

January 19, 2022 Agenda

Present: John Gorton, Brandyn Romo, Danni McCarthy, Monica Pugh, Christina Olstad, Jennifer Nettleton, Sara Novak, Judy Povilaitis

- OPI Update
 - Continue trying to recruit a Sped Director
 - Hired two new staff in the Monitoring unit
- Sara Novak Update
 - Thank you to Danny and John for continuing to plug away.
 - MCASE is going to join META for a spring conference March 20-22 in Helena
- Serving students beyond 19:
 - Targeted at very few sped kids across the state of MT
 - Only for students in life skills programs
 - Designed to be a continuation of the Lifeskills program
 - Up to the district to take 19-year-olds (it's the choice of the district if they want to allow this)
 - This does not change district policies the difference is there was funding passed to fund 19 years old if your district chooses to include them (the fiscal note is small)
 - What are the goals- for students who are on a waitlist for DD services
 - What would stellar programming look like
 - OPI is collaborating with the recruitment project and they are hoping to provide a Webinar for parents regarding this topic
- Jennifer Nettleton- hearing Conservation Grant
 - Can we contract with a local audiologist when Dr. Rasmussen is unable to attend?
 - OPI does not fund other audiologists
 - The best option get in with him early
 - OPI has reached out to a few other audiologists and will be getting back to them this summer
 - Dr. Rasmussen might be able to contract out with other people based on approval (OPI is working through all the wrinkles)
 - Contract amount
 - How long- 2-year contract (expires 2023)
 - Funds- through legislation
 - Because of the equipment needing replaced that came out of the contract amount
 - Submitted a letter to the Superintendent for an increase
 - Funds are divided amongst all the regions
 - Audiologists divide the money up according to the need in each region

- Could potentially move departments within OPI- from sped to finance
- Cooperatives should not be paying any additional amount towards these HCP programs. Jennifer is looking into this and will see about getting Cooperative's money back
- Who do we contact if services are not compliant?
 - Jennifer Nettleton
- Should we be including screening results in cum files?
- OPI share more info on the HCP program and what all it should offer during the Sped Director call
 - Professional development?
 - Get everyone on the same page

Next Meeting: February 16, @11:00