



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2016
MCDD CONFERENCE CENTER
2712 BILLINGS AVE
Helena MT 50601**

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 2:45PM on MARCH 3, 2016.

MEMBERS ATTEND: Don Berryman, Cherie Bowman-Lyons, Virjeana Brown, Trenton Butler, Erin Butts, Robert DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Debra Ekblom, Jacob Harrison, Denise Higgins, Heather Juvan, Matt Kuntz, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Representative Edith McClafferty, Blake Reese, Tarra Thomas, Connie Wethern, Nanette Whitman-Holmes,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Martin Blair, Janet Carlson, Rebecca deCamara, Senator Robyn Driscoll, Kimme Evermann, and Jim Marks

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

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

COUNCIL AGENDA

The **March** agenda consisted of Introduction of new members, review ground rules, approval of January 2016 Minutes, annual Council photograph, Executive Directors report, 5-Year Plan Workgroup Recommendations, Governance and Public Policy Committee Reports, Agency Reports and Member News.

Chair **Tarra Thomas** called the meeting to order and welcomed new members, Heather Juvan, Representative Edith McClafferty and Trenton Butler. The new members shared information about themselves. Welcome!

Chair **Tarra Thomas** reviewed the Ground Rules for Meetings.

Chair **Tarra Thomas** requested approval of the January 2016 minutes.

Member **Jeannie Brown** shared her granddaughter Lena's new seating system which is on her old wheel chair base. The chair system lifts off the base and can be put in a car, on a chair or even in an airplane seat. Jeannie also shared that since she went to the Postural Care training and put the sleep system into

practice for Lena her spine curvature went from 37 degrees to 17 degrees. Lena now does not need spine surgery.

Deborah Swingley shared the first quarterly report from Posture 24-7 is in the members handout packets. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

ANNUAL PHOTO

Kevin from Helena Photography arrived and the annual group photo was taken.

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 Grant Round 3, Disability Awareness Month Activities, August Council “Retreat”, MDC Transition Team and Financials. Members will be given 3 different dates for the August meeting and requested to vote by email/phone for their choice. March 1st was International Disability Employment Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE Chair Cherie Bowman-Lyons. The committee submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. There was an intensive discussion over the proposed changes.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE Chair Nanette Whitman-Holmes. The committee submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. There was an intensive discussion over the proposed changes. The Council’s Position Statement for Montana Developmental Center (MDC) was amended.

Maternal & Child Health, Denise Higgins

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

5-YEAR PLAN WORKGROUP UPDATE

Chair Tarra Thomas reviewed the report to the members. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Members discussed fine tuning or adding items. **Deborah** shared with members the plan has to be approved by the membership, then the public is to be given 45 days for public comment before the submission deadline of August 15, 2016.

AGENCY REPORTS/MEMBER NEWS

Title XIX, Developmental Disabilities Program, Rebecca deCamara

Rebecca was unable to attend and asked Novelene Martin to submit a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vocational Rehabilitation - Jim Marks

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

Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts

Erin did not submit a written report. She is thinking about how OPI could partner or host a training to help the division understand the benefits of the Posture 24-7 project.

Dennis Nyland, Office of the Governor, Mental Health Ombudsman

Dennis shared they are getting 2-3 calls a day now so they are staying busy. They are getting a lot of calls about services and complaints about the Medicaid expansion because there have been glitches in the system which has removed people due to the problems with the system. One of his goals was to try to get around the state to inform people about his office but he has been too busy with calls.

Matt Kuntz - NAMI

Matt shared Matthew Byerly, M.D., a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center whose research focuses on improving treatments for individuals living with mental illness has been named the new director of Montana State University's Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery, or CMHRR. He shared that cutting edge diagnostic tests are late getting to Montana so he has had to send some people out of state to get a correct diagnosis. 11 schools have signed up for the Youth Aware of Mental Health program. There is an Alzheimer's trial in Butte in April or May for a second project using EEG and near infrared spectroscopy to diagnose youth before they show symptoms. There is a new forensic unit at Galen which received funding from the legislature and the Governor's office made the operating costs available.

MEMBER NEWS

Deborah Swingley - Life is good, her husband is continuing his surgery recovery progress.

Erin Butts - Her mom is turning 60 and her brother in law is turning 40 so they are having a 100 years of old party.

Nanette Whitman-Holmes shared that Dee told her a story about Byron as a bagger at the Super One Foods store. Ethan made it to the National Speech & Debate Finals Senate Congressional Debate.

Matt Kuntz – His youngest just turned 3 and is still in the terrible 2's.

Debra Ekblom – Had both knees replaced last year and is doing great. She has 2 new granddaughters. She is now called Grandma Old Pants.

Cal Berryman - has swimming tonight and everyone is invited to his wedding in 7 years.

Don Berryman - Is leaving Acadia on March 18th and starting his new job as Executive Director of BSW on March 21st.

Cherie Bowman-Lyons – Her mom and aunt have birthdays so they are having a big party in Butte for St. Patrick's Day. Her daughter is working for KRTV in Great Falls. Matt works at DA Davidson for 1 hour a day then goes to Easter Seals.

Christina Ward – Her husband is now a deputy for the Lewis & Clark Sheriff's Department and her daughter turns 5.

Dennis Nyland – his goal is to run a Marathon before he turns 50 in September. His youngest daughter is 22 and just got back from Bangladesh, his oldest is in school in Germany and his son lives in Washington. Dennis has 3 grandchildren.

Connie Wethern – her 90 year mother in law with Alzheimer's just moved in and she still has 3 teenagers at home.

Blake Reese – his 22nd birthday is on July 22nd.

Jacob Harrison – had a wonderful birthday on January 3rd. he celebrated his dad's birthday with his sister and they got some balloons. He is still having a hard time getting over his dad's passing.

Trenton Butler - has a coffee business and Dee will send everyone the ordering information with the costs and blends available. He will bring some to the next meeting for sale.

Jeannie Brown – on March 1st she started a new part time job. She is an organizer for community change. It is on a year to year basis. Lena and Jeannie are traveling to North Carolina this month as part of the job.

Amanda Dupuis – fell into a hole and broke her ankle & tibia. Her husband is building her a new deck while she is gone.

Carley Lefthand-Irvine - is going to have Pizza with Jacob after the meeting.

Rep. Edie McClafferty - has 3 children, son in Helena and daughter in Utah her other daughter is in Belgrade so they moved back to Butte. When she turned 40 her son took her sky diving.

Bob DesJardin - he is off of 24/7 on-call. Things are kind of moving forward and it is possible they will get a new case manager.

Heather Juvan - turned 37 on August 7th. Glad to be at Pizza Hut because they are treating her very good. At her last job she was harassed and they called her names. She is glad to be here.

Isaiah Devereaux - On the way here they almost hit some deer. The weather was a blizzard, rained, windy and finally sunshine. Next time he will bring his Stetson hat to the meeting.

Tarra Thomas - still involved in Parent Partner work and is coming up on 3 years. They are in contract negotiations for continuation and are using the expansion word. Each practice was given an additional 8 hours due to the need. Data collecting and how to analyze the data for tracking. Emma is just awesome and smiles and giggles all the time. Getting ready for equestrian and aquatic therapy.

Dee Burrell - went to Costa Rica to see her brother, got sun poisoning with hives but had a great time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Don Berryman/ Jeannie Brown second - Approve January 2016 Minutes.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**

2. **Debra Ekblom/ Jacob Harrison second - Accept Executive Directors Report.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**

3. **Don Berryman/ Connie Wethern second - Accept Governance Committee report with amendment to Policy 2.5 as discussed. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.
17 - YES 1 - NO - ADOPTED**

4. **Cherie Bowman-Lyons/ Matt Kuntz second - Accept the Public Policy Report with amendments to the MDC Position Statement. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**

UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

5. **Virjeana Brown/ Don Berryman second - Adopt State Plan with provision that if UCED doesn't include piece in Goal 1.2.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**

6. **Cherie Bowman-Lyons / Charlene Lefthand-Irvine second - Adjourn meeting.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED**