

**MCASE Region III**  
**May 26, 2020**  
**11:00 a.m. -**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**

**In attendance:** Tamra Covington (Region III Rep); Ben Radakovich; Don Christman; Dwight Von Schrietz; Michelle Audet; Hope Wilson; Karen Underwood

**Absent:** Judy Povilaitis; Chelsey Rogers; Jennifer Hickok

**Guests:** Kirk Miller, Kaitlin Sonderer, Michelle Halberg

**1. MCASE MT Schools Recruitment Project**

- a. Kaitlin Sonderer's, (MT Schools Recruitment Project Director) Contact information: [samkms@sammt.org](mailto:samkms@sammt.org)
- b. Update on changes from career fairs to virtual career fairs. Increasing presence through change to brand and website. Advertisement on NASP for all of Montana School Psychs; ASHA for all SLPs as part of MSRP
- c. School Psychologists advertise on [NASP](#) Email Teresa Johnston for reimbursement of advertisement as she has a grant. [teresa.johnston@umontana.edu](mailto:teresa.johnston@umontana.edu)
- d. Openings:
  - i. Lodgegrass- Needs a School Psychologist (Hardin's request! )

**2. Kirk Miller: Update**

- a. Delegate Assembly- Important as ever as there is a great need to advocate in this new landscape.
  - June 1st is the deadline for submission of resolutions.
  - CARES Act funding to districts and flow through to Co-ops.
  - Delegate assembly participants from MCASE (5)
  - July 29th and 30th
- b. SAM Administrative Institute: July 27th and 28th is going virtual: Full access with incredible speakers. Kirk is encouraging each of us to allow time to feel calm and beginning to systemically plan for Fall.

**3. OPI: Two Task Forces**

- a. Priority Concerns that OPI can assist with
- b. Flexibilities that exist and can be utilized (Michelle, Chad Berg and Dick Trerise are on this task force)
- c. Special Ed. Division - Final appropriations in June, preliminary until then. E-Grants start then.

- d. Final Funding CARES Act- discretionary funds will be allocated through E-Grants. Districts need to be aware that increased monies do not excuse MOE for local costs.

**4. CEC Legislative Summit (Michelle)**

- a. The conference for the CEC Special Ed Conference has been cancelled. Now the Summit is open to everyone. Michelle would like us to have a couple of people from each region participate in a targeted and cohesive way to represent MCASE. If interested in representing MCASE, please email Michelle [mhalberg@galmadspecialcoop.org](mailto:mhalberg@galmadspecialcoop.org)
- b. [SELS](#)
- c. Don Christman (CASE legislative; CEC Publications) has been participating in advocacy through his roles on CASE and CEC. Would like to be involved in development of a cohesive MCASE group participating in SELS.
- d. In the past, Tamra has met with Tester, Daines but Gianforte never showed up for appointments. She shared that she has been working with Greg Upham and Kathy Kelker to meet with local legislatures in preparing for this session to build capacity in understanding public schools and special education. Tamra's model in Region III could work for other regions as well.

**5. Fall MCASE/MASS Conference (Michelle)**

- a. Superintendent and Special Educators talking together during this time to gain a bigger view at a systems level.
- b. Working on speakers with Casey Klasna and the SAM office. Plan for a face to face conference but plan for a virtual conference.
- c. The NASDE conference may or may not occur at the same time as MASS/MCASE and so OPI hot topics on the second day may change.
- d. Topics for the conference: alternative delivery systems; delivery systems for all students and preparing for advocacy; small work groups on the second day; problem solving, using a tiered system of response to have informed decision making...

**6. Progress reports (language, data collected from before and after) and planning for Fall:**

- a. An example of language during special education teacher webinar "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and mandatory shut down of schools, the most recent and qualifiable data is limited and does not contain a true picture of overall progress or regression."
- b. Another documentation tool was discussed that reflected how parents and school teams worked collaboratively. Semester progress reporting could compare prior to COVID and after. Encourage talking about participation with general comments. IEP meetings were better attended (Laurel).

- c. Detailed entry into the contact log right after the shut down. Staff have been creative in data collection (e.g. sending DIBELS passage and listening to students read).
- d. Gave teachers a framework to report progress (e.g. parent report) given it is more qualitative at this time. A possible parent benefit was a deeper intensity of what it takes to progress.
- e. Limited progress and what this means for Fall in repeating goal areas. The district's ability to measure regression and come up with a recovery plan. All students will have regression and will have to relearn some skills/routines. Measure regression for all students when comparing them to students with disabilities.
- f. Fall plans....
  - i. How will districts reopen - multiple schools for Co-op given itinerant staff; looking at multiple modalities of delivery, increasing Zoom capability; re-allocation of staffing mid year; flexible staffing. What does ESY look like? Parent advocate groups asking about FAPE. We need to have strong communication, cohesive messages in each Region while still having flexibility so that there is no division between districts in which advocacy groups could complain/compare the offer of FAPE.
  - ii. Typically we don't have parent training in the IEP process and we're learning that parents need more assistance and support. How can we support parents more as we will need to continue to rely on them for assistance if remote learning continues or if flexibilities are needed.
  - iii. Parent advocacy group will change in October 2020. Montana Empowerment Project
  - iv. Disability Rights - this group is "quiet" now and open to communication with OPI. Mandi Gibbs, has been working with them.
  - v. Tools for assessments and peer review - Really Great Reading, District-wide Assessments; Fastbridge (subtests); Data tracking and goal specific assessment;
- g. Northern Plains Conference - October 5th and 6th and post-conference will specifically be for school administrators. It is not determined yet if this will be face to face or virtual. Registration to come.
- h. Child Find/Developmental Screenings and evaluations for students transferring from Part C.
  - i. Use of questionnaires with parents versus direct contact; use of Zoom observations; different evaluation tools (e.g. DAYC- 2)
  - ii. Changed the venue so social distancing can occur, feel we can't rely on virtual assessments and need to have some face to face for these little ones.
  - iii. Evaluations/screenings could be very difficult following CDC and nursing
  - iv. Part C to B: Part C can not continue with kids. Follow up with Dani McCarthy

7. MCASE Membership: I invite you to join MCASE as an affiliate of SAM. If you are [renewing your membership for MCASE](#) you will want to link to the MCASE membership form.