



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17 - 18, 2008
RED LION COLONIAL INN
HELENA MT 59601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 1:00 PM and ADJOURNED at 5:00 PM on January 17, 2008.
COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:40 AM and ADJOURNED at 12:00 PM on January 18, 2008.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Billehus, Janet Carlson, Melissa Clark, Sara Casey, Keough Duffy, Lisa T Hathaway, Rocky Hughes, Representative Carol Lambert, Darwin Nelson, Barb Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Diana Tavary, Jan Wenaas, Connie Wethern, and Senator Carol Williams.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Roger Holt, Kellie Karasco, Timm Vogelsberg, and Brenda Walters.

LIASON MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Evermann, Jeff Sturm and Bob Jahner.

LIASON MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sylvia Danforth and Joann Dotson

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT: Sister Johnelle Howanach and Raylynn Lauderdale

GUESTS: Erin MacLean, Luxan & Murfitt; Roger Shelley, Rural Institute on Disabilities and Beth Brennaman, Montana Advocacy Program.

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **January** agenda consisted of passing of the Gavel, Board of Directors Report and Corporate Governance Overview, Executive Directors Report, On the Phone with ADD, Update on People First Empowerment, Conflict of Interest Statement, Planning Committee Report, Agency Reports, Support Persons Code of Conduct Policy, Review Charting Your Future Evaluations, People First Reports and Public Comment.

Chair Jan Wenaas called the meeting to order. Welcome and introductions were conducted and the Council members welcomed **Kim Evermann**, Older American Act and **Bob Jahner**, Vocational Rehabilitation who were appointed by Director Joan Miles to bring the Council membership into compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Act. **Jeff Sturm** and **Joann Dotson** were also appointed.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL:

Jan Wenaas passed the gavel to **Lisa T Hathaway**.

Immediate past chair **Jan Wenaas** made remarks on the accomplishments of the Council Executive Director **Deborah Swingley**. She also shared remarks made by Karen Flippo, Executive Director of (NACDD) National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair Lisa T. Hathaway gave the Board of Director's Report. A copy of the report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Deborah Swingley gave the Planning Committee Report. A copy of the report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

On the Phone with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities: Mary Beth Greene

Mary Beth was brought into the meeting on a conference call to clarify the Developmental Disabilities Act language and intent with regards to support of self advocacy organizations. She shared with the membership that the only goal stated in the Developmental Disabilities Act is 3 prong:

- 1) to establish or strengthen a self advocacy organization,
- 2) support self advocates to become leaders
- 3) support and expand self advocates in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Other states have a variety of ways to support or strengthen self advocacy organization. They have helped get funds from their state to support self advocacy organizations. They provide office space, provide help to get to conferences and/or help to attend leadership training. How does Montana compare to other state councils in its support? Montana's council has done good things: providing funds directly to the self advocates is in line with the wording of the act and a move in a very positive direction. Montana may look at a move to get state funding for a self advocacy organization. Montana has provided consistent funding for long time. Other programs or entities could pick up support of some sort of self

advocacy organization. The Developmental Disabilities Act does not say that Councils must fund or only must fund. The ultimate goal is to find an appropriation or other source of funding. The council can provide help to self advocates to bring a bill before state legislature to get appropriation for their organization. At this point in time the Administration on Developmental Disabilities expectations is to be careful to put a time limit on the goal. Do not extend funding or support out beyond a 2-3 year goal. The council can support Self Advocates to be legislative advocates, but must be very specific in steps and if the goal is not met then you must regroup and do something else.

UPDATE OF PEOPLE FIRST EMPOWERMENT:

Roger Shelley, Rural Institute on Disabilities

Roger shared with the members that the process has been much easier to go through than expected. There has been excellent understanding by the chapter officers concerning billing MCDD for expenses covered in the individual budgets. People First members and officers had excellent and enlightened priorities concerning community outreach and engagement and the ability to prioritize their budgets. Roger provided a handout which has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

A letter written by Timm Vogelsberg was read to the members by **Roger Shelley**. Timm's remarks were met with appaluae from Council Members and staff were directed by the membership to post Timm's comments on the MTCDD website. A copy is attached to and is made a part of these minutes.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT & SUPPORT PERSONS POLICY

Erin MacLean, Luxan & Murfitt

Erin is the legal counsel for the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities. The DD Act requires a Conflict of Interest statement be signed annually by the Council membership. The Conflict of Interest Statement was drafted based upon other states models that best fit the needs of the Montana Council. It was adjusted to comply with Montana state laws.

The Support Persons Code of Conduct policy is modeled after the Washington Council on Developmental Disabilities. Both policies were adopted by the members.

VICE CHAIR:

Nomination forms for Vice Chair were handed out. Forms are to be returned to Council offices by February 15th and the election will be held at the March meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Sara Casey - Office of Public Instruction

Sara provided members with a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program

Jeff provided members with a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Bob Jahner, Vocational Rehabilitation

Bob shared his background and the history of Voc Rehab to the members. Voc Rehab used to focus on physical disabilities but the injuries of returning veterans with limb and brain injuries have changed their focus. The biggest challenge they face is too few counselors for too big of an area. Voc Rehab's help is time limited and the challenge is to maintain supports. The numbers of veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries is staggering.

Diana Tavary, Montana Advocacy Program

Diana provided a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

PEOPLE FIRST REPORTS:

Missoula Chapter - Jason Billehus

Jason shared the chapter was invited to a Christmas party with the Kiwanis. It was very great. They had a pot luck with the Hamilton Chapter, they are selling chocolate bars from the Kiwanis for a fundraiser, and the Kiwanis donated the bars to the People First chapter. Members helped with bell ringing with the Kiwanis for the Salvation Army. The members bought a teddy bear and gift certificates for an 8 year girl whose mother is in an institution for Christmas. Keough shared that Jason said it all.

Helena Chapter - Darwin Nelson

Darwin shared with members that he was unable to attend 2 meetings because he couldn't get a ride. They held their Christmas party. They split the election of officers this year is President and Secretary and next year is Sargent at Arms, Treasurer and Vice President. The chapter is meeting on January 21, 2008 and will adopt their budget.

Malta Chapter - Janet Carlson

Janet shared with members that the chapter adopted their budget and held an election for one new Senator Jack Stanswick. They have been planning their Valentines party.

Kalispell Chapter - Rocky Hughes

Rocky shared with members that the chapter held a Christmas dinner and dance. They had issues with people going through the line more than once and they have decided to change their method. The members are getting ready for a Valentines dance, which is open to anyone for a \$2.00 cover charge, planning the Big Wheel Basketball fundraiser. They have received \$8000 worth of items for the silent auction. They also did Pennies for Presents, the members saved their pennies for the year and buy presents for a needy family. This year they were able to get presents for 2 families of which one was in the newspaper and the other family both parents had a disability and their child has severe disabilities. The chapter did not hold an election for senators because of MCDD stuff so they held the senators over for one more year.

MISC:

Rocky Hughes wanted to know why some People First members have not been appointed to the council even though they have sent in applications. **Deborah Swingley** shared with members that all applications received in Council offices have gone in packets to the Governor's Office. The Governor makes the appointments but there may not be an opening for 8 years due to the 4 year term and possible 2 terms. The Developmental Disabilities Act has very stringent requirements about geographical distribution, ethnicity and the Council actively recruits not just People First members but also persons who are not a member of People First.

Sara Casey wanted clarification on the resignation of Mamie Flinn. Anything that can be shared with members has been. The members received copies of the 3 letters rebutting the comments in Mamie Flinn's resignation letter to the Governor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sister Johnelle Howanach thanked members for letting Melissa Clark present at the Charting Your Future Event.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Keough Duffy/ Jason Billehus** second - Approve the Board of Directors report
Unanimous - Adopted
2. **Connie Wethern/ Sara Casey** second - Approve the Planning Committee Report with changes to include Connie Wethern, Janet Carlson and Jason Billehus as guests.
Unanimous - Adopted
3. **Jason Billehus/ Rocky Hughes** second - Adjourn for Thursday.
Unanimous - Adopted
4. **Carol Lambert/Shawn Parker** second - Adopt the Support Persons Code of Conduct.
Unanimous - Adopted
5. **Connie Wethern/ Darwin Nelson** second - Adopt the Conflict of Interest Statement.
Unanimous - Adopted
6. **Carol Williams/ Sara Casey** second - Directed Immediate Past Chair Jan Wenaas to send a letter to resigned member Mamie Flinn thanking her for her service.
Unanimous - Adopted
7. **Jason Billehus/ Rocky Hughes** second - Adjourn meeting.
Unanimous - Adopted