



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 18 - 19, 2009

WINGATE BY WYNDHAM

2007 N. OAKES

HELENA MT 59601

**COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 4:15 PM on June 18, 2009.
COUNCIL CONVENED AT 8:30 AM and ADJOURNED at 11:00 AM on June 19,
2009.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Berryman, Jason Billehus, Janet Carlson, Sara Casey, Melissa Clark, Isaiah Devereaux, Keough Duffy, Debra Ekblom, Lisa T Hathaway, Darwin Nelson, Barbara Olind, Shawn Parker, PJ Rismon-Beckley, Rudy Shiner, Jan Wenaas, Connie Wethern, Sen. Carol Williams, Nanette Whitman-Holmes and Thursday only Timm Vogelsberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rep. Tim Furey, Roger Holt, Kellie Karasko, Diana Tavary, Brenda Walters and Anna Whiting-Sorrell

LIASON MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Varnum and Friday only Kimme Evermann

LIASON MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joann Dotson, Jeff Sturm, and Sylvia Danforth

STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Swingley and Dee Burrell

GUESTS: Sister Johnelle Howanach

COUNCIL AGENDA:

The **June** agenda consisted of a presentation/interview; scoring and funding decision on FFY 2010 Multi-Year Project, a presentation by Kathy Kuntz from the Social Security Administration, Executive Director's Report, Election of Officers for FFY 2010-2011, Agency Reports and Member News.

Chair **Lisa T. Hathaway** called the meeting to order with welcome to the new members and introductions. New members are Isaiah Devereaux, Debra Ekblom, Rudy Shiner and Nanette Whitman- Holmes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Candidates for Chairperson were **Keough Duffy** and **Connie Wethern** and for Vice-Chairperson were **Keough Duffy** and **Don Berryman**. Candidates gave a short campaign speech before members cast their ballots. **Connie Wethern** was elected as Chairperson and **Don Berryman** was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

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

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

PJ Rismon-Beckley shared with members that an email vote was held regarding the Governance Committee recommendation addressing proxy or alternate members. In-person votes were cast at the meeting to reaffirm recommendation of the Committee to correct the omission in policy #2.5, to not allow proxy or alternates

PRESENTATION:

Kathy Kuntz of the **Social Security Administration** gave a presentation on Social Security Work Incentives, and provided members with several handouts which are attached to and made a part of these minutes. Kathy will continue her presentation at the October MCDD meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Deborah Swingley shared the FFY2010 MCDD funding overview. Handouts are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Dee Burrell updated members on the Partnerships in Transition project activities from year one to current and how these activities tied back to the original Call for Investment Investor Target. Handouts are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

CONTINUATION FUNDING FOR MULTI-YEAR PROJECT PRESENTATION:

Members heard a conference call presentation from the following proposer and their amount:

Rural Institute on Disabilities/Partnerships for Transition	\$93,950
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After the presentation, reviewing, scoring, and discussion The Council made Funding decisions. The total amount of funds available for consideration was \$181,809 and a total of \$153,950 was obligated which included Partnerships for Transition and establishing an administrative reserve.

\$153,950 for Continuation and Administrative Requests

\$60,000 Administrative Reserve

\$93,950 Rural Institute on Disabilities/ Partnerships for Transition year 4

AGENCY REPORTS:

Kimme Evermann, Senior and Long Term Care submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Barb Varnum, Vocational Rehabilitation shared with members that the general program does not have a waiting list but the job program does have 100 persons on the waiting list. The length of the list differs from city to city, an example is Missoula in which the list is 8 years and eastern Montana is much shorter. Supported employment is time limited to 18 months and must have a sign off from an agency to authorize if it is needed for a longer time frame. VR has identified three areas for stimulus funds, 1- Client benefits will get the majority of the funds; 2- Counselors may get more funds; 3- Tribal and DD providers. They are trying to get the accounting system to work correctly because the Federal Government requires that every single dollar must be spent correctly and tracked. Joe Mathew retired from the department in October and his position has not been filled yet. The department is contemplating splitting the position into 2 positions. There is a VR counselor in attendance each day of the Montana Youth Leadership Forum.

Sara Casey, Office of Public Instruction submitted a written report which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION:

Pursuant to Council Policies, a draft evaluation format for the annual review of the Executive Director was distributed to members for their review, input and approval. Several members sought clarification of language in "don't" questions. The form was revised and members accepted the evaluation form. ED Evaluation

forms will be sent to all members for their completion along with stamped self-addressed envelopes for returning completed forms to incoming Chair **Connie Wethern**. Members were reminded to include their names on the forms so that Connie can assure that everyone has responded.

MISC:

- The **Master Calendar for FFY 2010** was adopted. Staff is exploring all of the alternatives to hold the March 2010 meeting in an alternate format. Members who have used Adobe Connect and Go To Meeting shared their experiences with these formats. Members were assured that everyone would be trained or have a trial run prior to the meeting.
- Members can receive a free subscription to the magazine *Neurology Today* and were asked to sign up with staff if they wanted one.

MEMBER NEWS:

- Members were introduced to **Chevy** who is **Rudy Shiner's** service animal. Members were asked to not give Chevy treats but they can give them to Rudy to give to her. She is rewarded with treats when a task is completed so only Rudy can give treats to her.
- **Jan Wenaas** read a statement that **Melissa Clark** and Sister Johnelle Howanach gave to her regarding two national meetings that Melissa attended in New Mexico. A copy is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
- **Sara Casey** and her husband are expecting their first child in the fall. Congratulations from all the members.
- **Brenda Walters** has been reappointed to the council and will return in October. She had a bone marrow transplant which was successful.
- **Lisa T Hathaway** rode her bicycle from Bozeman to Helena to attend the meeting which took her 12 hours.
- **Darwin Nelson** shared that People First of Montana got their 501c(3) status after 8 months. He is up for re-election as state treasurer of the organization.

MOTIONS REGISTER:

1. **Timm Vogelsberg/ Sara Casey** second - Accept the recommendation of the Governance Committee to exclude proxies and alternates.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

2. **Connie Wethern/ PJ Rismon-Beckley** second - Fund the proposal of the Rural Institute - Partnerships in Transition Year 4 for \$93,950 with an expanded scope of work which will define team members and what roles they play, so that others could replicate if they do not have everyone at the table. (How can you do this with a special education teacher and a parent). Also more materials and information to be sent to Special Education teachers and additional feedback be requested from teachers.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

3. **PJ Rismon-Beckley/ Connie Wethern** second - Accept staff recommendation to hold back \$60,000 in Administration Reserves.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

4. **Jan Wenaas/ Lisa T Hathaway** second - Adopt the Master Calendar
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED

5. **Jason Billehus/ Keough Duffy** second - Adjourn meeting at 11:00 AM.
UNANIMOUS - ADOPTED