



## Region III

### Region III MRESA/CSPD Council Meeting

January 31, 2020

#### Attendance

Michelle Audet, Billings Public Schools; Sheila Chouinard, Independent School; Susan Davis, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Sara Evans, Laurel Public Schools; Nicole Hanson, Roundup Elementary; Annette Hart, Rapelje Schools; Lynsey Heiken, Lavina Public Schools; Astghik Iknatian, Vocational Rehabilitation; Libby Johnson, Yellowstone West Carbon County Special Services Cooperative (YWCCSSC); John Keener; Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE); Prudence Lybeck, Blue Creek Elementary; Tom Manthey, MCIE; Kara McDonald, Laurel Public Schools; Debra Miller, MCIE; Brent Morris, LIFTT; Christina Olstad, East Yellowstone Cooperative; Monica Pugh, Stillwater Sweet Grass Cooperative; Lynette Schwalbe, MSUB; Gail Surwill, Rocky Mountain College; Christa Tescher, Early Childhood Intervention; Karen Underwood, YWCCSSC; Jeremy Welch, Billings Head Start; Charla Wetsch, Laurel Schools; and Cheryl Young-Pelton, MSUB. Guests included Jerry Clark, OPI; Jenifer Cline, OPI; Bradee Hawley, OPI; Crystal Hickman, OPI; Stephanie Iron Shooter, OPI; Tina Jackson, OPI; Carlos Ramalho, LIFTT; Lisa Sanderson, PTI; and Sally Sjaastad, LIFTT.

#### Welcome and Member Sharing

The participants introduced themselves and stated what school or organization they represented.

#### **OPI Systems of Care (SOC) Tribal Wraparound Project: Jerry Clark, Bradee Hawley, Crystal Hickman, Stephanie Iron Shooter, and Tina Jackson**

The SOC Tribal Wraparound Project is funded by the MT OPI SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration) grant and implements culture-based services on six reservations in nine rural/frontier schools that serve youth in sixth through twelfth grade. Since 2011, the grant emphasis has been on developing relationships, not about being a program, but a way of life. Core values of the SOC wraparound services for the community include: family driven, youth guided,

community-based and are culturally and linguistically competent. Principals of the Wraparound Project are: family voice and choice, culturally competent, individualized to know the family, strengths based, unconditional care, natural supports, community based, team based, collaboration and integration, and outcome based and cost responsible.

Eight to ten youth are assigned to wraparound specialists on each site. Schools in the Project refer students and families to the program. The Project can work with schools not in the project to train them on how to deliver wraparound services. If interested, contact Stephanie Iron Shooter at 406.530.4364 or sironshooter@mt.gov.

The Project also developed suicide prevention packets, individualized for each tribe.

The Project is hosting a Trauma Informed Care Using Restorative Practices Train the Trainer workshop presented by Resolutions Northwest at the Northern Hotel in Billings April 20-22, 2020. To register contact Stephanie.

### **PTI: Lisa Sanderson**

PLUK was Montana's Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) from 1984 to September 30, 2019. Every state has a PTIC, there are 104 PTIC programs in the nation. OSEP asked The South Dakota Parent Connection program to provide services in Montana as the Montana PTI for one year when PLUK closed. Requests for Proposals will be available this spring for a 5-year Montana PTIC grant. PTI will work with the new grantee to ensure a smooth transition of services for families.

Resources offered through Montana PTI are listed on their website, [www.MontanaPTI.org](http://www.MontanaPTI.org); additional resources are added based on need. Feel free to send Montana resources and training information to PTI to post on their page. The MT PTI offers assistance via phone and email. PTI is in the process of acquiring PLUK's telephone number to route it to their program. PTI also has a family coach in Billings and they are in the process of hiring more. The family coaches are not available to go to school meetings or to connect with schools. Funding is available for travel for the family coaches and for interpreters.

PTI received 194 calls in October and November alone. Trending concerns include:

- guardianship process
- home schooling issues
- limited number of service hours received at school
- un-enrollment/absentee issues
- bullying

- trauma/resiliency

### **OPI Student Support Services Division: Jenifer Cline**

Jenifer's former position has not been filled, but OPI is in the process of offering the position to someone and will hopefully be filled soon.

The TAESE Joint Stakeholder Meeting will be May 7 and the CSPD Stakeholders meeting will be May 8. Save the date announcements will be sent out in the next two months.

The OPI is working on their Annual Performance Report (APR) and hope to have it completed by the CSPD Stakeholder meeting. The OPI is attempting to align the APR and ESSA reports. In compiling the reports, concerns about graduation rates for students receiving special education services have surfaced.

The OPI is considering changing the monitoring process to a differentiated model, making it more meaningful for schools and cooperatives.

The Educational Interim Committee is drafting a proposal to the legislature on an automatic inflationary increase for special education funding. They are also looking into cooperative funding and why some funding structures are successful while others are not.

On December 19, President Trump signed a federal funding bill to fund the federal government through September 30, 2020. IDEA funding increased by \$400 million.

In the fall of 2019, Montana was awarded a 5-year \$50 Million Federal Literacy Grant. For more information check out The OPI's [Montana Literacy](#) website.

The School Climate grant paid for the Student Voice Survey. OPI is planning for how to continue paying for the survey when the School Climate grant ends, as the survey is part of the ESSA plan.

The council voiced concerns about the new dyslexia policy:

- educators are not prepared to address the issues of assessment
- educators need to be able to verbalize what schools are doing and be able to show accountability
- educators need a list of assessments available
- educators need to be able to respond to parents who have lists of assessments they downloaded from the internet and are concerned when the school is not using the listed assessments

Jenifer asked Karen to email Colet Bartow the concerns of the council. Colet is overseeing a group that is working on a publication to address issues. The new dyslexia policy will be discussed at the next Higher Education Council meeting.

## **Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis Program: Cheryl Young-Pelton**

Cheryl distributed a handout on the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis program, see attached. The committee has met three times and meets every other month.

Tom reported that the [Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities](#) (URLEND) program provides training for educators and parents in a five state area that includes Montana.

## **Waterford UPSTART At-Home Kindergarten Readiness: Annette Hart**

Annette explained that information on the Waterford UPSTART program was emailed to all superintendents, see attached handout. The program is a free program for parents and caregivers of four and five year old children during the year before they enter kindergarten in rural areas. The program provides a computer (which the family keeps on completion of the program), internet (for those that qualify) while enrolled in the program, and the Waterford Early Learning Curriculum. Participants are required to use the curriculum 15-20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. For more information visit [www.waterfordupstart.org](http://www.waterfordupstart.org).

## **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Update: Astghik Iknation**

Vocational Rehabilitation works with students who have IEPs, 504 plans, or who have a disability. VR can work with students/parents at school or at the VR office. VR is hiring three Pre-ETS specialists, one each in Billings, Missoula, and Havre. VR would like to have more schools submit contracts for the Pre-ETS program. The Pre-ETS contracts have been revised to better track the services each student receives and the services schools provide. Council members reported that schools are having a problem with parents submitting social security numbers on the VR forms and therefore they are not able to provide services to as many students.

## **Region III Updates/Planning**

- The Indian Education for All (IEFA) Best Practices Conference is May 3-5 at MSUB. The conference will include field trips to Plenty Coups State Park and the Audubon Center in addition to sessions at MSUB. OPI is accepting proposals for presentations until February 14. For more information, visit The [OPI IEFA](#) page.
- The 2020 Region III Award Winners are
  - Teri Fisk – Paraeducator of the Year: Jesica Lofstrom, Blue Creek ElementaryAlso nominated were:

- Louise Foos, South Elementary, Laurel
- Dounia Means, Hardin Intermediate
- Annette Price, Belfry
- Para/Teacher Team of the Year:  
Columbus Middle School- Kiley Frank, Kelly Ault, and Cary Frank  
Also nominated was the Independent School team of Carlie Carlson, Angelica Johnson, Jodi Noseep, Melody Surdahl, Shanea Decker, Robin Hamm, Keri Yates, Janna Keever, Chari Thom, and Scarlett Tuller.

Thank you to award selection committee members Libby Johnson and Karen Underwood for their time and effort in selecting the winners.

- Deb distributed a Region III CSPD 2019/2020 list of activities, see attached.
- Billings Public Schools will move forward with the Trauma-Invested Institute for Fostering Resilient Learners workshop. The workshop will be August 3 &4 at the Lincoln Center. The registration fee will depend on grants received and support from other schools. CSPD will offer scholarships.
- Due to the cost involved, Judy Povilaitis, Billings Public Schools, and Deb decided not to move forward with the Yes I Can workshop. The Yes I Can funding will be used for Jessica Minahan's workshops on March 27.
- Deb distributed a CSPD regional training attendance and ratings summary compiled by Doug Doty, OPI, see attached.
- Interest was expressed in having an iPad Boot Camp workshop. Deb will check with Doug Doty to see if he will sponsor one in Billings.
- MonTech is in the process of hiring a new Program Director, the deadline for applications was January 27, 2020.
- YBGR is offering a free "train the trainer" program on the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) model for up to 30 schools or community partners, see handout. Prudence reported that she is VIP certified and that it is a much better program than MANDT, the process and holds are better but it is a very verbal program and not for lower functioning students.
- The MTSS funded workshops have not been well received. As a result, unexpended funding may be available for another training(s). Last year, OPI approved expending funds for Dr. Lina Bones' Trauma Informed Care workshop, which was very well received. The council suggested offering a training on self-care for teachers/being a resilient teacher /preventing burnout, possibly with Kristen Soers. MCASE had a good speaker on this topic last year, Sara will send Deb his information. Another suggestion was team building for special and general educators/school culture.

- The Movin' on In Montana Summer Camp will be June 22-25, 2020. The camp is for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have a documented disability, IEP, or 504 plan, see handout. College mentors are available to come to schools to talk with students about the e-mentoring program and the summer camp, contact John if interested.
- The council reviewed the 2020 stakeholder form:
  - Brent will contact a mental health provider
  - Annette will contact a family advocate
  - Karen will contact Dain McCulloch, probation officer

### **Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT): Brent Morris**

Brent distributed a brochure listing services available from LIFTT. In addition to the listed services, LIFTT can also help purchase adaptive equipment, provide home adaptations, and home care. For more information, visit [LIFTT's Website](#).

### **Higher Education Consortium (HEC) Update: Tom Manthey**

MSUB was well represented at the HEC November 14-15 meeting, with the most attendance. Jody Bartz, MSU Bozeman was appointed by OPI as the HEC Special Education Director as well the HEC representative on OPI's Special Education Council. The HEC General Education Director, Estee Aiken, The University of Montana Western, is stepping down at the end of the year.

Topics at the November meeting included

- Implementation science issues in schools
- Trauma and restorative practices: Annette Young, OPI, facilitated the panel discussion with panelists
  - Sara Cole, Kalispell Public Schools
  - Matthew Johnson, Buffalo Hide Academy, Browning
  - Corrina Guardipee-Hall, Browning Public Schools
  - Ben Johnson and Catherine Gunderson, Center for Restorative Youth Justice

The next HEC meeting will be in Pablo on April 23-24.

### **Meeting Wrap Up/Agenda Items for May 15, 2020 Meeting:**

Due to the State CSPD meeting, the May council meeting was rescheduled to May 15. Please send any suggested agenda items to Deb.