



## Region III

### Region III MRESA/CSPD Virtual Council Meeting

September 25, 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; Lynsey Heiken, Lavina Schools; Lori Hypes, Roundup High School; Cooperative (YWCCSSC); Astghik Ikntian, Vocational Rehabilitation; John Keener; Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE); Marlena Lanini, MonTECH; Tom Manthey, MCIE; Debra Miller, MCIE; Christina Olstad, Eastern Yellowstone Cooperative; Monica Pugh, Stillwater Sweet Grass Cooperative; Chelsey Rogers, Central Montana Learning Resource Center Cooperative; Lynette Schwalbe, MSUB; and Christa Tescher, Early Childhood Intervention. Guests included Susan Gregory, MSUB; Rebecca Richards, Montana Empowerment Center; and Lisa Sanderson, Montana PTI.

#### **Welcome and Member Sharing**

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

#### **Region III Updates/Planning: Deb Miller & John Keener**

Deb distributed a Region III CSPD 2019/2020 list of activities, see attached. Upcoming events include a 3 part webinar series on Trauma Responses in Education Community of Practice on November 5, 12, and 20 with Bella Bikowsky and a 3 part webinar series on Restorative Justices Practices on January 13, 14, and 20 with Bella Bikowsky. The Skillstreaming in Early Childhood training will be rescheduled when OPI allows face-to-face trainings. Scholarships are available for the CASE Virtual Conference, November 5-7, 2020 and the Montana Youth Transitions Virtual Conference, November 16-18, 2020.

The council reviewed the Region III professional development priorities document that we completed at the last meeting, see attached, and made the following recommendations.

### Indicator 1: Graduation Rates and Indicator 2: Drop Out Rates

- Contact Theresa Baldry to offer a workshop on how to advocate for students.
- Sara will research presenters that can address learning strategies and/or keeping students engaged in an online format.

### Indicators 5A, B, and C: Education Environment

- MonTech is offering a tech conference in August 2021 and free webinars in October that will help meet regional assistive technology needs.
- Contact Mike Marotta to do a presentation on Chrome Books and Assistive Technology.
- Lynette will check with Robin Cormier to see if she is available to present on behavior strategies for the classroom.
- Offer a workshop on “The Distance Learning Playbook” available from Corwin publishing. Sara will send Deb and John a link to a free zoom meeting next week on the subject to share with council members. Laurel teachers are using the book and highly recommend it.

### Indicators 6A and B: Regular Early Childhood Program

- Christa will check with David Munson to determine professional development priorities.
- Lynette will check with Explorers Academy (Head Start) to determine their professional development priorities.

### Indicators 7A2 and 7B2: Preschool Outcomes - Functioning within Age Expectations

- Check with Danni McCarthy to determine who the OSEP trainers are.
- Contact Eliza Sorte Thomas regarding availability to do training.

### Indicator 7C2: Preschool Outcomes-Appropriate Behaviors within Age Expectations

- MonTech’s Alternative Communication conference will target nonverbal preschoolers.
- Consider a Conscious Discipline workshop with Jenny Barkac.

### Indicator 13: Secondary Transition

- Contact Libby Johnson or Hope Wilson to present on developing effective transition IEPs.
- Astghik is willing to do a presentation on Pre-ETS and how VR can assist schools.

Additional professional development suggestions included:

- Contact Dale Kimmet to offer a novice teacher training, but geared as a refresher for experienced teachers.
- Contact Bea Kalevea or Megan Morris to present on legal issues surrounding COVID-19.
- Either offer training from 4:00-5:00pm or 6:00-8:00pm; offering training during the school day would not be effective as schools are having a hard time finding substitutes.

The CSPD grant portal to request IDEA-B or MTSS funds is not open yet. However, Deb has been informed that the funding for the IDEA-B grant, July 1, 2020-September 30, 2021 will be the same and the MTSS funding, October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021, will be significantly less as the funding is carry over from the previous year. OPI recently submitted a federal MTSS grant for funding from 2020-2025. If OPI's grant is selected, CSPD regions will receive additional funding.

### **Child Find Activities: Monica Pugh**

Monica, Christine, Chelsey and Christa, agreed that attendance has been poor at child find clinics. Laurel is asking families to make appointments and is allowing time between appointments to clean. ECI is doing visits virtually.

### **MonTech Updates: Marlana Lanini**

MonTech shut down briefly at the beginning of the quarantine last spring and opened in May. The loan program is the same except they are not loaning out items that can't be properly cleaned, such as fuzzy toys. They are continuing to do consultations, both face-to-face and virtually. Restrictions have been placed on the number of people that can be present at a face-to-face meeting and facemasks are required.

MonTech is offering four free 1-hour webinars in October. The first 30 minutes will be a lecture and the last 30 minutes will be for participant questions.

#### 1. AT and the IEP

Tuesday, October 6th, 4 pm – 5 pm

Intro to AT in the schools: We'll connect you with valuable resources to support using AT in the school. We'll answer frequently asked questions like: Who pays for this? When do I check the box on the IEP? How do I know what to try?

Register in advance at:

<https://umontana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoc-yorjwqHNAnPMRgApte6nkArlMUuwME>

## **2. Tools for Writing**

Thursday, October 8th, 4 pm – 5 pm

We'll show you three tools to support your students' writing, whether they struggle with spelling or physically writing.

Register in advance at:

<https://umontana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwudOGsrjoiE9eIK8FrvzUAUR7dCaxCFGGJ>

## **3. Tools for Reading**

Tuesday, October 20th, 4 pm – 5 pm

We'll show you three ways to have text read aloud to support struggling readers and help them comprehend the material.

Register in advance at:

<https://umontana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rcuuupj4tHNF014XwD6kMHtf437cYWPYK>

## **4. Tools for Notetaking**

Thursday, October 22nd, 4 pm – 5 pm

We'll show you three tools to support notetaking, whether your students are online or in the classroom.

Register in advance at:

[https://umontana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdeitpzsqGdJo1uX48\\_Bm3lGzjl2xMyGC](https://umontana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdeitpzsqGdJo1uX48_Bm3lGzjl2xMyGC)

MonTech will also offer presentations on Reading and Writing apps and have an open lab at the My Transitions Conference in November.

Anna-Margaret Goldman resigned as the executive director last spring to take a teaching position at U of M and Molly Kimmel has filled her position.

### **Montana State University Billings Updates: Susan Gregory**

See attached Power Point presentation.

### **Montana Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) Updates: Lisa Sanderson and Rebecca Richards**

The current Montana PTI agency will transition to the Montana Empowerment Center on October 1, 2020. The current website, email and phone number will be redirected at that time. They have been advertising the change to let people know. They have done 550 intakes with 300 families and 100 professionals over the last year and they have 1,500 users on their website.

The Montana Empowerment Center is located in Kalispell. They are working with Jenifer Cline at OPI to move forward and will send an introductory email in the next couple of weeks. They are currently working on hiring five staff and hope to have them hired by the end of October. They are working from home for now and will not be attending IEPs at this time.

**Meeting Wrap Up/Agenda Items for January 29, 2021 Meeting:**

Suggested topics included Montana Empowerment Center Update

Please email additional agenda suggestions for the January 29, 2021 meeting to Deb.