



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2016
MCDD CONFERENCE CENTER
2712 BILLINGS AVE
Helena MT 50601**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 1:10PM and ADJOURNED at 4:15PM on JUNE 9, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Martin Blair, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Virjeana Brown, Trenton Butler, Janet Carlson, Rebecca deCamara, Bob DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Sen. Robyn Driscoll, Kimme Evermann, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Heather Juvan, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Blake Reese, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Erin Butts, Debra Ekblom, Matt Kuntz and Rep. Edie McClafferty and Jim Marks

LIASON MEMBER PRESENT: Dennis Nyland

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Amanda Dupuis, Kevin Jones, Christina Ward

COUNCIL AGENDA

The **June** agenda consisted of a Work Session by Ed Holen, Executive Director of the Washington Council on Developmental Disabilities, Executive Directors Report, Posture 24/7 Update, Agency Reports and Member News.

The morning consisted of a Work Session on Governance By Policy: Renewing our Commitment from 8:30 am until 11:20am. Copies of handouts and PowerPoint presentation are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

At 11:20 am **Rebecca deCamara, Developmental Disabilities Program** provided members with an update to the transition and closure of MDC. The biggest issue is providers were not able or willing to take persons ready to leave MDC. All providers, especially the Great Falls area, are unable to recruit staff. Benchmark is starting in July in Helena and Clancy, staffing is an issue for them also. All the homes across the state have been visited by the state. On December 31, 2016 admissions will cease at MDC. The courts are uncomfortable with this because there will no longer be a clear place for civil and court commitments. DPHHS is now talking about doing state run group

homes because there is a need for a provider of last resort. All providers can refuse to take individuals. Assessment & Stabilization Unit (ASU) will still stay open with a maximum of 12 beds. The final component is to offer training to first responders on how to deal with the specialized population. They need to address the needs of dually diagnosed persons. The transition committee approved the states proposal and they are now moving on to implementation. Senator Driscoll complimented Rebecca on her help to the committee and Deborah echoes the sentiment. Progress was made in the very short timeline that was given under SB411.

Chair Tarra Thomas called the meeting to order at 1:10PM.

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, Disability Awareness Film Festival, MDC Transition Team, Employability Conference, August Council Retreat, 5-Year Plan Update and Financials

Deborah showed an online video from Let's Think Again.org.

Office on Aging, Kimme Evermann did her report early due to other commitments.

Kimme submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

POSTURE 24-7:

Tamara Kittleson-Aldred, showed members the news clip from her April training in Helena. Members received handouts which are attached to and made a part of these minutes. There was a discussion about no applications received from Region 2 and what they did to market the program.

AGENCY REPORTS/MEMBER NEWS

Rebecca deCamara, Title 19, Developmental Disabilities Program

Rebecca submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Marty Blair, Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities,

Marty submitted a written report after the meeting which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Dennis Nyland, Mental Health Ombudsman

Dennis submitted a written report after the meeting which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Members approved the meeting minutes for March 2016.

MISC:

Montana Department of Transportation is saying that the bus shelters cannot have advertising in them due to visual issues. It is still an outstanding issued with them and we are following up.

MEMBER NEWS

Isaiah Devereaux – wanted to drive on the way to the meeting and did from Glasgow to Saco. He took his girlfriend, Shandell, to a demolition derby and she can really scream.

Jacob Harrison – got chosen along with his friend Stuart, to run the torch for the Special Olympic games and got to light the big torch. His sister Sarah is on bed rest with her pregnancy but is doing well. He has a new job as a janitor at GymTrix 3 days a week and is playing golf.

Bob DesJardins – update on new management in his area, laid out his concerns and has been told to patient.

Carley Lefthand-Irvine – her voice is not working. She had prepared a presentation on parking and accessibility and her voice died. She will do her presentation at the next meeting. Jacob is going to Polson to visit for the weekend

Trenton Butler – coffee sales are slow and he wasn't able to bring ay because he ran out. He will bring coffee for everyone in August. He met Deborah years ago and did a video on what his life was all about. He was in emerging leaders for 2 years.

Heather Juvan – is not working right now because she can't drive for 6 months. She had a phot show at Counterpoint the middle of May. She passed around a photograph that she is donating to the Council.

Connie Wethern – life is good

Janet Carlson – goes to work, goes home and enjoys life.

Jeannie Brown –is busy working part time as an organizer for community change. Doing a forum in Bozeman that teaches people how to tell their story so they can talk to Legislators. It is easier to talk to legislators prior to the session.

Cherie Bowman-Lyons – thanks to the Missoula community for putting on wonderful Special Olympic Games. Matthew got a gold, silver & bronze and got to listen to the chicken dance.

Dennis Nyland- is excited about summer, still working on grass for his yard.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes - Sold and bought a new house, graduated a child from high school and moved parents to Helena. Byron, who works at Super 1 foods got a bonus of \$100 for perfect attendance for 1 year at his job.

Rebecca deCamara - just been working but did get her tomatoes planted.

Robyn Driscoll - has been knocking on doors in 90 degree weather.

Tarra Thomas - life is always busy, went to Washington DC and learned lots of great things. We completed the Request for Proposal and it was accepted and we got 2 years of funding. Increase hour's permanent level and expand to another practice. She is going to nieces' graduation and spending time with her mother.

Deborah Swingley - been working on the Hill of the Damned in her yard for 12 years, planted lots of poppies and they have all bloomed.

Dee Burrell - bought a new car.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

- 1. Robyn Driscoll/Isaiah Devereaux second - Approve March 2016 minutes.
UNANIMOUS APPROVED