received not for what we are waiting to receive. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

FUNDING PROPOSALS:

Dual Diagnosis Task Force proposal was approved by members.

ADA/Sign Language Training proposal was approved by members.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Marla Swanby, Office of Public Instruction did not have anything to report.

Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program did not have a written report. The federal budget cut \$400,000 from Developmental Disabilities, most of the cut is to Title 20 and Part C. Unknown about Medicaid cuts. The Department planned for the cuts ahead of time. LIEAP took a \$3,000,000 cut. They are working on changes to the waivers which must be submitted by the end of March. The Community Supports waiver is ending. Self-Directed is the new waiver. The change will be seamless for the transition. People will have more choices on the new waiver. It is quiet for the Department in the Legislature so far. They are watching HB12 which has a 2% provider rate increase. The Great Falls Tribune had an article on Autism and the outcomes have been great. SB254 will have executive action taken on March 15th. The department will be very busy when Legislature ends and they have to implement all the new laws/changes.

Some changes are:

- No wait list expansion. Approximately 400 children & 700 adults are on wait list.
- Placement funds to move persons out of MDC. Each person has approximately \$120,000 average cost plan.
- Children's Mental Health had 5 wrap around positions cut.

Diana Tavary, Disability Rights Montana (DRM) did not have a written report. A staff member of DRM, Jillian, sends a weekly legislative update in which anyone can sign up to receive.

MEMBER NEWS:

Jason Billehus, Missoula: Is going to travel by himself to the SABE meetings because Dee taught him how to get around the airports. He will be in Helena on Friday for a rally at the capitol by People First and Summit. He quit his job at Best Western and is now a Peer Advocate at Summit Independent Living Center.

Tarra Thomas is busy with lots of opportunities to be an advocate. Emma will be in Iowa next month at Camp Curry. She has joined another council in a parent advisory role. She has also been asked to mentor other families and is trying to figure out if she has time.

Don Berryman, Butte: Cal is practicing his swimming for Special Olympics.

Melissa Clark, Great Falls: shared that she and Sister Johnelle have been keeping in touch with Wendy Olind at Farm in the Dell in Great Falls. They are also keeping in touch with Barb Olind.

Connie Wethern, Glasgow: shared that her son Mark is back from Afghanistan. He is in Texas and hopefully will be home soon.

Darwin Nelson, Helena: shared that he was elected President of the Helena Aktion Club. Darwin also testified before the Legislative committees on HB123 which. Representative Tom Jacobson, D-Great Falls, left the committee hearing to shake Darwin's hand and thanked him for his testimony. Darwin also shared that he was going to be on the panel for the Awareness Event "A Night at the Movies" being held in the DPPHHS Auditorium.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Helena: shared that Ethan her youngest son will be participating in the State Geography bee, and son Byron made Honor Roll.

MISC:

Deborah Swingley shared that she met with the new DPHHS Director Richard Opper. Director Opper was open to bringing back the Title Representatives located in the Department to the Council as Governor Appointees. Deborah shared the Council's Position Statement on the MDC closure bill (SB254) was distributed to Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee members for use in their deliberations. Committee member Sen. Greg Jergeson is proposing an amendment to the bill which is similar to the Council Position Statement. Stay tuned for updates as the bill moves through the legislative process.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Diana Tavary/Jason Billehus** second – Approve January 2013 minutes.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED
2. **Don Berryman/Jason Billehus** second – Approve the Dual Diagnosis Proposal.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED
3. **Diana Tavary/ Darwin Nelson** second – Approve the ADA/Sign Language Training.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED
4. **Isaiah Devereaux/Jason Billehus** second – Adjourn meeting.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED