# MSCOD COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

SOB Room 400S

St. Paul, MN 55155

(APPROVED 6/4/2015)

## AGENDA

* Call to Order & Introductions
* Approval of Agenda & Approval of Minutes
* Budget & Financial Reporting Process – Tracy Sigstad, SMaRT
* ADA Updates – Andrew Mosca
* Legislative Updates – David Fenley
* Chair’s Report
* Executive Director’s Report
* ACTION: Approval of Executive Committee motions
* Other Business
* Public Comment
* Adjourn

## Call to Order & Introductions

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Council members in attendance were: Robert Johnson, Hilary Hauser, Bryce Samuelson, Carlos Vazquez, Christine Versaevel, Dean Ascheman, Jim Thalhuber, and Kathy Wingen. Nathan Aalgaard, Kim Tyler, Nancy Rosemore, and David Schwartzkopf participated by phone. Ex-officios present were: Linda Lingen, Joani Werner, Barb Lundeen, and Jill Keene. Staff members attending were: Joan Willshire, Linda Gremillion, Andy Mosca, David Fenley, Shannon Hartwig, and Elizabeth Demski.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the agenda. Bryce Samuelson seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous voice vote. Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the December 4, 2014 minutes. Bryce Samuelson seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## Budget and Financial Reporting Process

Tracy Sigstad from SMaRT explained the oversight role and full scope of financial services it provides small agencies such as MSCOD. Smart is the official record keeper and has an advisory role. MSCOD is responsible for the budget but does not do transactions. There is a need for separation of duties which acts as a safety net and provides full transparency. This differs from nonprofit finances.

Jim Thalhuber stated that the council by statute is an advisory body only in regard to budget. It is the director’s job to handle budget and encumbrances. The chair recommended that MSCOD continue to receive reports from SMaRT. The executive director and chair will meet quarterly with SMaRT and report the financial narrative to the full council and SMaRT will report to the full council once a year on finances. Financial reports will be accessible to any council member at any time. Discussion followed. Dean Ascheman motioned to approve the chair’s recommendation; Hilary Hauser seconded the motion. Kathy Wingen and Christine Versaevel abstained due to meetings with legislators. David Schwartzkopf voted no. The rest of the council approved the motion by voice vote. The motion was carried.

## ADA Update

Andrew Mosca reported on the progress of the ADA 25th Anniversary celebration. The celebration will be held on July 26, 2015 at the History Center from noon to 4. This event will be free and open to everyone. Transportation may be a problem; the committee is investigating shuttle service. Pieces of the TPT documentary on the ADA will be shown on that day. The BLN career fair and ability expo will now be part of the October 28, 2015 ADA event. TPT will do a noon broadcast at this time and will have satellite sites throughout the state. The employment survey is on going in the field. The communication plans developed will be used after the ADA celebration.

## Legislative Update

David Fenley presented an update on legislation of interest to MSCOD.

S1524/HF1632 – This is the MSCOD Budget Bill which would fund 2 positions – accessible documents and an accessibility assistant. There is bipartisan support in both houses. Hearings will be held in the Senate and House on March 25, 2015.

HF1961 – MSCOD is requesting $600,000 in Legacy funding for Disability Cultural Competency which would be a permanent exhibit at the History Center.

SF455 – Elections Omnibus Bill. This was amended to include MSCOD. The bill provides for elections in case of disaster; MSCOD wants to make sure they are accessible.

SF1880 – The Assisted Suicide Bill. This is a controversial topic; hearings are held to gather information. It will likely be introduced next session.

SF39/HF161 – The Able Act. This would allow bank accounts to be set up for children with disabilities that would be outside of financial reporting. It enjoys bipartisan support.

SF1823 – This bill would combine 3 small agencies – Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific. The Latino council is the only agency supporting this.

SF1136 – The Access Symbol Bill. This bill would remove the words disabled and handicapped from parking and bathroom signs. There is a question on the cost of such a change.

## Chair’s Report

Jim Thalhuber reported that the executive council gave the director an outstanding review. The council needs to do a strategic plan for the next biennium. Staff would do an environmental assessment. The council would have an outside facilitator for an analysis of MSCOD’s strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to produce strategic framework and goals producing an annual work plan. The chair also reported that the council by-laws would be reviewed over the summer. He also reminded the council that MSCOD has 4 open council seats; candidates should be proactive. He reminded members staff needs to be informed of attendance. The next full council meeting will be held the afternoon of June 3, 2015 and the full day on June 4, 2015.

Kathy Wingen motioned the executive committee motions prepared for the March 24, 2015 meeting be approved. Dean Ascheman seconded the motion. Hilary Hauser and David Schwartzkopf abstained. The motion was approved by voice vote.

## Executive Director’s Report

Joan Willshire reported that Joe Kelly, the new head of homeland security, wants MSCOD to continue working with them. This would include government safety plans regarding trains with hazardous materials. MSCOD may hold a town hall meeting in May and is considering a triple wide booth at the State Fair.

## Adjourn

Dean Ascheman motioned to adjourn; Bryce Samuelson seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote. The chair adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Demski