

**Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disability
Dine Education Building – Window Rock, AZ
March 20, 2012
Regular Meeting – Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10:11 am by Vice-President Sylvia McKinley.

Invocation was done by Cecelia Benally, member.

Roll Call was done by Secretary, Janice Begay. Present was President Hoskie Benally; Vice-President Sylvia McKinley; Secretary Janice Begay; Members: Cecelia Benally, Elsie Dee, Roger Johnson, Rose Zunie and Emmett Betsuie. Not in attendance was Stephanie Benally. Guest present was Honorable Danny Simpson.

Reading of Agenda was done by VP Sylvia McKinley. Motion to accept agenda was made by Rose Zunie and second was made by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 5 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Reading of last minutes (February 1, 2012) was done by Secretary, Janice Begay. Motion to accept last meeting minutes was done by Roger Johnson and second was done by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Vulnerable Adult Protection Act

- A. **Planning and Orientation Meetings:** Regina Martinez mentioned the meeting with Thomas Cody, Sgt. Stanley Ashley and Treva Roanhorse who collaborated on trainings with Law Enforcement and have a tentative orientation schedule on April 10 and 11, 2012 to be held in Farmington, New Mexico and April 12 and 13, 2012 to be held in Tuba City, Arizona. A copy of the agenda and people involved with these trainings was shared by Regina Martinez. Rose Zunie, member offered to do the Opening Prayer during the second day of this training and Regina Martinez said she will recommend it to the facilitator. Treva Roanhorse mentioned "The Violence Against Families Act" will be a part of the Vulnerable Adult Protection Act. The people who will be enforcing the act will be present on these days of the orientation, additionally we would like to have exhibits available and we would like to see the Native American Disability Law Center's booth. Regina Martinez mentioned there will be another meeting to discuss these orientation meetings on March 29, 2012. President Hoskie Benally mentioned it would be nice to be involved in the planning meetings, to be informed and involved. President Benally also expressed concerned about NNACOD being put on the backburner and having people with disabilities just being spoken for. Tentative schedule to finalize meeting in the morning of March 27 or March 29, 2012. Elsie Dee, member, voiced her concerns with daily life with people with disabilities and how it is to deal with such issues we are addressing as a council. She shared the UTA and Navajo Transit system meeting at Aneth Chapter on April 13, 2012.

President Hoskie Benally took over the meeting at 11:16 am.

Polling Site Surveys:

- A. Gallup area, Tohatchi Elementary School, Twin Lakes Elementary School, Mexican Springs Chapter House, Rock Springs Chapter House and Red Rock Chapter House. This involves the federal, state, county and tribal elections and to see if these polling sites are disability accessibility. We will be looking at polling site areas and different accessibility, in addition to the assessment survey, another form will be attached. The next survey is scheduled for March 28, 2012. We will go to Chinle, AZ and then onto Tuba City, AZ. A report will be sent to the Oversight Committee and to the Office of the Navajo Nation President. Doris Dennison, Hoskie Benally and Sylvia McKinley will do the surveys.**

Navajo Nation Transit System : Update on Status of Action Plan.

- A. The Navajo Transit Office is closed all this week due to the mass mandatory training so Mr. Lee Bigwater wasn't able to attend this meeting. We can ask to meet with the Navajo Transit Director after the March 27, 2012 meeting to get an update from Mr. Bigwater. One issue Mr. Bigwater addressed was that the Flagstaff and Tuba City routes had problems and needed to be resolved. Treva Roanhorse suggested the NNACOD get an email proposed action plan from Mr. Bigwater and make this a priority and see if two busses can be accessible for each agency and see if monies can be given to them. Treva Roanhorse recommends Regina Martinez to get a proposed action plan for 2013. Elsie Dee is asking to be part of this meeting and requesting for monies for travel from the NNACOD. President Hoskie Benally mentioned it is appropriate.**

Disability Employment: Status of meeting with NN Personnel Department

- A. Talked about person with a disability and nothing about the VR Act and only the veterans were addressed. ADA is not covered under the Navajo Nation, the VR Act more stringent than the ADA and covers a lot more issues. The VR Act was passed by the Navajo Nation Council in 1984 and 6 years later the ADA was passed, Section 504 is also in the VR Act and not in the ADA. Let's try to get another meeting on March 27, 2012, so we will have two proposed meetings on that day.**

Public Building Accessibility: Status of Directive from Health, Education and Human Services Committee:

- A. President Hoskie Benally did a background of the public building accessibility and report was done by Native American Disability Law Center called "Opening Doors" which is about serving people with disabilities. How is the Navajo Nation going to correct these findings? Honorable Walter Phelps also supported this and he recommended looking at all of the buildings. How much is this going to cost? The chairperson is supposed to write a letter/directive on behalf of the NNACOD. Regina Martinez mentioned that Jonathan Hale said he would write letters to who will help with accessibility. We will look at the meeting minutes first and wait for more information on this issue.**

NNACOD Members: Review of Membership Attendance: President Hoskie Benally mentioned we have 10 members and have a concern about Stephanie Benally. Member, who has missed about four meetings . We can't keep excusing her, she came in as a service provider and wants to stay on as a family member with a disability. According to our Bylaws it would be three missed meetings. Roger Johnson motioned to write a letter to Stephanie Benally that non-attendance needs to be addressed and needs to be resolved or she needs to resign. She has missed five consecutive meetings and has been asked to be excused, the distance is an issue and she needs to attend meetings regularly. Second was made by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 7 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

NNACOD Reimbursement Claims: Meeting Agendas and Meeting Minutes

The progress on the reimbursement claims is slow. We need to get the meeting minutes in first before getting reimbursement checks. Just to let you know it takes time and hopefully Treva Roanhorse will take that into consideration. I go through a three-tier system such as the getting the agenda, sign in sheet, and minutes.

NNACOD Annual Conference: Status Update

The conference is on October 18, 2012 at Red Rock State Park and we will do an agenda and take care of the cost and look for Advocate of the Year.

Announcements:

May 4, 2012-Shiprock Marathon Exhibition, we are looking for vendors/organizations/people who will set up booths for their businesses and sell their goods.

March 26, 2012-Near Gallup, NM, we are doing a elderly day care and we are having a meeting on this day to establish a day care for elderly people. The meeting is at Rio West Mall in Gallup, New Mexico at 1:00 pm.

Elsie Dee will be attending the Poly Seminar next month in Washington, DC

Motion for the next meeting on May 10, 2012 in window Rock, Arizona at 10:00 am was made by Roger Johnson and second by Rose Zunie. Vote is 7 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m . Motion for adjournment was made by Cecelia Benally and second by Rose Zunie. Vote is 7 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.