



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2016
MCDD CONFERENCE CENTER
2712 BILLINGS AVE
Helena MT 50601**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:15 AM and ADJOURNED at 2:30PM on JANUARY 14, 2016.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Erin Butts, Rebecca deCamara, Bob DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Sen. Robin Driscoll Kimme Evermann, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Blake Reese, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Martin Blair, Virjeana Brown, Janet Carlson, Jim Marks, Heather Juvan, Trenton Butler and Rep. Edie McClafferty.

MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED: Debra Ekblom and Matt Kuntz

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Dennis Nyland, Christina Ward, Amanda Dupuis and Coral Sherman

COUNCIL AGENDA

The **January** agenda consisted of approval of June 2015 Minutes, Review Ground Rules, Passing of the Gavel, Executive Directors Report, State Plan Workgroup Update, Committee Breakouts and Reports, Agency Reports and Member News.

Chair **Don Berryman** called the meeting to order, and requested approval of the June 2015 minutes.

Chair **Don Berryman** and **Deborah Swingley** reviewed the Ground Rules for Meetings. Another Council in our Region has adopted the rules. If members have suggestions to add or the list can be adjusted at any time.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL:

Outgoing Chair Don Berryman thanked the members for the opportunity to serve. He thinks everyone should give it a try in the future. **Incoming Chair Tarra Thomas** thanked everyone for the opportunity and looks forward to the next 2 years. Don was presented with a leather briefcase as a token of appreciation for his tenure.

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 Round 3, Program Performance Report (PPR), Time to sign annual documents for members, MDC Transition Team, Disability Awareness Month March, Financials, Plan of Action FFY2017-2021, and Work Plan for 5-Year Plan, Financials and FY2016 Budget approval.

Changes were requested for the Master Calendar for FY2016. The March meeting was moved to March 3, 2016 and the June meeting was moved to June 9, 2016. An updated Meeting Calendar is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Members were made aware of a small balloon that Carley had in front of her. If she has something to say she will pick up the balloon and wave it.

5-YEAR PLAN WORKGROUP UPDATE

Chair Tarra Thomas reported the workgroup met by conference call and reviewed an overview of Council projects, both in-house and by contract. The Council's support of the Posture 24/7 project will form a great deal of the plan and resources. Tarra shared targeted focus groups will be held in Glasgow, Billings, Great Falls and Missoula before February 1. The workgroup will meet prior to the March meeting to review the data received and prepare recommendations for Council consideration at the March meeting.

COMMITTEE BREAKOUTS

The members of the Governance and Public Policy committees split between the Conference Center and Council Office. The members elected a Chair & Vice-Chair for the committee, how often they want to meet, when and where. They also prioritized items for discussion.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - Members elected as **Chair Cherie Bowman-Lyons** and **Vice Chair Jacob Harrison**. The committee decided to meet the Wednesday before regularly scheduled Council meetings. The committee directed staff to look at anything specifically that needs to be addressed and best practices of other councils in the country.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE - Members elected as **Chair Nanette Whitman-Holmes** and **Vice Chair Charlene Lefthand- Irvine**, The committee decided to meet the Wednesday before regularly scheduled Council meetings at 2:30pm. The committee discussed a number of potential position statement they could look at. They are also looking at phone meetings and emails.

AGENCY REPORTS/MEMBER NEWS

Maternal & Child Health, Denise Higgins

Denise submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. She also handed out cards about Genetic Testing. The program has funds available in the amount of \$200,000 which is on a first come first served basis.

Office on Aging, Kimme Evermann

Kimme did not submit a written report. She reminded members that the one stop number for the entire state is toll free 800-551-3191. Depending upon where you live it will ring into the local number. They have been working on a lifespan respite program for a long time and a Veterans continuum respite also. Aging Horizons is now on ABC on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. She asked anyone to call her with ideas for the show. Members mentioned maybe showcase Posture 24-7.

Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts

Erin submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. She asked staff to email her report to members which has some links to sites they expressed interest in.

Title XIX, Developmental Disabilities Program, Rebecca deCamara

Rebecca did not submit a written report. She has been working out of Montana Development Center almost full time for the last year, due to SB411. She is now back in Helena. The department has a contract with AWARE, Inc. for moving 21 persons out of MDC to Butte. They are working closely with them because it will not be an easy process. There will be one dedicated Case Manager for all of the clients moving out. It will not go through the usual channels but they will keep it small and tight. The existing waiver and reimbursement system needs a significant overhaul. Dual Diagnosis is an issue and they are looking at the 8208 Wavier to see if the reimbursement system can be changed to help with serving this group. There is a new provider in the state, Benchmark from Indiana. They are submitting a proposal very soon to serve the remainder of MDC clients that are eligible. They have a strong crisis emphasis, a good track record and they have experience with closing institutions and serving the people in the community. They are doing an expansion of Autism services. They requested \$12,000,000 and \$4,000,000 was allocated, it is now an entitlement. The challenge is how do they make the math work? Children's Mental Health suicide prevention and co-occurring disorders has not been addressed. There is a difficult transition between adult and children in the mental health system.

Dennis Nyland, Office of the Governor, Mental Health Ombudsman

Dennis submitted a written report and a brochure that describes what he does and information for members. Dennis also introduced **Christina Ward** who is

a Mental Health Services Specialist. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vocational Rehabilitation, Jim Marks

Jim was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report after the meeting which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

MEMBER NEWS

Bob DesJardins – he has filed an appeal for the provider for his son. He has been on call 24/7. He did not approve the protocol nor the last PSP. He is trying to straighten things out with the provider and how they interact with Zack. It has been a long slow process.

Jacob Harrison – Weather and other things are good. He had a friend from Helena Industries who recently passed away. Nathan Nichols was very sick during Christmas. He was a very good friend to him. He will be getting community employment soon. He stated that a big requirement for employment is that he remains on the Council. He is the mascot at the ice arena for the Big Horns hockey team. Trains are still running on wheels.

Carley Lefthand-Irvine – she shared her boyfriend was cooking spaghetti tonight and she likes spaghetti. Her sister Amanda shared that her daughter Coral just graduated from the Montana Youth Challenge. Coral received an award and scholarship. She just signed up for the Montana National Guard. She also thanked the Council for the information she has received, because for the first time in her adult life she now has full medical coverage.

Connie Wethern – Kirsten is a senior in high school now. She is going to Chicago next month and then to Poland for a world group and to meet the Pope.

Blake Reese – His mother and him are slowly getting through things since his father passed away.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes – Life is busy, her youngest skipped a year and will be graduating this spring. Other sons are gainfully employed, Byron is working at Super 1 Foods.

Cherie Bowman-Lyons – is devastated that she didn't win the lottery.

Kimme Evermann – her husband got a bad frost bite. He had a seizure and fell in the alley behind their house. He laid outside for a few hours. He will not lose any fingers but is losing lots of skin.

Erin Butts – is enjoying the snow. It is lots of fun.

Rebecca deCamara - is doing lots of skiing and enjoying the snow.

Don Berryman - Things are great in Butte. Coach is getting ready coaching for Special Olympics. His son, Riley, got his cow elk during hunting season and was very excited.

Deborah Swingley - It has been a rough few months and everyday gets better. She thanked the members for all the cards and emails which meant a lot to them.

Tarra Thomas - Emma's activities slow way down during the winter. Work side of life is very busy because everyone seems to meet during January and February. She was happy the roads were good for this meeting.

Isaiah Devereaux - had a good Christmas and got a new Stetson hat from his sister and her husband. He left it at home so it wouldn't get ruined. His nephew made him a gift out of spark plugs in welding class.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Don Berryman/ Isaiah Devereaux second - Approve June 2015 Minutes.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**
2. **Cherie Bowman-Lyons/Connie Wethern second - Approve FY 2016 Budget.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**
3. **Don Berryman/ Bob DesJardins second - Change meeting dates for Master Calendar to March 3, 2016 and June 9, 2016.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**
4. **Don Berryman/Isaiah Devereaux second - Adjourn meeting.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**