

# **MCASE Region IV Meeting December 1, 2017 at 11:30**

## **Location:**

Rib and Chop House  
305 E Park St, Livingston, MT 59047

- 1. (Sean/Michelle)- Higher Ed. preparation for Special Ed. Teachers**
  - a. Meeting with a panel to discuss how does it look to have a sped teacher in a rural school where they are not there daily. Soft skills: collaboration, build support network to stay informed
  - b. Getting student from High School or other programs into the programs without strong writing skills-level of professional writing. They will ramp this up in the course work. Writing measurable goals. Share the language that is used. Carol is the only one using the "Sandbox" for Special Ed. documentation in AIM.
  - c. Endorsement Program through Billings: Still using CST Forms-outdated information. Uof M said they do not have any more room in their curriculum to teach this. Lori shared that you do not need more room just use the Sandbox that OPI provides to you.
  - d. Michelle will send a thank you for the invitation to participate in the HEC conference and share Region IV comments. This is an excellent agenda item for MCASE membership meeting to discuss at MCEC/MCASE conference.
  - e. Districts/Coops shared what they are doing to train incoming new staff.
  - f. Email from OPI about what is required on Progress Reports but not required.
  - g. Data and information from the Evaluation, needs, present levels should all be linked.
  - h. Prepare our gen ed teacher better for working with sped students. Better prep for Administration for sped
  - i. At MSU the course on Exceptionality is not under the Education Department.
  - j. Better training in trauma and hidden disabilities is coming out of Western's program..
  - k. Western-we are making gains in our relationship with MCASE and seeing focused improvements in preparation. Carol is also working closely with MCASE and Recruitment project.
  - l. U of M preparation programs are not as involved as before and the group noted high turnover is professors and leadership as a possible reason why this is true.
  - m. Univ. of Great Falls- has small sped program
  - n. OT satellite program from Univ. of Mary. Lori shared that they are motivated to send O.T. students out for Level I and Level II training in

our public schools. This is an important relationship to build capacity for filling positions. OTs are going to need to have a doctorate in near future. U of M is trying to get a OT program. Rockie is also looking to get an OT program as well.

- o. Gen ed teacher not prepared to manage classrooms than students end up referred to sped for behaviors.
- p. Actions: Michelle to follow up with Karen regarding agenda item for MCASE Winter conference. She will also reach out to Tina and Ron to attend next Region meeting.
- q. Lori shared her outreach information: School Psychs, SLP, etc. Very excited about influencing students in programs to go into the sped profession. MSU Bozeman-rural school come together to find out how to help backfill this profession. New Facebook page-contact person is Kaitlyn Saunderer. Home grown program is a focus for Lori. What is in the Career Information Track?
- r. Administration may not know what an SLP, School Psych, etc. does or how to evaluate them. Also does not know their role in the ER/IEP and what questions to ask.

**Action:**

- i. Our region reaching out
- ii. Bigger MCASE involvement
- iii. Lori will research the Montana Career Information System to see how strong the pathway to a career in education is outlined.

**2. (Sean)- Recruitment and Retention: caseloads/workloads (accreditation standards and best practice) internal training and mentoring models; SLPs and School Psychologists.**

- a. Bozeman Caseloads for 700 students
  - i. PK: 12-19
  - ii. K-5: 7-16
  - iii. 6-8: 9-21
  - iv. HS 7-18
- b. Collective Bargaining-lots of discussion around this.
- c. Lori reported that University of Oregon is interested in doing psych interns in Montana. UM-Western has reached out for information from Lori.
- d. Professional Groups also have recommended guidance on caseloads i.e. 41 for SPL from ASHA for those who are itinerant and travel. School Psychs and Counselors have this as well. Sped teacher do not have any guidance on caseload and workload.
- e. Coop PK-12
- f. Livingston has a weighted system for heavy impact students as guidelines

- g. Discussion with Trustees and Board-the pot is only so big-pits departments against each other. Been using Permissive Levies but a fine line not to turn the tax base off from voting for needed increases.
- h. Discussion about reduction for DPHHS Services, Medicaid, etc.
- i. Chad had been looking for the final Governor's budget cuts. CSCt and Medicaid were not on the cut list. The Age 3-21 services through Part C was on the cuts. Fran sent out an email saying they were not losing the age 3-21 services. Chad will share the potential budget cuts information to this group.

**Action:**

Follow up with SAM/Kirk Miller. Consider follow up with Kirk at MCASE/MCEC meeting.

- 3. (Michelle) – Follow up on MCASE/MCEC/CSPD award nominations from Region IV**
  - a. CSPD awards were due December 1st. Continue to send even after the deadline.
  - b. Teachers do not have to have a national cert. SPL has to have a national cert.
  - c. Get designated special ed admin to join MCASE, CEC.
  
- 4. (Via Dick) - The interim committee was sidetracked by the special session and he is not sure when it will pick up again. As far as groundwork for the next session, continue to talk to your legislators and encourage your administrator and school boards to do the same.**
  - a. Jenny exchanged emails with Dick.
  
- 5. (Chad) Day Treatment and the relationship of the District and mental health provider**
  - a. Livingston-Learning Center-been very successful-very therapeutic with a strong academic basis. Mental Health Provider in Livingston wants to open a Day Treatment and have the district send students. Chad provided information about the development of the Bozeman Day Treatment Program.
  - b. Jenny will share the level system for reintegration. Meet every 4 weeks. All driven by data. Behavior calendar.
  - c. Jenny will put together a team to present at Fall Conferences (MCASE/CEC).
  
- 6. (Jenny) All COOP Directors, please send your current job description and evaluation tool to Jenny via email**

- a. Jenny will send all of the job descriptions out to Region IV once she has them.

**7. (Chad) Additional Discussion Topics**

- a. Graduation/Diploma: have a session MCEC to discuss just this.
- b. Chad: 5th indicator on the ESSA State Plan-whole child focus. No discussion on Alternate Achievement Standards or Assessment-no discussion on instruction for this group of students-question if short sided or discriminatory. Board of Education did not adopt the Alternate Achievement Standards.  
Action: As a Region we would like to discuss this with OPI. Also reach out to MCASE as a whole.

**8. Next Scheduled Meeting: Date, Time, Location**

- a. Helena at SAM Office-3rd week in January.
- b. Jenny to contact Frank and Dick to see if they would be available to discuss agenda items specifically with Alt. Ass. Standards. Jenny will solicit possible dates from them. They may recommend who else to invite? Suzy, Board of Ed Representative?
- c. Once we have some dates from OPI, Michelle will send doodle poll out to membership, check with SAM office for use of conference room and confirm date with SAVE the DATE google calendar invite.