



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 23 - 24, 2006**  
**WINGATE INN**  
**2007 N OAKES**  
**HELENA MT 59601**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 2:00 PM and ADJOURNED at 6:00 PM on March 23, 2006.**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:00 AM and ADJOURNED at 10:35 AM on March 24, 2006.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jason Billehus, Melissa Clark, Janet Carlson, Sylvia Danforth, Joanne Dotson, Keough Duffy, Kim Evermann, Mamie Flinn, Rocky Hughes, Dennis Moore, Darwin Nelson, Barb Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Diana Tavary, Brenda Walters, Ramona Weber, Connie Wethern, Thursday only Bernadette Franks-Ongoy and Jeff Sturm.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Lisa T Hathaway, Karen Lundby, Dan McCarthy, Suzie Twedt, Jan Wenaas, Sen. Carol Williams and Rep. Don Roberts.

**GUESTS:** Sister Johnelle Howanach and Kevin Kosmann

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

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**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

The **March** agenda consisted of presentations on Work Incentives Review by Liesel Beck, Montana Advocacy Program, Bullying in Montana Schools by Deborah Swingley and Kim Abbott of Montana Human Rights Network and PHS Transportation Coordinator Marlene Disburg, People First Reports, Board of Directors Report, Planning Committee Report, Evaluation Committee Report and Agency Reports.

Council approved minutes of **January** meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Bullying in Montana Schools - Kim Abbott, Montana Human Rights Network and Deborah Swingley**

**Deborah** showed a video that Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) did of 3 young men discussing the bullying and abuse that they took in school because of their disabilities.

**Kim Abbott** of the Montana Human Rights Network showed a documentary called "The End of Silence" which showcased students from across the State of Montana who spoke about the bullying and discrimination that they face and have faced on a daily basis in the schools. Council members had a very good discussion on bullying in the schools.

Through collaboration by the council and others on anti-bullying each school district will have to adopt rules on anti-bullying. Council members were urged to go to their local school boards to get the policies made that really matter.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Copies of the Board of Directors, Planning Committee and Evaluation Committee Reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

## **AGENCY REPORTS:**

### **Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, Montana Advocacy Program**

**Bernie** thanked the Council for the funding for Special Education over the last 2 years. Council funds have allowed them to resume advocacy for special education. Council funds paid for 32 cases in 2005. In 2006 they have handled 28 cases with Council funds paying for 14 cases.

MAP is very involved with the issue of Housing for High Risk Behaviors. Members were provided with copies of the Dissenting Report and press release. This is a complicated issue and they are continuing to work towards a conclusion.

MAP has received a grant from the Secretary of States office for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) activities. The Council has received a portion of the grant funds for transportation to the polls.

### **Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program**

**Jeff** shared that the department is going through the EPP process and DDP has asked for \$17,000,000. The main highlights are waiting list reduction of 100 persons over the next 2 years. The long term goal is to eliminate the waiting list.

They have children aging out of services and are unable to know the exact number due to the children coming back into Montana from out of state.

Re-basing the rates; they asked for \$15,000,000 to develop long term process so that every 2 years they will redo the base. They are working with providers for the cost of doing business. DD Case Managers currently have an average of 44 cases and the target is 35 cases each.

#### **Timm Vogelsberg, Rural Institute University Center for Excellence**

**Timm** provided members with a handout with some general information. Next year they will have to compete for the next round of 5 year funding from ADD.

#### **Kimme Evermann, Older American Act**

**Kimme** shared with members that she has been working very hard on the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. She also shared that there will be a lot of changes to Medicare in the near future. Kimme provided members with a handout.

#### **Joanne Dotson, Maternal & Child Health**

**Joanne** has been working on new born screenings and the EPP process. They are working on a report to expand the screening to 29 different tests; some diseases are very rare but may go for 10 - 20 years without identifying a child with a rare disease. There is not any way to be funded at the federal level so each state must figure out how to pay for the screenings. New born hearing screening is up by 90%. Montana does not have any providers who are able to follow up with the specialized tests; there are only a handful of doctors in the country. The cost for one testing machine is \$1,000,000 which the state can not afford it so they are contracting with Wisconsin to do the tests. Regional children's' specialty clinics in Missoula & Great Falls and a third is being set up in Great Falls. The Metabolic clinic that has been in Helena will be moving to Great Falls.

#### **PEOPLE FIRST REPORTS:**

##### **Missoula Chapter - Jason Billehus and Keough Duffy**

**Jason** shared with members that the Missoula chapter is getting more help from the Kiwanis and the fair is coming up. The Chapter is very involved with the fair.

**Keough** shared the chapter meets once a month and that housekeeping at meetings is well prepared.

##### **Helena Chapter - Darwin Nelson**

**Darwin** shared with members the elections for Senators and Officers were held and he was elected Treasurer of the Senate. The chapter is looking into CPR

training and getting a speaker and about first aid and emergency kits. The Sleeping Giant Bowling Alley is the only one in Helena now and the chapter will go bowling after Special Olympics.

**Malta Chapter - Janet Carlson**

**Janet** shared with members that the members went over the ballots for statewide senate officer elections and marked ballots. They also reviewed the Bill of Rights. She reported back to the chapter on the January Council meeting.

**Kalispell Chapter - Rocky Hughes**

**Rocky** shared with members that the Chapter held their annual Valentines dance which is more an Awareness event than a fund raiser. They are getting ready for the annual Big Wheels Basketball fund raiser. Congratulations to Rocky for being elected as President to the State People First Senate.

## **MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Jason Billehus/ Rocky Hughes second - Approve the January minutes.  
Unanimous - Adopted**
2. **Keough Duffy/ Rocky Hughes second - Accept the Evaluation Report.  
Unanimous - Adopted**
3. **Ramona Weber/Barbara Olind second - Accept the Board of Directors Report.  
Unanimous - Adopted**
4. **Darwin Nelson/Jason Billehus second - Accept the Planning Committee report.  
Unanimous - Adopted**
5. **Rocky Hughes/Jason Billehus second - Adjourn meeting on Friday, March 24, 2006.  
Unanimous - Adopted**