



THE NAVAJO NATION

Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disability
Dine Education Center – Large Conference Room
February 01, 2012
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Special Meeting

AGENDA

- A. Meeting- Called to order @ 8:00 a.m.
- B. Invocation: Rosie Zunie, Member
- C. Roll Call:

Hoskie Benally Jr., President
Sylvia McKinley, Vice-President
Janice Begay, Secretary/Treasurer
Cecilia Benally, Member
Joe Thompson, Member **EX**

Elsie Dee, Member **EX**
Roger B. Johnson, Member
Rose M. Zunie, Member
Stephanie L. Benally, Member **EX**
Emmett Betsuie, Member

- D. Acceptance of Agenda

Motioned by: Rose Zunie Motion Seconded by: Rodger Johnson **F 7 O 0 A 0.**

- E. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes ***Defer to next meeting***

Motioned by: _____ Motion Seconded by: _____ **F O A.**

- F. UPDATE: Navajo Nation Adult Protection Act – Honorable Danny Simpson

- G. MEETING: Department of Personnel Management – B. Bernally

- H. MEETING: Navajo Transit Systems – L. Bigwater

- I. REVIEW: U.S. Dept. of Labor Issues Proposed 503 Rulemaking

- J. Announcements

- K. Next Meeting: Date March 08, 2012 _____

Time: 12:00 p.m. _____

Location: Tuba City, AZ _____

- L. Meeting Adjourned @ 2:00

Executive Meeting with Navajo Nation Personnel

In attendance was Genevieve Barber-Westbrook; Regina Martinez; Hoskie Benally, Mike Anagal (caretaker); Sylvia McKinley; Janice Begay; and Doris Dennison.

At this meeting with Department of Personnel, NNACOD asked specifically about how the policies and procedures dealing with Navajo people with disabilities are incorporated into the Navajo nation employee's manual. There is really none specifically about disabilities but we don't discriminate. The procedure that needs to be taken would be internal and other programs would have their input, the last review was in 2010 and the different issue that needs to be addressed hasn't happen. The revisions and final approval will go before the committees and DOJ needs to review it. There has been no discussion about preference over others. There are no numbers but can give a percentage of how many people with disabilities are employed with the Navajo Nation and there is no way of tracking employed people with disabilities. The Navajo Nation employment application does ask about people with a disability. Also addressed was the young population with special needs who will be entering the workforce and what positions is the Navajo Nation lacking and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation can say we need these certain type of positions. Workforce Development is under the Division of Human Services and it looks like we need to meet with Workforce Development and Department of Youth. A letter will be sent to the director on conversation on inclusion of this matter and look at their policies and see what they are doing with people with disabilities. They have their own employment policies in place for the youth. Representative, Genevieve Barber-Westbrook from Department of Personnel will let the Director, Bernadette Bernally about this meeting. Meeting was over at 9:15 a.m.

Executive Meeting with Navajo Nation Transit Report

In attendance were Lee Bigwater, Harrison Watchman, Regina Martinez, Hoskie Benally, Sylvia McKinley, Janice Begay and Doris Dennison. Danny Simpson arrived shortly after the meeting began.

At this meeting the NNACOD addressed the NN Transit Office regarding accessibility and the policy and procedures. Is there any verbiage with disability friendly, if there is none can the NNACOD help with revising? How many busses are accessible? Are there any assistive devices? Are there any expansions on bus routes in Utah? Also asking about the \$ 475, 000 Grant awarded to NN Transit and how many busses is ADA compliant?

According to Mr. Bigwater when NN Transit purchased these busses ADA wasn't really being implemented at the time. The extra cost for a chairlift for one bus is \$ 20,000 - \$50, 000. FTA will be pressuring us to get accommodations on every bus, the state of Utah says NN Transit has to have ADA so we have two 24 seat bus. The Shiprock, Flagstaff and Tuba City routes have chairlifts. The NN Transit policy will be attached to the grant for 2013 since any capital that you receive has to have ADA. The lifetime of the bus is 4 years and we will have brand new busses in 2014 and we will have to replace the older busses. The department has 20 low profile busses and 16 are ADA compliant; 10 high profile units and only 1 is ADA compliant and all the small busses have wheelchair lifts and are all accessible.

President Hoskie Benally had a recommendation to "maybe" add verbiage to your policy for people with disabilities. Doris Dennison voiced her concern about needed bus shelters due to inclement weather and according to the federal law and it has to be 100 % compliant. Is that the goal, to be 100%?

Mr. Bigwater mentioned that is our goal and timeline would be 2015. We are trying to coordinate connectivity and we have 10 bus shelters in Utah, 20 in New Mexico and were denied for bus shelter in Arizona.

Sylvia McKinley questioned if there are any accommodations for visually-impaired and is the drivers supposed to help them?

Doris Dennison mentioned if such an announcement from the driver asking if someone with disability needs assistance has been offered.

NN Transit Director, Lee Bigwater stated that at the safety meetings he will talk to his staff about notifying people with visually impaired or other disabilities if a bus arrived and assistance was needed. The department needs to do NEMS 3 day training plus an additional day for the NN training. The Director shared a book with the Council about their different disability trainings that needed to be covered in their training which is a federal requirement. GPS systems were installed in all of the busses about a year ago. We are asking Arizona DOT for pullouts and for the right of way encroachment we need DOT needs to do a survey to see if it is safe or not. Arizona will probably approve the pullouts when they have some funding. Utah has 2 busses that are ADA and planning on starting these routes in March 2012: the Aneth, Utah to Montezuma Creek, Utah through Bluff, Utah and onto Blanding, Utah route and then Montezuma Creek, Utah to Red Mesa, UT/AZ, to Teec Nos Pos, AZ to Shiprock, NM route. We are asking Utah DOT if we can do this route. In 2011 we received a \$ 500,000 grant and we are advertising 2 positions and we haven't totally confirmed routes. We are also looking at a Torreon, New Mexico to Farmington, New Mexico route as well. We will put the \$ 475,000 into the routes again and we are 100% federally funded, and we are both federally/state funded. Category B means that a program is not going to be funded again. There will be a grand opening on March 16, 2012 at the Central Office in Ft. Defiance, AZ on Navajo Route 54 by NHA.

President Hoskie Benally mentioned that if you apply for funding the NNACOD can write a support letter, the Annual NNACOD Conference is in October 2012 and we need to look into bringing Navajo Nation service providers and also wanted to ask if you have an advisory board/council recommended by the state? Mr. Bigwater mentioned that we always say the standing committee is our Advisory Council and this is required quarterly. Honorable Danny Simpson discussed that the amendments needs to strengthen the law, maybe making the "PAS S" book mandatory law with the Navajo Nation (NEMS). If we need matching funds by the Navajo Nation then let's go for it, let's go phase by phase to help make ADA compliance for people with disabilities. Mr. Bigwater mentioned we need to sit down with NNACOD and address what phase we can take, plan of action. It would also be nice to invite us to your annual conference and we can do a Powerpoint presentation and I will give you a plan of action. President Hoskie Benally mentioned how can we strengthen the law and President Shelley is very supportive and we need to report to him about this and Walter Phelps wants to help out with our issues, also give the policy to Regina Martinez.

Meeting was over at 11:10 am.

NNACOD Special Meeting, February 1, 2012

Meeting was called to order by President Hoskie Benally at 12:00 pm.

Invocation was done by Rose Zunie, member.

Roll call was done by Janice Begay, Secretary. Present were Hoskie Benally, Sylvia McKinley, Janice Begay, Cecelia Benally, Roger Johnson, Rose Zunie and Emmett Betsuie. Not present but excused were

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Joe Thompson for family bereavement, Elsie Dee is in SLC, Utah for the legislative session and Stephanie Benally will be at the next meeting.

Rose Zunie motioned to accept the agenda and Roger Johnson second the motion. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose and 0 abstain.

Last meeting minutes was deferred to the next regular meeting in March.

Update on Adult Vulnerable Act was done by Honorable Danny Simpson. The Act was passed unanimously. The signing ceremony is pending, there was 23 legislations and wanted this to pass this legislation first. I will make a recommendation to invite Walter Phelps to the next NNACOD meeting. President Hoskie Benally mentioned we need to sit down with Walter Phelps and see how he wants to help and strategize some of these efforts.

Update on Department of Personnel Management meeting: President Hoskie Benally went over what was discussed during the morning meeting with this department.

Update on Navajo Transit Systems meeting: This was done by President Hoskie Benally, he gave a brief update on the discussions regarding the meeting with Department of Personnel. Also discussed was writing a letter tomorrow or next week to Department of Personnel. Walter Phelps of Dilkon, Arizona is interested in NNACOD and we need to get him involved with our initiatives.

Review of the U.S. Department of Labor Issues Proposed 503 Rulemaking: A motion was made by Sylvia McKinley to not provide a response due to document being too technical and require an expert and knowledgeable facilitator, possibly a labor attorney to assist NNACOD. Second was made by Rose Zunie. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

No announcements

Motion for next meeting to be on March 8, 2012 at 11:00 am in Tuba City, Arizona was made by Roger Johnson and second was made by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm by President Hoskie Benally.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Roger Johnson and second by Cecelia Benally. Vote is 6 in favor; 0 oppose; 0 abstain.

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