



MCDD QUICK NEWS

Here's What's Happening in Council Offices
for the month of April 2007

MCDD TO HOLD ELECTIONS AT JUNE MEETING

MCDD will hold its annual election of officers at the June 7, 8, 2007 Council meeting. Positions to be elected for FFY08 which will start October 1, 2007 are the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Nominations are being taken through May 4 so if you're interested in tossing your hat into the ring please do so. We have received several nominations so far in Council offices and the official slate will be announced after the May 4 deadline has passed. Just a reminder if you are nominating someone else you will need to get their permission to submit their name for consideration. Council officers serve for one-year terms and may be reelected for a total of two, one-year terms.

"CHARTING YOUR FUTURE" TO BE IN SEPTEMBER

Mark your calendars for September 24, 25, 26, 2007 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena for the "Charting Your Future" learning opportunity on the new self-directed services the State of Montana is piloting and self-determination. Nationally known speakers Tom Nerney from the Center for Self-Determination and Norman and Emma Kunc will be keynoting and presenting during the event. A Save-the-Date card will be coming out within the next week, with registration and agenda information to follow in early summer. This learning opportunity will be specifically tailored to the outreach and education needs of persons with developmental disabilities, their families and service providers as we embark on this exciting new service and greater self-determination.

The Council is pleased to be collaborating with persons with disabilities and their families, the DPHHS, Rural Institute on Disabilities, Montana Advocacy Program and other entities in developing this exciting learning opportunity. Stay tuned more information will follow in future Quick News editions!

COUNCIL HOLDS MARCH MEETING AT MDC

The March meeting of the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on the campus of the Montana Developmental Center in Boulder. In addition to our regular business Council members toured the facility and visited with numerous people residing on campus. The Council extends its thanks and appreciation to Superintendent Kathy Zeeck and Developmental Disabilities Program Director Jeff Sturm for facilitating the Councils use of the campus.

JUNE CFI FUNDING MEETING APPROACHES

Our June MCDD meeting will be here before we know it. We are anticipating a good attendance of members as this is our annual funding meeting of our Calls for Investment. The meeting will be held June 7, 8, 2007. For FFY08 funding consideration the Council will be hearing continuing funding requests from the Rural Institute/Partnerships in Transition; MT Citizens Advocacy Coalition/People First; Rim Country Land Institute and MT Youth Leadership Forum. A Call for Investment in the Area of Innovative Concepts was released in late February 2007, has been advertised in the legal sections of Montana's major daily newspapers, distributed via email and is posted on the website. The CFI carries a maximum amount of \$10,000. Deadline for submission of target plans for the CFI is May 11, 2007. We will be crafting the draft agenda for the Chair's review shortly and meeting packets will be going out in mid-May to MCDD members.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

The 2007 Legislature adjourned on Friday, April 27, 2007 the 90th day of its constitutionally mandated session. What is arguably the most controversial session in Montana history is now behind us, but without final actions on major components of tax policy, school funding and funding of state government being taken. A special session looms before the state and the question waiting to be answered is when it will be held. The current budget that operates state government will terminate on June 30. This session will not go down in Montana history as a model of government in action, but the Council extends its sincere thanks to the legislators who fought the battles everyday of the session and behalf of all of Montana's citizens. We wish you success in performing the business of the state during the Special Session.

HOUSE PASSES GENETIC INFORMATION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

The federal House of Representatives passed the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2007 (GINA) by a near-unanimous vote, 420-3, on Wednesday. This legislation, which was strongly supported by the disability community, would prohibit employers and insurers from discriminating based on genetic information.

Specifically, the bill would make it illegal for employers to use genetic tests to influence hiring, firing or promotions. With regard to health insurance, health insurers could not deny coverage to potential members or charge higher premiums to members because of genetic test results.

This Legislation has traditionally enjoyed strong support in the Senate, where it has passed out of committee. It is likely the bill will come before the full Senate in the coming weeks and months, and the President has indicated he will sign this important civil rights bill into law.

WHITE HOUSE DECLARES NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

This past week was National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Since 1981, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week has provided an opportunity to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. Although the week has passed it is good to remember victims' rights throughout the year. There is excellent information and reports on the Office for Victims of Crime website, please visit <http://www.ovc.gov/welcovc/welcome.html>.

Dates of Interest

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| MT Assc of Community Disability Services | W Yellowstone | 5/8-10/07 |
| MT Transportation Partnership | Helena | 5/16/07 |

Please contact Council staff for additional information on these meetings.

REMEMBER APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

