

INDIVISIBLE DURANGO MEMBERS MEETING
JULY 22, 2017 MINUTES

1. Welcome and Recap since last meeting, by Debbie Meyers, on Coord Council and Committee Support Team. About 5 new people at this meeting - , do sign up to become a member of Indivisible Durango. We're 8 months old now. We're working hard but having fun, focus on both. Packed schedule today, reviewed Agenda and introduced the 3 speakers for today. Committee Reports – can find on our website: IndivisibleDurango.com [Bonnie & Shauna counted people at this meeting.]

Since 5/22, 15 CTAs, (from 8 different committees) 5 news updates – CO State Senator Corum's Town Hall Meeting + Candidate announcements (Mike Johnston, Dianne Mitch-Bush, Robert Baer), 3 films, 3 ID events: Gun Safety Rally, Demonstrations for Health Care 2 days first week about 50 people, 4 days 2nd week, July 4th Parade. Environmental Position paper. Showed ID Overall Structure Basic – Committees, National Team, Resource Team (in middle) provides resources to both.

2. From Nat'l Team, summary CD3 Summit in Ridgeway, by Bonnie Schmidt: First 100 day push was great; don't fizzle after. Democratic Senators want us to keep the pressure on. Call as many times as you want, hand-out at front table has apps for phone to send texts. Your pressure is working. Indiv Durango (ID) has 780 members now. Of the 65 CO counties, probably 65-70 Indivisible groups in CO, 20 of these in our Congressional District. We have a "seat at the table" for interested candidates and politicians who want to speak in Durango. This is an opportunity to get our progressive values in front of the candidates – keep up your good questions. Up to now, we've been on defense – resist Trump agenda, and damaging legislation. Now we need to do offense – put good candidates into office. New Colorado Indivisible pamphlet has section on elections. CD-3 is an Indivisible group – goal is to replace Scott Tipton.

We need help in order to expand. This is a marathon combined with a relay race. Coord Council has 8 people now, needs 15. Resource Teams need help.

Using helpful notes made on the blackboard, Bonnie explains: CD-3=Federal Congressional District #3, Scott Tipton 29-1/2 counties west slope and south. Trump won this district by 12%. Statewide – Attorney General and Governor are the big elections. D) Gov. Hickenlooper R) Atty Gen. Cynthia Coffman, CO Regional Districts #6, R) State Senator Don Coram – 8 counties, 59th CO HR. Barbara McLauchlan has 6 counties.

Shauna – Ridgeway Summit yesterday 160 people from Denver, Pueblo, North CO, SW, Front Range. Jared Polis spoke, running for Governor. Has had 5,000 people contacted him against the Health Bill, said Obamacare is working. Keep calling. Keep your eye on Tipton, he has plenty of baggage, get it published. Dr. William Steding, keynote speaker for D-3, which is Indivisible group from SW counties. Kunoor Ojha spoke briefly. 3 candidates were there: Dianne Mitch Bush, Chris Kennedy on GJ City Council, thinking about running, not as experienced in state politics, wants to talk to farmers differently than Dems have been doing in the past. Robert Baer didn't show, gave notice to D3 in email, he may not run, so didn't want to take time away from other 2 candidates. Workshops – From agitating to organizing, how power works in roles of stories, bridges not walls – how to communicate over gaps, don't jump to

conclusions – tools to use. Voices of the District – elections and communication strategies, Assessing Organization, Voters A-Z, Targeting conversations, digital and media, Volunteer power, engage Millennials. Presenters want to do this again, maybe they'll come to Durango.

Bonnie – Attorney General is important because the lawyer who represents CO people, immigration, MJ, environmental and consumer protections, can submit legislation, needs to work with Governor. Phil Wieser Attorney General candidate here in Durango, 4:30 -6 pm at Dem HDQ, here at Library on 7:15 pm Aug 17. Patty Dione, Kathleen Adams and Margaret Fretwell have stepped off Coord Council. You can help even if you're only here for 3-6 months, we have many different positions: MOC Monitor, Treasurer, Social Media, Logistics, Major Events, PSA, Technology, can use whatever skill/interest you have. Committees need help also.

Ann Markward has just joined CC. Apps for Phone – Amplify, ResistBOT, 5Calls.org - passing this list around. Taking charge of website: State-wide, can see list of each counties' 2 main employers – helps to understand what's important to people in each county.

3. Recruitment for CC, Resource Teams, and Committee Chairs, by Bonnie: 3 members have left our Coordinating Council (CC). Need new energy for CC and Resource Teams. Great tools (Ann Markward's handout - Indivisible National, ResistBot, Amplify, 5 Calls).

4. Guinn Unger, Chair of Health Care Committee, presenting "Obamacare, Trumpcare & Health Care – Facts and Fiction"

Obamacare, Trumpcare and HealthCare. Universal Healthcare – everyone is covered, every developed country has except US. Single payer health care – government pays for approved services. Medicare after 65 yrs old, similar to single payer. Medicaid: low income. Group Medical Insurance – bigger employers, costs are split between employer & employees. Individual Insurance (Obamacare) – make available to more people, min coverage standards, expand Medicaid. Reduces cost of healthcare.

Trump care – a moving target – repeal/replace? Cut Fed Subsidies, Reduce insurance requirements, reduce Medicaid (take away expansion).

Medical Spending by Source – 11% out of pocket, 78% Insurance Co, other programs. 2016 \$3.2 trillion spent on health care. Could pay national debt off in 6 years, \$9,900 for each person in US. 1/6 of national economy.

Group Health Insurance covers 88% of all insured people, Private Health Insurance covers 11%.

Obamacare and Trumpcare deal primarily with Medicaid and Individual policies; these total 20% of medical spending. They don't affect Medicare, and very little effect on Group Health Insurance.

PROBLEM is – we spend too much on Health Care!! Spending is out of control, 2-3% over inflation rate. We pay 2x for Rx, because per Federal Law, cannot negotiate drug prices. Currently, 20,000 people die each year because they can't afford medical care. There is no unregulated insurance solution for this problem. Western Europe \$5,200/person, France less, generally ½ \$ spent per person as US.

We don't get better health care, among 11 nations, US ranks last for patient outcomes, i.e. survival rates, extended healthy living.

Currently, 28.5 million people still don't have insurance, 700,000 medical bankruptcies/yr. If Trumpcare passes, 23 million lose insurance by 2026. If Repeal Obamacare without replacement, 28 million lose insurance.

Big Pharmaceutical Companies' CEO's excessive compensation. 3000% Admin Costs increase since 1970s, to process complex claims. Group plan costs rising – employers pay 2x, employees pay 3x since 1999. \$240 mill spent on lobbying.

Future Health Insurance Models (advantages & disadvantages):

A. Government controlled – U.K. – everyone works for gov't – low costs per capita. Socialized medicine = major change, US unlikely to adopt.

B. Mandated and regulated – Germany – everyone must purchase health insurance – limit insurance company profits. Individual Mandate not popular in US, also administrative savings less than other plans.

C. Private Insurance - Canada – private entities, govt pays almost all health care costs – sim to Medicare. Private Insurance only for specialty policies. Could probably just expand Medicare, simple plan, almost all doctors participate, many US voters like.

D. HR 676 – single payer – Bernie Sanders will introduce to the Senate, CA may pass next year. Opposed by Health Insurance, Big Pharm.

Q/A period:

Q: Debbie – Single payer concern – Medicare reimbursements too slim to keep medical providers in business. A. Guinn – not a lot of cohesion yet among medical professional groups. If keep admin costs down, can give proper \$ to providers. Bernie Sanders is addressing in his Senate bill.

Q. Trump discontinuing \$ to help people sign up for Obamacare. A. Congress never appropriated these funds, but has been paying anyway for now.

Q. A. Currently our MOCs have to buy on individual exchange, get a good deal in DC.

Q. Susan: how we make a difference – when bill is introduced, get word out to friends, do this presentation again (at hospital?), invite friends. A. Guinn – get 4-5 people who can do this presentation, contact him if interested.

Q. Veteran – already has single payer, critical of VA, but no concerns about catastrophic illness taking his finances. Sometimes a little slow on non-emerg health needs. Single payer is the way US should go.

Q. How is Medicare doing? What would be the change from this to universal. A. Guinn – Currently, Medicare spends 2-3% on admin costs, and private insurance 17% - gov't more efficient than private sector. Change law to negotiate Rx prices – VA 43% less \$ because can negotiate.

Q. If repeal Obamacare and don't replace, what happens? A. Guinn: 2 year delay on repeal, but would they be able to replace? Had 7 years to figure this out, and so far 7 months with Pres, House and Senate majorities, still haven't proposed anything successful. Would create greater instability in the health insurance marketplace, so individual health insurance would likely cost more.

Q. If single payer adopted, would there be options to get better quality health care? A. Guinn: no, everyone gets same quality health care.

Q. Currently, those on Medicare need supplemental insurance. Would it work this way if a universal health insurance? A. Guinn: in proposed bill HR – 676, Medicare will pay 100% + Rx costs.

Q. Next week's vote – short and long term actions? Groups like AARP to collaborate with. A. Guinn: yes, call Cory Gardner, every day. Support bill HR 676 in House, call Tipton. Ask Dem candidates position on single payer insurance, keep asking questions. Senator Bennet, Gardner, Tipton, Hickenlooper all need to education on future healthcare insurance options.

Q. Alternative medicines better for long term fixes – any discussion on preventative medicine.

A. Guinn: link to talk on C-SPAN Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel from U of PA, how do we improve health care – preventative, chronic disease management.

Suzanne Arms: Offers to train 4-5 volunteers to do this Health Insurance speech on the road.

Announcements – Room cost \$80 – passing hat, also can on table.

Stuart Jenkins from Sen. Bennett office: keep up CTAs, making a difference. Sen Bennett:

Statewide call July 24th 8:45 am, please join. Tabletop Town Hall – this Wed at 5:30 pm.

Shauna – New Yorker Magazine July 24th. 7 pages how Republicans are planning to take over elections in Colorado. Read this and weep.

5. Kirby MacLaurin, Citizens Climate Lobby will introduce their work to pass legislation to put a price on carbon resources to phase them out - 7 minutes – Climate affects health, military, immigration, social & economic justice. Film – Environmental Consequences explains all the interfaces. Grandchildren's future. CCL is non-partisan international org, empower citizens, get fed legislation passed. Climate change is not a partisan issue. Careful to get relationships with all MOCs. Increase contact from 7 -24 Republicans this year. We're NOT past the tipping point – if we take action now, could have a much better future. Sign up (can do online, citizensclimatelobby.org), Help find endorsements for their organization. Oct 2017, carbon fee program – fee on O&G as come out of ground. Market approach – these fees passed on to consumers, monthly dividend checks approx \$200/family. Poor people benefit most. Encourages energy-efficient consumers, because fossil fuel prices higher.

6. Lisa Pool, Colorado Conservation, presenting the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard, highlighting the priorities of the conservation community in the 2017 State legislative session. WEBSITE. Scorecard.conservacionco.org.

CO Conservation is a state-wide non-profit organization. They advocate at Fed and State level, work with San Juan Citizens Alliance. Their office is in the Smiley Bldg. They maintain a scorecard on CO State Legislature. Trump Admin has attacked clean air, water and communities, rolling back environmental protections, so our State level decisions are even more important. 100 seats in CO Legislature: 65 in H.R, 35 seats in Senate. HR. is a 2 year term, limited to 4 terms (8 years total). Senators serve 4 year terms, limit 2 terms (also 8 years total). Currently, State Senate has 18 Republicans to 17 Democrats; State H.R. has 37 Democrats to 28 Republicans. Lisa will give ID her maps – which have good differentiated colors.

CO State Senator Don Coram, Republican from Montrose, was representing Montezuma County, but when Ellen Roberts resigned last Dec, he was transferred to us in Jan this year.

Not Elected. Owns 3 uranium mines, farming background. Democrat Barbara McLaughlan is newly elected, was teacher in Durango 9-R for 2 decades.

CO House of Representatives: Marc Catlin Republican, was appointed to take over Montezuma when Coram was transferred to represent Durango.

Environmental Scorecards – % of the time these MOCs vote in favor of the environment:
Coram 44%, Barbara McLaughlan 100% (YAY!), Catlin 29%, J. Paul Brown 33%. Catlin's score is lower than J. Paul Brown's was.

Clean Energy HR Bill 1227: was passed years ago and has created many new jobs, saved \$. Would have expired next year, but CO MOCs renewed. Both Coran and McLaughlan voted yes to renew this bill.

CO Energy Office SB 301 – energy efficiency help for home-owners and small businesses. (4CORE in Duranog) funding expired – Senate Republicans held this bill hostage to a natural gas windfall bill, so a lot these programs are now going away. Coram voted no, Barbara McLaughlan voted yes to keep funding SB 301.

Clean Air & Climate Change – SB 278 – bill prohibiting “coal rolling” on people – passed! \$100 fine if caught.

HR 1366 – establish ‘measurables’ for goals of 2015 State Action Plan. This bill failed in the State H.R.

Transportation – CO population is booming, so this will become more important in the near future.

HB 1232 Electr vehicles, allow charging stations to be built. Remove barriers. Failed in Senate Finance committee.

HB 1242 – New Revenue for roads. Tax increase, would have been on ballot for voter approval. Multi-modal infrastructure – sidewalks, bike lanes, paths to get kids to school, buses and shuttles for elderly. Passed in House, failed in Senate Finance committee. Would have passed in Senate.

The State Senate Finance Committee is the new “Kill Committee” – bills can die there simply for ideological reasons. Senate Finance Committee – Tim Neville, Jefferson County; Owen Hill CO Springs, Jack Tate from Denver: these 3 people have killed a lot of good bills. CO Parks & Wildlife also got killed by them.

O&G – Lobbyists – instead of making industry safer, they solve non-existent problems – Fed charge for tampering with O&G equipment, not allowing protest – also a fed charge. Clarify HB 1256 – gas wells need to be 1,000’ from school property line, not just school bldg, because students use playgrounds and athletic fields – Democrats proposed this, but it failed in Ag committee.

Water – HB 1306, Barbara sponsored, test for lead in school drinking water, provide \$ for. Passed!

HB 1273 – Don Corum – water conservation for new subdivisions. Failed in Senate Finance committee.

Public Lands – don't transfer Fed lands to State which will sell to highest bidder. Have killed 8 bills which would have done that, this year 0 bills introduced, a victory in itself.

HB 1321 – funding for Div Wildlife – killed by Senate Finance Committee.

All MOC Contact Info can be found by googling "CO State Legislature" – very user friendly website now.

Q. National level – league of conservation voters, countable.org,

Q. Good Candidates for 2018? Recruit? A. Lisa: already happening – gave legislator of the year award in Denver – gave to Dianne Mitch Bush, she's now running against Tipton. Keep our current Democrat majority in CO House of Representatives.

Public Lands report – please sign up, liason with Lisa. Report on website.

7. Workshop announcement: Maintaining your Social Activism - Kati Harr, MOC Monitor.

Posters around town – Action Plan for Sustainable Activism – very helpful, gives boundaries, direction, accountability. Propel your activism – flyer in Library lobby, 1 week from today 2-4 pm Sat July 29th. Self-reflective exercises. All our groups need help. Website on poster – FREE – register in advance so get Kati can get a head count. In this same room, Durango Public Library.

Bonnie: This workshop is so timely! Our homework is to come to Kati's workshop. Sign up sheets are out front.

8. Conclusion, by Debbie Meyers. Reminder: ID CC, Resource Team and committees need new members.

Next meeting: Sat, Sept 9th.

Meeting adjourns at 11:58 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Hunter, Secretary, Indivisible Durango