# MSCOD COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Northwest Area Foundation

60 Plato Blvd. E – Suite 400

St. Paul, MN 55107

(Approved 12/2/2015)

## AGENDA

* Call to order & Introductions
* Approval of Agenda & Minutes
* Chair’s Report
* Executive Director’s Report
* Legislative Updates
* Committees
  + Committee Model
  + Access Update
  + Employment Update
  + ADA & Events Update
* Public Comment
* Meeting Recap
* Other Business
* TPT documentary
* Adjourn

## CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Council members present: Robert Johnson, Kim Tyler, Brian Bonte, Kathy Peterson, Nancy Fitzsimons, Carlos Vazquez, Dean Ascheman, Jim Thalhuber, Kathy Wingen, and Andrea Bejarano-Robinson. Timothy Boyer and Hilary Hauser participated by phone. Ex-officios present: Barb Lundeen, Jill Keen, Hilary Jensen, Linda Lingen, and Gail Lundeen. Staff members present: Joan Willshire, Margot Imdieke Cross, Linda Gremillion, David Fenley, Andy Mosca, Chad Miller, David Shaw, Shannon Hartwig, and Elizabeth Demski. Tracy Sigstad, Paul Warren and Kris Van Amber were guests.

## APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA & MINUTES

Kim Tyler motioned for approval of the revised agenda and minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting. Dean Ascheman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by roll call vote.

## CHAIR’S REPORT

Jim Thalhuber presented the chair’s report. The budget for the 2015 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) was successful; the agency completed the year $202 under budget. However, the 2016 budget (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) May have a deficit. This is due to multiple issues, government increase to state offices, a 1.8% increase in rent and increases in salaries. The agency’s cost will exceed this increase – there will be increases of 2.5% for salaries, 5% increase in rent, and IT expenses. These increases are out of the agency’s control. The executive committee decided the agency must be proactive in dealing with this shortfall. They have recommended that the agency continue to pay council member expenses but temporarily suspend the per diem paid to members Until June 30, 2015. This is allowed in the by-laws. After discussion, Dean Ascheman motioned to endorse the executive committee’s recommendation of temporarily suspending the per diem. Hilary Hauser seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Robert Johnson, Hilary Hauser, Brian Bonte, Kathy Peterson, Carlos Vazquez, Dean Ascheman, Jim Thalhuber, and Kathy Wingen voted for the motion. Kim Tyler, Nancy Fitzsimons, and Andrea Bejarano-Robinson voted against the motion. Timothy Boyer abstained. The motion was approved. Other measures will be taken to reduce this deficit including eliminating attending conferences and increasing teleconferencing. The budget will be revisited in future meetings. Elections for the executive committee will be held in December’s meeting; details will be announced.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Joan Willshire presented the director’s report. The Olmstead Implementation office is looking for volunteers for their quality of life survey; members are encouraged to participate. An individual has requested documents on the ADA survey through the freedom of information act. The Attorney General’s office is advising us how to proceed with the request. The executive director has been elected vice-chair on MNDOT’s MN Council on Transportation equality access, they are organizing a new state wide council.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joan Willshire will talk at the Senate Committee on health and hearing in regard to equality.

## COMMITTEES

An handout of the MSCOD standing committee model detailing the purpose, role, structure, responsibilities and membership of the advisory committees was distributed previously to the standing committees for discussion at their meetings.

### Access Committee

Robert Johnson reported that the access committee discussed the model and decided that committee meetings would be held the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30. MSCOD is working with the Chamber of Commerce, Department of Human Rights and the Disability Law Center on the ADA Title III lawsuits that are being filed against small businesses outstate. Margot Imdieke Cross is working on higher access standards at the airport; the airport is providing strong support in this effort (airlines are not). Currently there isn’t a guide to the access points for the St. Paul Saints’ Ballpark; this document will be available on the internet or by mail this spring.

### Employment Committee

David Fenley reported the committee discussed the committee model and need to set a regular meeting time. A law was enacted directing Workforce Investment Opportunity Act called WICA to spend 15% of its flat funding on students age 14 to graduation. This will mean more people will be served. Accommodation fund passed; funding will be available January 16, 2016. There has been a drop in the number of people with disabilities working for the state.

### ADA & Events Committee

Andy Mosca reported that the ADA celebration on July 26, 2015 was successful. About 1,000 attended and MSCOD received positive feedback with great media coverage.

The ADA continued at the booth at the State Fair through brochures and distribution of posters. On October 28, 2015 MSCOD will support the Career and Resource Fair from 8:30 to 4:30. TPT will broadcast the brown bag lunch featuring Senator Tom Harkin.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## MEETING RECAP

A survey evaluating the council meeting will be sent to members; please respond and provide feedback to improve our experience. Summaries of the SWOT analysis will be sent to members.

## ADJOURN

Dean Ascheman motioned to adjourn; Kim Tyler seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Demski

and

Shannon Hartwig