



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 13-14, 2005  
WINGATE INN  
HELENA MONTANA**

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 1:15 PM and ADJOURNED at 5:00 PM on October 13, 2005.  
COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 12:00 PM on October 14, 2005.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jason Billehus, Melissa Clark, Sylvia Danforth, Joanne Dotson, Keough Duffy, Mamie Flinn, Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, Lisa T Hathaway, Rocky Hughes, Connie Wethern, Karen Lundby, Dennis Moore, Darwin Nelson, Barbara Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Diana Tavary, Timm Vogelsberg, Brenda Walters, and Senator Carol Williams

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Janet Carlson, Kim Evermann, Dan McCarthy, Jeff Sturm, Suzie Twedt, Jan Wenaas, Ramona Weber and Rep. Don Roberts

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

**GUESTS:** Sister Johnelle Howanach, Alvin Windy Boy, Jessica & Kathryn Windy Boy, Evelyn Oats, Gabriel Coriz and Janet Belcourt

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**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

The **October** agenda consisted of Passing of the Gavel to Incoming Chair, Staff reports, Presentation by Lena Belcourt, Rocky Boy Nation, Presentation by Nancy Maxson, Mona Monopoly conference, Presentation Brain Injury Association Conference, Standing Committee reports, People First Chapter reports, Agency reports and Annual Council Group photo.

**Past Chair PJ Rismon-Beckley** passed the gavel to incoming **Vice-Chair Melissa Clark**. **Chair Jan Wenaas** was unable to attend the meeting due to her work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

**Vice-Chair Melissa Clark** convened the meeting with Welcome and introductions. New member **Connie Wethern**, a parent advocate from Glasgow, was welcomed to the Council.

The minutes of the **June** meeting were approved.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Cultural Aspects, Lena Belcourt, Rocky Boy Nation**

**Lena Belcourt** gave her presentation on the Cultural Aspects of Native Americans in a Question & Answer format. "What are the questions you have always wanted to know or ask about Native Americans?" Topics ranged from "What do we call them, Indian or Native American?" to "What type of therapeutic recreational programs are there with the tribes?"

**Alvin Windy Boy, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Rocky Boy Nation,** joined the meeting. He was a professional Pow Wow dancer and a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. Alvin shared several stories with the Council and performed an "Honoring Ceremony" for Council member **Shawn Parker**, his grandson. The ceremony was very moving and members were grateful that he shared the ceremony with them. During the ceremony Shawn was presented his spirit pouch and Pendleton blanket.

### **Nancy Maxson, Montana Citizens Advocacy Coalition**

**Nancy** thanked the membership for funding the MONA Monopoly conference. A handout of the conference binder was provided to members. Most self advocates attending had no idea that services cost so much, they also learned many things about services. The case managers that attended saw self advocates in a different role as leaders and speaking up.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Deborah Swingley** updated members on the annual funding process. The process was clarified and formalized. Only one presenter will be allowed in the room at a time, we will allow 1 hour for each presentation, Question & Answer, discussion among members and scoring.

**Deborah Swingley** also presented members with the Town Hall dates and times. A copy of the dates and locations are attached and made a part of these minutes. The results of the information gathering will be published and copies sent to all interested persons.

**Deborah Swingley** encouraged members to review the display board, scrap book and brochures. These are excellent opportunities to take a "look back" on Council projects and activities over the past five years. The members then congregated for the annual & Holiday group pictures.

**Dee Burrell** handed out copies of the October 2005 Directory of Services to members. The directory will go out in the mail to all others next week. The process for updating the directory was explained to the Council membership.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Board of Directors:**

**Melissa Clark** presented the **Board of Directors** report to the members. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

#### **Planning Committee:**

**PJ Rismon-Beckley** presented the **Planning Committee Report**. The Council approved a full Council Planning Committee Retreat for State Plan preparation to be held on January 11-12, 2006. A copy of the report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

### **PEOPLE FIRST REPORTS:**

#### **Kalispell Chapter:**

**Rocky Hughes** shared with members that it was slow over the summer. He also shared the passing of Randy Moddrell, husband of Gay Moddrell. Their advisor Mary quit and their new advisor is Missy. The one fundraiser they had "Art in the Park" raised over \$3500.

### Helena Chapter:

**Darwin Nelson** shared with members the chapter members sold root beer floats at Alive @ Five events during the summer. They also had a raffle basket and made about \$500.

### Missoula Chapter:

**Jason Billehus** shared with members the chapter has been learning about person centered health care reports as part of the Council funding requirement. Members have made medical portfolio's, received pedometers, learned about blood pressure, healthy lifestyle and what a doctor needs to know when they go to one. Jason met Lt. Governor Bohlinger at the MONA Monopoly conference and got a copy of his speech which will appear in the next People First Newsletter. Jason also shared that his parents attended the conference to hear his speech.

### AGENCY REPORTS:

#### M.A.I.D.S:

**Sylvia Danforth** shared with members that at the Annual meeting in September in Lewistown new officers were elected; Fran Sadowski, President; Jack Chambers, Vice President; Wally Melcher, Treasurer and Sue Dow, Secretary. MAIDS SA reelected Brody Moll, President; Rhonda Miller, Vice President and Jan Cahill Secretary/Treasurer. MAIDS has hired Charlie Briggs as the Executive Director of the organization to represent them all the time. The rate redesign is the major topic of providers. They have many questions that are still unanswered. One of which is: Is there enough money to pay for everything since no additional funding has been added to the program? Providers recently had a chance to meet with the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS) representatives to express concerns with the rate redesign. The representatives seemed open but were more concerned with health & safety issues. The State of Montana is taking a proactive stance to help providers understand importance of putting policies in place for health and safety. Incident reporting has changed to investigations of critical incidents within 5 days and 24 hours if there is a death.

#### Montana Advocacy Program:

**Bernadette Franks-Ongoy** shared with the membership:

- Help America to Vote Act (HAVA) - MAP will be responsible for 5 activities under the grant received from the Secretary of States office. The Council will be responsible for the transportation initiative.
- Travis D. settlement and transition plan of persons moving from MDC to the community. There are questions on quality of care and are the providers

ready to care for persons. There was an incident that occurred because the staff did not know of preexisting medical condition, Developmental Disabilities Program and the providers are working together to ensure there are no more incidents like this in the future.

#### **Maternal & Child Health Services:**

**JoAnn Dotson** provided members with a brochure which is attached and made a part of these minutes.

#### **Older American Act:**

**Deborah Swingley** shared with members that due to the Medicare/Medicaid prescription drug plan implementation and enrollment from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006, Kim Evermann, the SHIP director, was unable to attend the meeting. Members were cautioned to be careful and get help with the process which is very confusing. Persons who delay will be assessed a penalty for each month they wait to sign up for the service.

#### **PLUK - Parents Let's Unite for Kids:**

**Dennis Moore** shared with members what they do and who they are. This year 12,000 families will have contact with them. TRIC Library at PLUK is a free service to parents. They just received a grant to purchase more books, curriculums and other items.

#### **University Centers for Excellence:**

**Timm Vogelsberg** provided a written report which is attached and made a part of these minutes. Timm shared that MONTECH has a new staff member, her name is Kathy Laurin.

#### **MISC:**

**Lisa T Hathaway** thanked the Council for making it possible for her to attend the Brain Injury Association Conference in Helena. The keynote speaker, Claudia L. Osborn, MD wrote a book about her personal brain injury journey called "Over My Head". The Council office has a copy and members can call the office to borrow the book.

**Deborah Swingley** updated members on the Housing for Persons with High Risk Behaviors. The group is working on the question: "How do we provide safe livable quarters for persons with high risk?" The public and disability community will be asked for their input on this project before years end.

**MOTIONS REGISTER:**

1. **Sylvia Danforth/ Barbara Olind second - Approve June minutes  
Unanimous - ADOPTED**
  
2. **Rocky Hughes/PJ Rismon-Beckley second - Adopt Board of Directors report  
Unanimous - ADOPTED**
  
3. **Jason Billehus/Keough Duffy second - Adjourn meeting on Thursday  
Unanimous - ADOPTED**
  
4. **Jason Billehus/Keough Duffy second - Adjourn meeting on Friday  
Unanimous - ADOPTED**