



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2017  
MCDD CONFERENCE CENTER  
2712 BILLINGS AVE  
Helena MT 50601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:35 AM and ADJOURNED at 3:00PM on MARCH 16, 2017.**

**MEMBERS ATTEND:** Martin Blair, Virjeana Brown, Trenton Butler, Erin Butts, Melissa Clark, Dianna Crawford, Rebecca deCamara, Robert DesJardins, Isaiah Devereaux, Jacob Harrison, Heather Juvan, Tricia Lough, Bob Maffit, Jim Marks, Lorrie Merrill, Len Nopen, Dennis Nyland, Terry Stratton, Tarra Thomas, Jan Wenaas, Connie Wethern and Nanette Whitman-Holmes,

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Don Berryman, Janet Carlson and Kimme Evermann

**STAFF PRESENT:** Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

**GUESTS:** Michael Yegerlehner, Kevin Jones, Sister Johnelle Howanche, Jamie Stratton, Sue & Zack DesJardins

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**COUNCIL AGENDA**

The **March** agenda consisted of Introduction of new members, review ground rules, approval of January 2017 Minutes, Executive Directors report, Agency Reports, Posture 24/7 Project update and CFI Funding - First Responder Disability Awareness Training.

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

Chair **Tarra Thomas** requested approval of the January 2017 minutes.

Chair **Tarra Thomas** called the meeting to order and welcomed new members, Dianna Crawford, Tricia Lough, Bob Maffit, Lorrie Merrill, Len Nopen and Terry Stratton. The new members shared information about themselves. Welcome!

**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 Capital T Celebration Event, MILP/Capital Taxi transit project, Disability Awareness Film Festival, Congressional Update, Financials, Election Time, MT Legislative Updates, New Member Orientation Session and

Membership Update. **Bob Maffit** spoke about the Montana Independent Living Program (MILP) and Capital Taxi Evening and Weekend Transit Project.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **University Center on Excellence Rural Institute, Martin Blair**

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

#### **Vocational Rehabilitation – Jim Marks**

Awaiting a written report.

#### **Office of Public Instruction, Erin Butts**

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

#### **Title XIX, Developmental Disabilities Program, Rebecca deCamara**

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

#### **Dennis Nyland, Office of the Governor, Mental Health Ombudsman**

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

### **POSTURE 24-7 PROJECT UPDATE**

**Arwen Kittleson Aldred** provided members with an update on year one of the Posture 24-7 project and what was learned. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

### **CFI FUNDING**

#### **First Responder Disability Awareness Training**

David Whalen, Niagara University via conference call.

Motion #2.

### **MISC.**

#### **Jeannie Brown, Centers for Community Change.**

Jeannie will be holding a Story of Self Training in Helena on April 6, 2017 and has invited members to attend. The training is on how to tell your story in 2 minutes to Legislators and Congressional delegates.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

**MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Bob DesJardins/ Connie Wethern** second – Approve January 2017 Minutes.  
**UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED**
2. **Lorrie Merrill/Len Nopen** second – Fund Call for Investment First Responders Disability Awareness Training to Niagara University for \$50,000  
**UNANIMOUS – ADOPTED**