



Region III

Region III MRESA/CSPD Council Meeting

November 1, 2019

Attendance

Michelle Audet, Billings Public Schools; Susan Davis, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Sara Evans, Laurel Public Schools; Lynsey Heiken, Lavina Public Schools; Libby Johnson, Yellowstone West Carbon County Special Services Cooperative (YWCCSSC); John Keener; Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE); Marlena Lanini, MonTECH; Tom Manthey, MCIE; Kara McDonald, Laurel Public Schools; Debra Miller, MCIE; David Munson, Early Childhood Intervention; Karen Underwood, YWCCSSC; Charla Wetsch, Laurel Schools; and Cheryl Young-Pelton, MSUB. Guests included Rene' Rosell Yarbrough, MCIE; Dick Terrise, OPI; and Doug Doty, OPI.

Welcome and Member Sharing

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

Dates for Winter and Spring Meetings

- January 31, 2020
- May 8, 2020

Neurodiversity Institute: Tom Manthey

Tom explained that the Montana Center for Inclusive Education began as a school for children with disabilities and that the mission has evolved over time with the Center no longer offering direct therapy services. The Center would like to resume offering therapy sessions and Tom is investigating the feasibility of collaborating with various MSUB departments to offer art, music, and equine therapy. The Center is also working with Cheryl Young-Pelton on establishing a Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis Center. Cheryl would like to reestablish the annual autism summer conference to help

spark an interest in the Neurodiversity/ABA Center. This summer the conference would be a one-day event with local presenters.

The council suggested offering an autism diagnostic clinic for preschool children. The council was concerned that children with autism are entering school with a developmentally disabled label when they need to be diagnosed with autism to receive more appropriate services and therapies. The council also suggested offering a social skills group so that students can practice the skills they learn at school in a community setting.

Neurodiversity and ABA Center: Cheryl Young-Pelton

MSUB's ABA program is accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). Other than California State University, Los Angeles and Western Michigan University it is the only accredited Master's program in the western US. When MSUB received accreditation, ABAI recommended that MSUB offer an on-campus demonstration site. Therefore, MSUB proposes to establish an Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis. The institute will provide an on-campus demonstration site for socially valid applied behavior analysis programs for children and adolescents with social and behavior challenges including autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), developmental disabilities, anxiety disorders, and other behavioral disabilities. The institute will serve both the public and the University, while functioning as a site for University graduate students to complete their clinical internships and supervision requirements for MSUB's Master of Science in Special Education Advanced Studies ABA degree program. In addition to ASD, students with behavior issues related to mental health (e.g. opposition, anxiety, disruption) and neurodiversity (e.g., ADHD, OCD, Tourette's Syndrome) have specific needs for behavioral interventions that can be extremely challenging for teachers to implement due to the individualized nature and design of treatment. The multi-tier system of behavior support that has been adopted the OPI provides a structure for training schools in effective interventions. The proposed demonstration site would (a) extend and enhance training opportunities for school and community partners in the science of behavior analysis, (b) increase the number of board certified, licensed behavior analysts in this region, and (c) reduce waitlists/wait time for children in the community who are in need of ABA treatment for socially valid behavior change.

Cheryl is recruiting people who are interested in being on an advisory committee for the Institute, specifically practitioners, medical representatives, and insurance representatives. The advisory committee will meet five times a year; their next meeting is November 20 at 4:00pm. They will develop a business plan at the meeting. The committee is considering housing the Institute on the first floor of the College of Education building. The Board of Regents will review the proposal at their spring meeting.

E-Mentoring/Movin' On in Montana: John Keener

The University of Montana and MSUB Movin' On in Montana: An Enhanced E-Mentoring Experience programs are not being funded by Vocational Rehabilitation this year due to budget constraints. However, the Montana Center feels that the program offers an important opportunity for youth with disabilities and will fund the MSUB program again this year. The program offers an initial exposure to post-secondary education for high school students with disabilities. It provides a mentoring relationship between high school students with disabilities and current MSUB students who also have a disability. Mentoring is delivered through monthly meetings, both through video conferencing and face-to-face seminars, as well as through social media. The mentors address student concerns and offer guidance on how to successfully navigate the college experience. Columbus High School and Roberts High School are participating in the project this year. Red Lodge High School may also join the project later in the year.

The program will also start offering an evening mentoring session once a month for students from Billings Public Schools and surrounding areas in January and may also offer a parent session on post-secondary transition topics.

The highlight of Movin' On is an on campus experience at MSUB in June. The participating E-Mentoring high school students are encouraged to attend the four-day event that will be partially staffed by the MSUB mentors. Students will live in the dorms, eat in the cafeteria, attend classes on the MSUB and City College campuses, and tour three college campuses. Books, fees, tuition, room, and board are provided at no charge to students accepted into the program. The camp is also open to high school students who did not participate in the E-Mentoring program.

Montana Autism Education Project (MAEP): Doug Doty

See attached MAEP notes. MAEP will offer a PECS Level 1 trainings next year in Billings. Doug would like to offer an iPad Boot Camp (Therese Willkomm) in Billings and Bozeman in August. The new Autism criteria was implemented on August 23rd; Doug will discuss the changes at the MCEC conference. The council agreed that they would prefer to have the Link Training on a Monday or Tuesday as opposed to a Thursday or Friday. Doug may be willing to use MAEP funds to support a speaker for the Neurodiversity training; Cheryl will send him speaker/topic ideas.

OPI Special Education Endorsement Project: Rene' Rosell Yarbrough

See attached handouts. This year the project had 17 new teachers, 11 second year teachers, and 8 third year teachers. New teachers must be accepted by October of the year to participate in the program.

Region III CSPD Updates and Planning: Deb Miller

Region III CSPD received its IDEA-B and MTSS grants last week. Funding for the IDEA-B grant is July 1, 2019-September 30, 2020 and the MTSS funding cycle is October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020.

This year, MCEC will select the Yes I Can! award winner and MCASE will select the Leader of the Year. Regional CSPD councils will select the Para/Teacher Team and the Teri Fisk Para of the year. Libby, Karen, and Cheryl volunteered to be on the award selection committee. Nomination forms are available on the Region III Website, <http://www.msubillings.edu/smart/awards.htm> and will be listed on the next e-newsletter. Award winners will be recognized at the MCEC conference in Missoula on February 20, 2020.

Deb distributed a Region III CSPD 2019/2020 list of activities and a listing of ACE's professional development activities, see attached. The council discussed Billings' Public Schools request to collaborate on a Trauma-Invested Institute for Fostering Resilient Learners. The council voiced concerns regarding the applicability of the workshop and felt that it did not offer strategies for teachers to use in the classroom. The council suggested having Dr. Linda Karges-Bone come instead, as she was a great presenter and had excellent strategies for teachers when she presented in August. If funding allows, Deb will contact Jessica Minahan to see if she can present for Region III either before or after her presentation for Region II CSPD on March 26.

Stakeholder Review:

- Karen will try to find a parent representative.
- Deb will contact Andrea Meiers to see if she would serve on the council as the Rocky Mountain College representative.
- Karen will contact Sheila Chouinard, Independent School to see if she would serve on the council as the Principal representative.
- Deb will contact VR regarding a representative.
- Sara invited Dwight Von Schrittz, YBGR, to join the council.

OPI Updates: Dick Trerise

Frank Podobnik, Special Education Director, resigned to take a position with the Technical Assistance and Excellence in Special Education program (TAESE). Jenifer Cline has filled his position; her vacated position will be advertised next week. OPI will

hold the position open until spring if a qualified applicant does not apply. In addition to this position, OPI is also trying to fill several other positions, including the Deputy Superintendent for Education Services position formerly held by Susie Hedalen; an administrative assistant position formerly held by Marlene Wallis; and a AIM Special Education Data System position, formerly held by Mary Graff. Michelle Mitchell, Director of American Indian Student Achievement, has vacated her position and the department may be reorganized.

The Early Learning (Danni McCarthy) and Gifted & Talented (Allyson Alexander) departments are now part of the Student Support Services (formerly Special Education) Department. Danni McCarthy works primarily with programs for children ages 3 & 4. The Early Learning program will hire a person to provide outreach and support to pre-school children. OPI is collaborating with DPHHS to write grants to serve underserved 3 & 4 year old populations in rural areas and to focus on early screening. OPI's 5-year Preschool Development grant will end this spring.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) closed PLUK in June due to mismanagement and gave Montana's parent training and information center (PTIC) contract (OSEP funds a PTIC in every state) to South Dakota Parent Connection, see handout. Support to parents will be limited this year due to the change. Mandi Gibbs, OPI Early Assistance Program and Dispute Resolution department, has been fielding numerous calls from parents. An RFP for Montana's PTIC will be out this spring. OPI has had 2 or 3 calls from interested agencies.

Meeting Wrap Up/Agenda Items for January 31, 2020 Meeting:

Suggested topics included:

- South Dakota Parent Connection
- OPI's SAMSA project (now located in the MSUB College of Education Building)
- Neurodiversity ABA Institute Update
- OPI update from Jen Cline

Please email additional agenda suggestions for the January 31, 2020 meeting to Deb.