



MCDD QUICK NEWS

Here's What's Happening in Council Offices
for the month of January/February 2009



NO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress has yet to take action on the appropriations packages that we had hoped would happen by January 31, 2009. We continue to operate on the continuing resolution of 43% of 6-months allotment. Council staff continues to be vigilant in monitoring the Council's budget. We have been advised that once the stimulus package bill passed Congress that the appropriations packages would be next on the agenda. Stay tuned. . . .



MARCH COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Council staff has researched several options for holding our March 12, 13 meeting in an alternative format. After weighing the various options we have determined that the most cost effective option is by conference call. We are aware that this may not be everyone's preferred method but it is our best alternative at this point in time. Our March agenda will be abbreviated and will not contain any presentations. Your meeting packets with agendas and dial-in instructions will be on their way to the membership the last week of February.

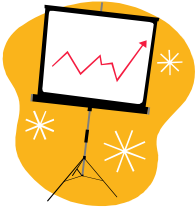


COUNCIL OFFICES MOVING MARCH 2, 2009

Council offices move to our new location on March 2, 2009. Our new address is:

MCDD
2714 Billings Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Our phone numbers remain the same. Please have patience with us as we move not only our offices, but phone and computer equipment also. We believe we will back to business as usual by March 3 or 4 at the latest.



PARTNERSHIPS IN TRANSITION PRESENTATION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5

On Thursday March 5, Council Director Deborah Swingley and Ellen Condon contractor on the Partnerships in Transition project will do a presentation on the project for DPHHS Director Anna Whiting Sorrell, Tim Harris of the Office of Public Instruction, Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program Director and Barb Varnum of Vocational Rehabilitation. The project is providing transition supports and following 10 students who are identified as having a developmental disability from middle school to high school exit and post two-years. Lil Dupree, a parent of one of the youth may be able to join us in the presentation. We will be asking Anna, Tim, Jeff and Barb for input about particular issues or concerns they believe we could look at during the project.



APOSTROPHE' SUBSCRIPTIONS PURCHASED

As promised at the January meeting, subscriptions to *Apostrophe'* magazine have been purchased for all Council members. Special thanks to Jim Tracy, *Apostrophe'* editor for his assistance in getting all the members signed up! Be watching your mail box for this wonderful publication! Council member Melissa Clark is the Winter 2009 issue cover girl!



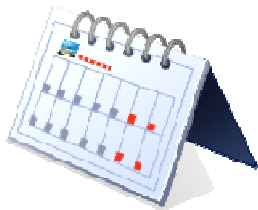
LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Council members are receiving legislative updates written by Jan Cahill, Administrator/Lobbyist for MACDS (Montana Association of Community Disability Services). For our members without email, hard copies are mailed of each update received in Council offices. Special thanks to Jan Cahill, Charlie Briggs of Easter Seals and Sue Dow of Billings for their work providing "education" at the Legislature!



Council Collaborates on Disability Awareness Billboard

Talk about collaboration! The Council and Helena area providers West Mont, Helena Industries, Spring Meadow Resources and Family Outreach are co-sponsoring a Disability Awareness Month billboard for the month of March. The billboard will be in Helena on North Main, just past the overpass. This is a very heavily traveled route so many people will have the opportunity to view the billboard. Working in unison the costs for each agency for this month long billboard is \$300. Definitely good "bang for our buck"! A PDF copy of the billboard is attached to the email covering this issue of Quick News.



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

DPHHS/Rates Meeting	February 25, 2009	Helena
DPHHS/Autism Waiver	February 26, 2009	Helena
MCDD Meeting	March 12, 2009	Conference Call
MACDS	May 5, 6, 7, 2009	Lewistown

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Should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this issue of Quick News please feel free to contact Council Offices at 1/866-443-4332 or 443-4332.

