

## **MCASE Region IV Meeting October 24, 2017 at 10:30**

### **Location:**

Wheat Montana Bakery  
10778 US-287  
Three Forks, MT 59752

**Attending:** Michelle Halberg, Laurie Smith, Sara Jones, Shelley Dempsey, Verne Beffert, Jenny Malloy, Dede Frothingham, Sean Michael Maharg.

### **1. Head Start in Bozeman uses Infinite Campus for their database.**

#### **Discussion on their use of electronic record requests. (Sara)**

Request of records from Head Start should not be released as it is not yet identified as a school "district" and they are using it only as the general education data collection system at this time.

Head Start referral process and relationship with Bozeman District described by Sara. Each area Head Start is different and the suggestion was to bring in the Disabilities Coordinator for pre-referral/child find.

Sara followed up with Hannah, Bozeman area Head Start Enrollment and Compliance Specialists. Hannah spoke to her support person, Candi with Infinite Campus and now knows what she needs to do to not request sped records.

### **2. New guidance from OPI that was provided at MCASE (Sara)**

\*Sara requested to move this agenda item to next month for further discussion.

The group reviewed some of the guidance in the area of "Revocation", DD eligibility age and Autism eligibility. Many of the members are sending representatives to the AU Stakeholders meeting at the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative on 10/25/17. Verne recommended that we send a letter regarding Region IV's recommendation regarding DD elig. to OPI/Frank Podobnick that would support increasing the age to 8 or 9 years of age. Several of the members present were in favor of increasing the age to 9 years in accordance with federal to allow for the possibility of qualification under Specific Learning Disability.

### **3. CSPD Secondary Transition training with Tessie (Shelley)**

Note change of date for this offering to Nov 28th Billings; November 29, 2017 in Helena trainings by Tessie Rose Bailey.

#### 4. CSPD Para Awards (Shelley)

Applications are due on December 15th. Shelley provided information on the four awards offered. Forms are fillable on line and can be sent directly to Denille Miller.

Michelle discussed continued shortage of paraprofessionals and offering stipends for paras to utilize the Learning Hub. Shelley feels it is key that paras are offered stipends to complete further training outside of the school day.

#### 5. Discussion on MCASE membership (Michelle)

Discussion on MCASE Fall Conference and gaining revenue along with increase membership.

As a CEC rep to MCASE, does this person have to be an administrator to Special Education. For example, Laurie Smith can be a member of MCASE without an administrator title but with supervision of special education programs and administrative duties. Membership costs and benefits were further discussed. Please see the School Administrators of Montana website for membership information: <http://www.sammt.org/mcase-membership-information>

When the group was solicited, Verne discussed that by being a MCASE member the biggest benefit is the protection in liability. By attending and being a member, it allows coverage on knowing the current issues in special education and eliminates the risk of lawsuit in which claims of deliberate indifference can be made.

Discussion of the fees and differences in different memberships through SAM. A thought is to encourage special education teachers to become members of CEC. Laurie Smith is the CEC rep for MCASE Region IV and the cost of becoming an associate member is \$144.

Do we need a MCASE membership coordinator? The group discussed the idea to ask Emilie Anderson to mentor an appointed individual in this position for this first year given her experience on the CASE board and previous experience with MCASE. Sara feels that bringing Emily back to help with membership would be a benefit. Michelle will follow up with the MCASE Executive/Governing Board and Emilie.

Do we combine with MASS again for the Fall conference? If MASS and MCASE are not held together next year, then it needs to be geared in bringing in speakers that will appeal to a variety of people to gain revenue. Verne mentioned having a legal strand (Julie Weatherly, Elizabeth Kaleva, etc.) which could draw Superintendents and Principals.

**Comment [1]:** Michelle will follow up with the MCASE Executive/Governing Board.  
+mhalberg@galmadspecialcoop.org  
\_Assigned to Michelle Halberg\_

Could there be a survey sent to MCASE members on “hot topics” they would like to have speakers address and solicit them for speakers? Several topics were discussed: Shelley discussed having information given on UDL. Michelle referenced Ross Greene as a speaker option. Verne mentioned that with the development of several of the changes in disability eligibility areas perhaps OPI could present. This could include discussion with school psychologists on the discrepancy model.

At the end of the discussion, Region IV members present felt that the Fall MCASE Conference should be split from MASS for next year, 2018. Michelle will pass this on to Karen Underwood, MCASE President.

#### **6. MCEC Conference leadership strand speakers (Michelle)**

MCEC scholarships  
CSPD Region IV scholarship  
February 28th-March 2nd

#### **7. Representation from MCASE on MCEC (Michelle)**

Shelley Dempsey agreed to be the MCASE representative on MCEC. Laurie Smith will reach out to her regarding the next “virtual/google hangout” meeting.

#### **8. Region IV representative position and delegate assembly and the transition to new leadership in this role. (Michelle)**

Michelle asked the group to consider continuing to share the Region IV Representative position for the remainder of this year such that Jenny Malloy and she will schedule and run the region meeting together. Then either the appointment for Jenny to become Region IV representative and sit on the Governing Board and participate in Delegate Assembly will occur in May 2018 after Delegate Assembly to allow Jenny to participate without being a voting member and to have this first year as Director under her belt.

#### **9. Procedures when a non-identified student returns from residential placement. If hospitalized, usually come back with a diagnosis. Child Find Responsibility? (Dede and Jenny)**

Shodair - release of information from medical side versus educational was discussed, (e.g. Only School Psych. can request from Medical side). The group discussed the Child Find obligations when “unidentified” student goes to acute care and then returns to school district with diagnosis that may meet eligibility criteria. Several members discussed how they might proceed with suggestions such as if it is a “first time” admission, they would review records and potentially consider pre-

referral interventions before referral and evaluation (Tier 2, 3) or use evaluation to consider Section 504 Plan.

Discussion regarding homebound students at IEP or parent placement/request: identification responsibility and determination of placement was discussed.

#### **10. Child Find process with Child Care Connections (Sara)**

Sara was contacted by Sara Silva, Pyramid Model Coach with Child Care Connections (<https://www.bozemancce.org>) regarding school district's Child Find process and contact information.

Child Care Connections oversees licensed day care providers in Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Broadwater, Jefferson, and Lewis and Clark Counties. "A parent can apply for supplemental child care subsidies to help families and child care providers meet realistic costs of individualized care. In addition to an adjusted monthly subsidy payment, one-time costs may be reimbursed using the state's Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship fund for expenses such as adaptive equipment, tuition for specialized training, or individualized technical assistance needed to learn care giving routines for the child. The amount and duration of child care subsidies is determined on an individual basis. The subsidy may be one-time-only or provided as an ongoing monthly subsidy. Special Needs Subsidy Program."

Sara will work collaboratively with Sara Silva to identify possible dates in Jan. for the training and contact MCASE region Directors and Family Outreach regarding a training opportunity for licensed daycare providers on the Child Find process and provide contact information for district's and Coop in this area.

Discussion regarding Child Find/Developmental Screenings and considering models for early identification.

#### **11. Next Scheduled Meeting: Date, Time, Location**

Michelle will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date and times in late November early December meeting. Location will be in Livingston.