



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2016  
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 9:10AM and ADJOURNED at 11:21AM on  
OCTOBER 13, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Helena:** Tarra Thomas, Jacob Harrison, Nanette Whitman-Holmes, Erin Butts, Rebecca deCamara and Jim Marks

**Missoula:** Martin Blair

**Bozeman:** Virjeana Brown and Heather Juvan

**Havre:** Trenton Butler

**Dillon:** Robert DesJardins

**Malta:** Isaiah Devereaux and Connie Wethern

**Kalispell:** Blake Reese

**On the Phone:** Cherie Bowman-Lyons and Denise Higgins

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Don Berryman, Debra Ekblom, Kimme Evermann, Charlene Lefthand-Irvine, Matt Kuntz, Dennis Nyland and Rep. Edie McClafferty.

**MEMBERS UNEXCUSED:** Janet Carlson

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

**GUESTS:** Michael Yegerlehner - Havre

---

**COUNCIL AGENDA**

The **October** agenda consisted of approval of August Minutes, Review Ground Rules, Executive Directors Report, Public Policy Committee Report and Agency Reports.

**Chair Tarra Thomas** called the meeting to order. A motion was passed to Approve the August minutes. The meeting Ground rules were reviewed.

**Deborah Swingley** presented the Executive Directors Report. A few highlights included; 2017-2021 5-Year Plan-of Action, Financial Overview (70%) Funds, FFY2017 Admin (30%) Budget, 2017 Legislative Session, Membership and Reappointments.

## **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Chair Nanette Whitman-Holmes** presented the report to members. A copy of the report is attached to and made a part of these minutes. The full council chose to separate the report on the three topics contained in the report. After much discussion the Council voted to support each of the three topics, see the motions register for details.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **Denise Higgins, Title 5 Maternal & Child Health**

**Denise** submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. She also shared with members that she has accepted a new job in Missoula and her last day as a state employee will be October 28<sup>th</sup>. Members wished her good luck in the future and she will be missed.

### **Jim Marks, Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Jim** shared that his department is spending all of their time building an infrastructure that does not exist due to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (W.I.O.A.). The subminimum wage law requires workers over the age of 24 to have 2 visits per year and must have career counseling. Providers may not hire workers under 24 years old unless approved. Medicaid funds can be taken away for noncompliance. Unemployment in Montana will go down to 2% over the next 10 years. It is now a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Approach".

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

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

### **Rebecca DeCamara, Title 19, Developmental Disabilities Program**

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

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

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

## **MISC.**

**Chair Tarra Thomas** advised members that they would receive at the end of October, the Executive Directors Evaluation form along with an addressed and stamped envelope to return the forms to her.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2017 via video conference.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.

**MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Robert DesJardins/ Nanette Whitman-Holmes second - Approve August 2016 minutes.  
UNANIMOUS APPROVED**
2. **Nanette Whitman-Holmes/ Cherie Bowman Lyons second - Approve Executive Directors Report.  
UNANIMOUS APPROVED**
3. **Martin Blair/ Cherie Bowman-Lyons second - Separate the three items in the Public Policy Report and vote on each item.  
Yes - 12 No - 3 APPROVED**
4. **Nanette Whitman-Holmes/ Martin Blair second - Authorize Deborah Swingley to speak in favor of Direct Care wage increases at the Legislature, but not at the cost of other DPHHS Human Services.  
Yes - 13 Abstain - 3 APPROVED**
5. **Robert DesJardins/ Blake Reese second - Standby the Position Statement on Montana Development Center closure.  
Yes - 12 No - 1 Abstain - 3 APPROVED**
6. **Martin Blair/ Robert DesJardins second - Authorize Deborah Swingley to speak in support of any legislative action that provides for equal access for persons with disabilities to the state assets and services.  
UNANIMOUS APPROVED**
7. **Jacob Harrison/Blake Reese second - Adjourn meeting.  
UNANIMOUS APPROVED**