



MCDD QUICK NEWS

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

JUNE MCDD MEETING LOCATION CHANGES

The June MCDD meeting will be held at the **RED LION COLONIAL INN** in Helena, rather than at the Wingate. The Red Lion Colonial Inn is located at 2301 Colonial Drive in Helena. Driving Instructions from the north, south, east and west will be included in your June meeting packets which will be sent out in mid-May. This location change is due to the Council's changing the June meeting dates earlier this year. This change will also give the Council the opportunity to try out another meeting/lodging venue with a restaurant in the facility. If Council members have any questions please call Council offices at 1/866-443-4332.

FULL AGENDA FOR JUNE FUNDING MEETING

The agenda for our June funding meeting is very full and we are anticipating being in the meeting into Friday afternoon, June 8. We believe we will have Council business completed by 2:00pm. **PLEASE** make your travel plans accordingly so we have full participation by the members. Please contact Council staff if you have any travel questions.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

The following are candidates for Council offices. The election will be held on June 8, via paper ballot. All candidates will have the opportunity to address the full Council prior to the election.

For Chair of the Council:

Mamie Flinn
Connie Wethern

For Vice-Chair of the Council:

Jason Billehus
Lisa T. Hathaway

Good luck to all the candidates - we look forward to your campaign speeches!

JUNE MEETING PACKETS IN MAIL MAY 18

All materials for the June meeting will be in the mail on Friday, May 18, 2007. This includes funding target plans, agendas and notices. We apologize for any delay in getting these materials out to you.

HOUSE PASSES HATE CRIMES AND HEAD START MEASURES

The House of Representatives passed two measures relevant to the disability community, including legislation to reauthorize the Head Start Program and the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a measure to reauthorize the Head Start program which helps low-income and underserved children prepare for school. The legislation would authorize an increase in funding for the popular program allowing for \$7.4 billion in FFY08, up from \$6.9 billion this year. The bill also would expand eligibility for the program allowing children from families earning up to 130% of the federal poverty limit.

The House of Representatives also passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act which would expand the definition of a hate crime to include crimes that are motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability of the victim. The legislation authorizes funds to support the prosecution of hate crimes, to train law enforcement professionals and to prevent hate crimes. Although the bill passes by a comfortable margin 237-180 and is likely to pass the Senate, President Bush has indicated that he will veto this legislation.

Dates of Interest

MT Transportation Partnership	Helena	5/16/07
MAP Meeting	Helena	5/18/07
MCDD Meeting	Helena	6/6-8/07

Please contact Council staff for additional information on these meetings.

