



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
March 5, 2015
Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities
Conference Center
2712 Billings Avenue
Helena MT 50601**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 5:00 PM on March 5, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Martin Blair, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Virjeana Brown, Erin Butts, Janet Carlson, Rebecca de Camara, Robert DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Kimme Evermann, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Jim Marks, Shawn Parker, Blake Reese, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Senator Robyn Driscoll and Matt Kuntz

MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED: Debra Ekblom

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Cal Berryman, Amanda Dupuis & Sammi Irvine, Tamara Alred-Kittleson, Rick Kittleson, Debbie Churchill & John Rehbien

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **March** agenda consisted of the Executive Directors Report, Funding Overview FFY2015, and Presentations: Postural Care and Estate Planning, Agency Reports and Member News

Chair Don Berryman called the meeting to order with approval of the December 2014 minutes. Don distributed a card for the members to sign for Senator Driscoll whose mother passed away.

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. Highlights are; Legislative Update, (MDC) Montana Developmental Center Position Statement, Inclusive Transit Planning Grant, Media NY Times Op-Ed, Plan of Action FFY 2016-2021, Calls for Investment, Housekeeping, Financials, 25th Anniversary of the ADA, Election of Officers FFY16. Additional handout: Community Based Q&A which has been attached to and made a part of these

minutes. Deborah asked for volunteers to work on the 2017-2021 5-year Plan-of-Action. Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Don Berryman, Tarra Thomas, Isaiah Devereaux, Blake Reese and Connie Wethern agreed to serve.

Governance Committee Report:

Isaiah Devereaux, Chair shared the committee met on March 4, 2015. They discussed the upcoming election and terms detailed in Policy number 3.2. If a member is interested in running for chair or vice-chair, Isaiah has the forms and will give them to you. If you are nominating someone other than yourself you must have their permission. Return the nomination forms to Council offices by May 11, 2015. The Governance Committee will review all nominations. If a member cannot attend the meeting to vote they may request an absentee ballot. Election will be held at the June meeting and new officers will take office starting with the first meeting of the new Fiscal Year.

PRESENTATION:

Postural Care – Tamara Alred-Kittleson

Tamara gave an overview of postural care and showed members case studies with photos before and after Postural Care was used. She also had some copies of body distortions with x-rays. Postural Care was developed in the United Kingdom and received her training in Postural Care in England. She is the only person in the United States who can do the measurements. It is a billable service to Medicaid and insurance. In other countries they think surgery is the last resort and in the USA it is considered the first resort. Postural Care is non-invasive and gentle. The Mansfield Checklist has 5 questions and if the answer to any of the questions is “yes” then exploration of postural care should be undertaken. (A copy of the checklist is attached to and made a part of these minutes). Postural Care method of positioning a person can stop & reverse postures that cause pain, distortion of the body and early death due to distortion. The training that Tamara does is 2 full days and includes: Identification of need, Pain & Consent, Understanding Postures, Understanding 24 hour therapeutic positioning, Achieving Thermal Comfort and A Person Centered Approach. **Deborah, Dee and Tarra** took the training. **Tarras’ daughter Emma**, was evaluated and measured, by Tamara, and they are now using Postural Care. On behalf of **Dr. Jean Justad, Deborah** distributed the Mortality Report of Persons in Montana, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

PRESENTATION:

Debbie Churchill, Churchill Law Office

Members were presented with a packet of handouts which are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The highlights she presented are; The 7 threats to your estate plan, Revocable living trust, Irrevocable Trusts, Probate, Personal Representative, Medicare and Medicaid, Estate Planning, Special Needs Trusts, Charitable Planning and Last Will and Testament.

FUNDING:

Members discussed the Call for Investment (CFI) for Postural Care. The draft CFI will be distributed to members soon.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Office on Aging, Kimme Evermann

Kimme did not have a written report.

Developmental Disabilities Program, Rebecca deCamara

Rebecca did not have a written report.

Vocational Rehabilitation, Jim Marks

Jim did not have a written report.

Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts

Erin did not have a written report.

Maternal & Child Health, Denise Higgins

Denise did not have a written report.

Rural Institute on Disabilities, Marty Blair

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

MEMBER NEWS:

Jacob Harrison shared he is moving into a new apartment soon.

Carley Lefthand-Irvine shared she has a new sweetheart. She has a new nephew on the way and they just held the baby shower.

Isaiah Devereaux is still volunteering at the Connection and continues working at Sam's Supper Club once a week due to the winter slow down.

Janet Carlson shared Malta and Glasgow are trying to have a combined Aktion Club.

Shawn Parker shared the Rocky Boy Stars are in the basketball tournament and are playing Glasgow.

Cherie Bowman-Lyons reminded everyone that it is only 12 days until St Patrick's Day so get your green on. Cherie also shared she is recovering from a concussion due to a snowboarding accident.

Jeannie Brown went to Chicago about the retirement of the Social Security Disabilities Trust. There are some bills in Congress that would remove the cap but not sure if it is going to happen. Montana has a very large aging population. Different organizations across the country are working together to understand how social security really works and affects people. She has been up to the Legislature to give testimony and sending in comments.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes is busy at work at Touchmark and is thanking God for her boring life.

Tarra Thomas shared life is busy, they are waiting for the equestrian program to start again in Billings and they had a medical trip next week.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Connie Wethern/ Isaiah Devereaux** second -: Adopt December 2014 Minutes.
UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED