



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9 - 10, 2006
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2007 N OAKES
HELENA MT 59601

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 1:00 PM and ADJOURNED at 5:00 PM on November 9, 2006.

COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 11:45 AM on November 10, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Billehus, Melissa Clark, Keough Duffy, Mamie Flinn, Lisa T Hathaway, Rocky Hughes, Darwin Nelson, Barb Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Diana Tavary, Timm Vogelsberg, Jan Wenaas, Connie Wethern, Senator Carol Williams and Friday only Jeff Sturm.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Janet Carlson, Karen Lundby and Brenda Walters.

GUESTS: Sister Johnelle Howanach, Trudy Burke, Joann Dotson, Kim Evermann, Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, Sylvia Danforth and Dan McCarthy.

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **November** agenda consisted of presentations by Mary and Amy DeBernardis on Fragile X Syndrome and Strategic Planning Update (SPAM II), Staff Reports on Help America Vote Act Transportation update, Council Annual Photo, Election of Officers, People First Reports, Board of Directors Report, Planning Committee Report and Agency Reports.

STAFF REPORTS:

Deborah Swingley updated members on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) outreach that was done and showed members the Video News Release. 50,000 flyers were sent out to all the churches, providers, senior centers and People First Chapters across the state. The People First Chapters distributed the flyers at various places within their communities.

Deborah also shared with members that at the January meeting a video crew would be at the meeting taping for the Council video production.

Dee Burrell provided members with HAVA preliminary ride numbers and shared some transportation stories.

Bernadette Franks-Ongoy also updated members on accessibility issues with the election and HAVA and shared a couple of voting stories.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mary and Amy DeBernardis did a presentation with a slide show and 10 pamphlets along with other handouts on Fragile X syndrome. All of the information she presented to the Council is contained in the pamphlets. Fragile X is a genetic disorder. Amy spoke to members and told them about herself and her interests. She also provided members with her email address: amyd@imt.net if they had any questions. Members were encouraged to call the Fragile X Foundation at 800-370-2943 to get 10 free copies of the "Families of Fragile X Syndrome" booklet and then hand out the extras to others or send to PLUK.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jan Wenaas gave both the Board of Director's and Planning Committee reports. The Board of Director's Agenda items were voted on by the membership one by one, not as a whole. Copies of the Board of Directors and Planning Committee Reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Deborah explained to members that even though the Chair and Vice Chair positions were uncontested, the By-Laws require that an election must still be held. Votes were counted by staff and reported on Friday morning. Jan Wenaas was re-elected as Chair and Melissa Clark was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ACROSS MONTANA II (SPAM II) UPDATE:

Jeff Sturm provided members with a handout from the town hall meetings on what is important to individuals and that is prioritized. Barb Olind shared with members that she was involved in the first process a few years ago and that the Council has already implemented in the 5-year plan. She also shared that information for parents does not always trickle down.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Dan McCarthy - Office of Public Instruction

Dan shared with the members that this is his last meeting. He thanked the members for all the work they have done and do. He is truly impressed at the voices of the members and how they have helped him to do his job better. A written report was submitted and is made a part of these minutes.

Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, Montana Advocacy Program

Bernie shared with members that the Legislative Agenda Committee is working on a draft for amendments to election laws and will have the bill draft written by December 10, 2006. MAP will have 3 staff at the legislative session and are committing resources to educate legislators. MAP was asked to be involved in the current audit of the Secretary of States office concerning HAVA. The Automark machines had some problems in some precincts and they are currently reviewing and trying to figure out why there were problems. The audited 62 polling places there are a total of 533 polling places in the state. The Council has been generous to MAP for Special Education Advocacy. They provide this on two levels; one is short term assistance that does not involve litigation. The other level involves litigation of which there are 2 cases. MAP is also looking at how to support the Brain Injury organization in Montana, which has gone through a major change. Wednesday, January 24, 2007 is the Advocacy Courage Awards and Legislative dinner. It will be held at the Great Northern again this year. Council members will be receiving the MAP newsletter with an application for nominations for awards. Bernie thanked members for all the past years she has been on the council. The Governor has appointed **Diana Tavary** to represent MAP.

Jeff Sturm, Developmental Disabilities Program

Jeff shared a handout outlining their legislative agenda. The state is embracing the College of Direct Support for a training model statewide for Direct Support Professionals. Personal Support Planning (PSP) Case Managers currently have an average of 45 cases and the target is 35 cases each.

Timm Vogelsberg, Rural Institute University Center for Excellence

Timm shared with members that there is currently 65 University Centers for Excellence (UCE) and 4 more have been funded in larger states. He is currently entering strategic planning phase and looking for new way to stretch resources. He talked about the challenges of reporting on the Federal System.

Kimme Evermann, Older American Act

Kimme shared with members that she continues to work very hard on the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. A written report was submitted and is made a part of these minutes.

Sylvia Danforth, Montana Association of Community Disability Services (CDC)

The organization, formerly known as MAIDS, is made of two separate groups. One is the providers and one is for system advocacy. Charlie Briggs is the Executive Director for the provider group and is also the lobbyist for the advocacy group. At the meeting in Lewistown the main topic was the concerns on the rate redesign process. There are differences in implementation in different regions. Providers are struggling with trying to provide the service with limited staff. Recruitment of staff is becoming more difficult. Most young people do not want to work as hard and are not looking at the field as a career as did previous generations. Providers are excited about the College of Direct Support training. During the legislative session they will be concentrating on re-basing, collaboration, reduction in case loads for case managers and Part C. On a personal note Sylvia thanked the Council for the privilege to serve on the Council. The Governor did not reappoint her and this will be her last meeting.

PEOPLE FIRST REPORTS:

Missoula Chapter - Jason Billehus and Keough Duffy

Jason shared with members that the Missoula chapter had their Halloween party and everyone had a great time. The members' will be picking up food from the stores to donate to needy families. Members will also adopt nursing home residents who don't have any family and provide them with presents.

Keough did not have anything to add to the report.

Helena Chapter - Darwin Nelson

Darwin shared with members the meetings were moved to a new location because the other meeting place was too small. They only sold Root Beer Floats at Alive @ 5 twice last summer, because it was too hot for some members.

Kalispell Chapter - Rocky Hughes

Rocky shared with members that the Chapter held the annual Big Wheels Basketball fundraiser and made \$1200. The chapter also held fry bread sales at 4 different events over the summer and made \$4400, which was enough to cover the rent for 1 year. At the Senate meeting in September their speaker was John Augusta from Oregon.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Diana Tavary/ Lisa T Hathaway** second - Accept the Budget and Travel portion of the Board of Directors Report.
Unanimous - Adopted

2. **Jason Billehus/ Darwin Nelson** second - Accept the Membership recommendation of the Board of Directors Report, which states that current 1 year terms will be increased to 4 year terms for members.
Unanimous - Adopted

3. **Diana Tavary/ Lisa T Hathaway** second - Accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors Report to establish a Legislative Agenda in a Broad Process.
Unanimous - Adopted

4. **Keough Duffy/ Jason Billehus** second - Accept the Planning Committee report.
Unanimous - Adopted

5. **PJ Rismon-Beckley/ Jason Billehus** second - Adjourn meeting on Friday, November 10, 2006.
Unanimous - Adopted