

**Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disability
Dine Education Center-Window Rock, Arizona
January 19, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by President Hoskie Benally at 10:06 am.
Invocation was done by Member, Rose Zunie.

Roll call was done by Secretary, Janice Begay. Present were Hoskie Benally, Janice Begay, Cecelia Benally, Roger Johnson, Rose Zunie, Emmett Betsuie, and Joe Thompson. Vice-President Sylvia McKinley was excused due to family bereavement. Stephanie Benally was also excused due to her travel distance. Member Elsie Dee was absent for unknown reason. Introduction was made by new member Joe Thompson who is representing the Tuba City, Western Navajo Nation area and is originally from Leupp, Arizona. There was also two guests present, Paul Shondee and Edith Widefoot.

Meeting of Agenda was done by Secretary, Janice Begay. Discussion was made and was requested to add "Public Building Accessibility Update" under "F"; add "Navajo Nation Developmental Disabilities Program Overview" under "N"; lastly add "Vocational Rehabilitation Process" under "O". Motion to accept these additions to the agenda was made by Rose Zunie and second was made by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Meeting minutes from November 17, 2011 was read by Secretary, Janice Begay. Motion to accept meeting minutes was made by Roger Johnson and second was made by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Public Building Accessibility Update: President Hoskie Benally mentioned there was 2000 surveys sent out to people with disabilities, service providers and just general population. In addition to the surveys we also did 7 Focus Groups and this started in December 2010. President Hoskie Benally gave an overview of how this topic came about, we looked at different areas and buildings on the reservation and basically looked for accessibility. We compiled 15 surveys and put it into a booklet form and called it "Opening Doors" report. We will be sending the booklet to the Tribal Officials, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation President and Vice-President and Council Delegates. How can we approve accessibilities for Navajo people with disabilities? Honorable Danny Simpson will be put on the February 2, 2011 during the Health, Social Services and Education meeting agenda 2012. There is the parking lot issue that will be costly to the Navajo Nation and not so expensive will be changing door handles to "L" shape handles. Additionally, we did the 15 samples and hopefully if it goes through the council and under the President's directive so different divisions can do their own assessments. If the building is a rental, it needs to be accessible. Emmett Betsuie mentioned that NHA can't accommodate a person with a disability who needs to get to the second floor. Joe Thompson asked for a copy of the building survey that is being forwarded to Health and Social Services Committee and he also voiced his concern about discrimination against people with disabilities (NHA.NAHASDA, etc...). President Hoskie Benally mentioned that the 2007 Assessment Needs Survey identified the housing needs. NADLC filed a Freedom of Information Complaint against NHA.

Native Nation Adult Protection Act Update: We met with Department of Social Services, Regina Martinez, President Hoskie Benally; and Honorable Danny Simpson gave us a brief update on the Navajo Nation Adult Protection Act. President Hoskie Benally also gave an update on the NNAPA. The

Vulnerable Protection Act also referred to as the Doris Act was going through different committees in September 2011 and the Health and Social Services Committee unanimously voted for the act 16 to 0. The Dine Bikiyati Committee passed it and Sponsor Honorable Danny Simpson mentioned this morning the act will be on the winter session next week and will be up on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. or on Thursday. We need to publicize the act and also need to do training with the police personnel and we also need to get in touch with Ken Collins to do a walk on Wednesday during the winter session.

Public Transportation Policies Review: Regina Martinez mentioned she spoke with an individual and they needed more time to research this policy. Lee Bigwater was given a \$ 475,000.00 grant and we need to find out how many busses are accessible and how many will be modified. President Hoskie Benally mentioned that member Elsie Dee's concern was there are no busses in the Utah area and we needed to include them. President Benally mentioned we need to set up an executive meeting with Lee Bigwater and Sylvia McKinley, Janice Begay and Regina Martinez.

Election Polling Sites Survey Review: President Benally mentioned a survey has been developed where they have any elections. We will be doing 4 surveys: Tohatchi/Gallup; Shiprock; Ft. Defiance and Tuba City area. The first surveys were done on December 22, 2011 at Burnham Chapter (which has state and tribal elections); Sanostee Veterans Building (which has state/federal/tribal elections); Shiprock District 12 Firestation(which has federal elections); Hogback Chapter(which has state and federal elections); and Nenahnezad Chapter(which has state/federal/tribal elections).Areas that will be surveyed on January 23, 2012 are Gallup, Crownpoint and Tohatchi, New Mexico. We will get a report in June 2012 and Navajo Nation Code covers accessibility- a sketchy code and hopefully we will make code revisions.

Navajo Nation Employment Policies Review: There are four different laws that cover that and they are the Navajo Nation Preference Employment Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; American Disabilities Act and Navajo Vocational Rehabilitation and Opportunities for the Handicap Act. The Navajo Nation Employment Manual doesn't list how they will accommodate people with disabilities and how do we ask the Navajo Nation to look and review this manual. We have a proposed meeting on February 1, 2012, Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. to meet with Bernadette Bernally with the Personnel Department and Lee Bigwater with Department of Transportation and we would like for Honorable Danny Simpson and Doris Dennison at this meeting as well.

U.S. Department of Labor Issues Proposed 503 Rulemaking: President Hoskie Benally mentioned for the Council to review this and give feedback as a Council and the deadline is February 7, 2012 and they are seeking comments on the changes on the rule. We need to contact Larry Clauson of AZ DDPP and have a special meeting to review this on February 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Motion for Special Meeting on February 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. was made by Roger Johnson and seconded by Rose Zunie.

Vote is 6 in favor ; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

NNACOD Membership Status-Community Service Representative: Member Stephanie Benally is no longer employed as a service provider/representative and she missed the last three meetings. We need representation from the Utah area. Recommendation from President Hoskie Benally is to have Stephanie Benally attend the March 2012 meeting and have her tell her story. Motion for Stephanie Benally attend March meeting according to President Benally's recommendation was made by Rose Zunie and seconded by Cecelia Benally. **Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.**

NNACOD October 2012 Conference: Proposed site is Red Rock State Park. Motion to have 2012 Conference on October 11, 2012 was made by Roger Johnson and seconded by Cecelia Benally.

Vote is 6 in favor ; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Navajo Nation Developmental Disabilities Program Overview was done by Paul Shondee who works with people who are diagnosed with epilepsy, autism, intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsy. We provide attendant care, respite, home modification program and other services. We have 6 case managers, 3 in Window Rock, AZ, 2 in Chinle, AZ and 1 in Tuba City, AZ. We are contracted with Arizona DES Developmental Disabilities and have been in existence since 1996 and located just on the Arizona side.

President Benally mentioned we need to find out what is available under the Division of Social Services through the Navajo Nation Governmental Resources. We also can look at 5 breakout sessions for the conference and get Division of Social Services and educate about legislation that covers early childhood, adult and elderly topics. President Benally mentioned for Regina Martinez to look into tribal resources.

VR Process: We will need to bring in a VR Counselor to do a presentation. Member Joe Thompson currently has some houses that are just sitting, vacant in the Pinon, Arizona area. We need to look at possibly getting proposals for grants. We will defer this to the next meeting and notify Paula Seanez about getting this into the Advisory Council. We need to educate the public about the 2011-2012 Initiatives

Joe Thompson, member has a conference in Tuba City on July 18-19, 2012 and would like for President Hoskie Benally be invited as an Emcee or Guest Speaker. Joe Thompson is requesting for the next meeting to be held in Tuba City, Arizona to promote disability awareness for the public and the Western Agency. It will depend on the NNACOD funds to see if we can do a meeting in Tuba City, AZ.

Next meeting will be a special meeting on February 1, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.in the Window Rock Education Building.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m. by President Hoskie Benally. Motion to accept adjournment was made by Cecelia Benally and seconded by Roger Johnson. **Vote is 6 in favor ; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.**