



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 16 - 17, 2008
WINGATE BY WYNDHAM
2007 N OAKES
HELENA MT 59601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 1:00 PM and ADJOURNED at 5:00 PM on October 16, 2008.
COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:00 AM and ADJOURNED at 9:40 AM on October 17, 2008.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Jason Billehus, , Janet Carlson, Sara Casey, Melissa Clark, Keough Duffy, Lisa T Hathaway, Roger Holt, Rocky Hughes, Darwin Nelson, Barb Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Diana Tavary, Timm Vogelsberg and Connie Wethern,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rep. Carol Lambert, Jan Wenaas and Sen. Carol Williams

LIASON MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Sturm Thursday only

LIASON MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joann Dotson, Kimme Evermann, Barb Varnum and Sylvia Danforth

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Sister Johnelle Howanach

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **October** agenda consisted of Executive Director's Report, Presentation on Montana Housing Search. Com, People First Reports, Agency Reports MCDD Media Project- Press Packets, Governance & Public Policy Committee Reports, Tabled Business Montana Youth Leadership Forum and Public Comment.

Chair **Lisa T. Hathaway** called the meeting to order with a welcome to new member **Don Berryman** and introductions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Deborah Swingley gave the Executive Directors report which included handouts and a PowerPoint presentation. Copies are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

PRESENTATION:

Penny Cope and Justin Schedel, Department of Commerce

Hurricane Katrina was the catalyst for the vacancy housing site. There was a large influx of people and the state did not have a central database to cover the housing needed. The site went live on August 16, 2008 and has had 4000 units listed with currently 300-400 vacancies. The site has about 150 hits per day. MTHousingSearch.com is 100% free for Landlords who can list housing available and for persons who search for housing. The company Socialserve.com is the lead company for the site and also has a bilingual call center so persons who do not have a computer can call a toll free number to look for housing. A person searching can get very detailed about their needs in an apartment/house. There is also an interactive map of apartment locations.

The site also has: rental checklist, rent calculator and other tools. More tools will continue to be added as the site grows.

A new feature on the State of Montana website is a Section 8 application at: housing.mt.gov.

Handouts were provided and are made a part of these minutes.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program submitted an overview of the proposed DDP Autism Waiver which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Free autism screenings are be offered by the Developmental Disabilities Program through the end of March only and then they will no longer be free. There will be 45 children in waiver. They are hoping for good data which is why they are offering the screening free. This will be the largest program in the country; no other state has put together such a large program. Data is there to support that early intervention works. Screenings are free because under Part C the state was not meeting the expectations. There is an Autism bill that is currently being drafted coming out of Billings and has a sponsor from Billings also. Background checks on staff all that is required state based currently the move is to go to a FBI based and it is very expensive, there will be a fiscal note to the bill. DDP wants to clarify the Respite issue: Respite has become only Agency based. They hope to

have an approved waiver for Self Directed Services for respite so that a family can be a respite provider. There is an unlawful termination law that is only on the State of Montana books and everyone is looking at it for education so that families know that they just can't fire someone without the possibility of being sued. The advantage to families is for higher wages. Current wage for respite is \$8 per hour under Self Directed Service Waiver it will be about \$10-\$11 per hour. MT is paying the highest rate of \$12.96 per hour of any state in the region. The annual six state summit of the region is held every fall with state directors, providers & CMS. The next 2 years the summit will be held in Montana. Every presenter at this years' summit said that Medicaid is un-sustainable and will have to change. Services may be dropped and they will be regulating programs harder. In 2012 an aging population will force changes and the direct care workforce will go into crisis. Large providers in other states are actively recruiting out of the country. College of Direct Support has reached the end of the 1st year Montana is leading the nation for the number of direct care staff that has completed the course. Nearly 100% of direct care workers are done with the 1st year.

Diana Tavary, Disability Rights Montana submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Sara Casey, Office of Public Instruction submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Sara shared with members that on page 92, of the link from her report, contain the definition of competitive employment.

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

MEDIA PROJECT:

Deborah Swingley shared the video project "Agent for Change" has been completed. Members watched "A Chance to Serve" and "Agent for Change". Members were introduced to Patrick Hutchins who wrote and produced both video projects. Members were then given "Press Packets" which contained both VHS & DVD copies of the 2 videos. Most of the members received "A Chance to Serve" previously and were asked to add it to the packets; they were asked to contact staff for an additional copy if they could not locate it. The packets also contained brochures and a written guideline for a presentation. Members were asked to give at least 2 presentations in their home community using the materials in the packet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance Committee

PJ Rismon-Beckley was elected as Chair to the committee. A written report was submitted and made a part of these minutes.

Public Policy Committee

Don Berryman was elected as Chair to the committee. A written report was submitted and made a part of these minutes.

A revised roster of committees with corrections to committee and workgroup names will be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

TABLED BUSINESS:

Deborah Swingley provided members with a one page report from June Hermanson in regards to questions asked at the June meeting. A lengthy discussion followed. Members chose not to fund the request.

PEOPLE FIRST REPORTS:

Jason Billehus, Missoula shared the members of the chapter voted to keep all business confidential and will no longer be sharing any information on the Chapter with the Council.

Rocky Hughes, Kalispell shared that they are not currently doing anything because of fall and winter coming. They are preparing for their annual Big Yard Sale and soliciting donations. They will be having their Halloween Party soon. He mainly has been working on State People First business, they have applied for their 501(c)3 and are waiting to hear from the IRS. People First are looking for a sponsor to get a state appropriation from the legislature. They are going to contact June Hermanson from MYLF to find out how she got their appropriation and to look for guidance.

Janet Carlson, Malta shared that they held a summer birthday party and went swimming at Sleeping Buffalo which is a hot springs. Connie will be attending the Chapter meeting on Oct. 22, 2008.

Darwin Nelson, Helena shared the chapter moved their meetings to the Disability Rights Montana building effective with the Oct. 6th meeting. New officers were elected but will not take office until January so that they can be trained by the outgoing officers. Darwin and Rocky are both up for re-election of the Statewide People First.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Lisa T. Hathaway called for public comment.
No one was present to give public comment.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Jason Billehus/Rocky Hughes** second - Adjourn meeting for Thursday.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

2. **Connie Wethern/Shawn Parker** second - Adopt Governance Committee Report as presented.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

3. **PJ Rismon-Beckley/ Darwin Nelson** second - Adopt Public Policy Committee Report as presented.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

4. **Timm Vogelsberg/ Connie Wethern** second - Not to continue funding for Montana Youth Leadership Forum and to send a letter of congratulations for the great successes they have had in securing stable long term funding for a State of Montana appropriation.
Yes - 15, No - 1 ADOPTED

5. **PJ Rismon-Beckley/Jason Billehus** second - Adjourn meeting.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED