

## **Region IV MCASE Meeting**

March 30, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Via Google Meet Link

**Participants:** Jenny Malloy, Chad Berg, Juliana Robinson, Sara Novak, Maria Pace, Sara Jones, Emilie Maule, Char Allred, Lani Smith, Kaitlyn Sonderer, Kim McCauley, Mary Faber, Danni McCarthy,

### **AGENDA:**

1. Montana Recruitment Project Update - Kaitlyn Sonderer
  - a. Project Director opening is posted
  - b. Kaitlyn will support the transition
  - c. Building database since Covid
  - d. Meeting graduating students looking for jobs-esp. School psychs needing an internship-paid internship-please post if you are willing to pay for the internship
  - e. Emily will be attending some of the next couple of recruitment fairs
  - f. Nebraska is putting out some new sped teachers and the Recruitment Project will be looking into going there
  - g. Please report data so we know how well this program is working
  - h. Extra applicants-please connect with Kaitlyn as there are lots of openings
  - i. U of M Psych grant program-some funding for posting for open positions-email Kaitlyn
  - j. Budget for next year. If you are traveling to a conference let Kaitlyn know so there can be some collaboration on manning the table to decrease costs.
  - k. Question: Database on school psychologists that can supervise candidates? No MASP has a list of school psychs who can tele supervise. Shawna Rader Kelly would be the person to reach out to. U of M will also offer to help if you are in a bind.
  - l. Apply through SAM
    - i. Recruitment Project Director is posted.
  
2. FY2023 Part B IDEA Grant Application is open for public comment as of 3/19 – 4/21. All documents can be found online under the SPED website at:  
<https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/School-Climate-Student-Wellness/Special-Education/IDEA-Fiscal>. All Public Comments will be taken into consideration and may be directed to [jp.williams@mt.gov](mailto:jp.williams@mt.gov)
  - a. JP did the annual application for this year. Required to add in GAPA Section 24 form-4 questions talking about equity. All Districts and CoOps are required to submit. Sara N. has submitted around recruitment.
  - b. USDOE-do not have the allocations yet so these have not been sent out. Congress has not sent out budgets yet. Biden has proposed a significant increase.

- c. JP will put out the budget
  - d. District will see an increase in allocations in the preliminary and when finals are done-another increase. Possible supplemental flow through. You will see last year's budget currently on the webpage.
3. MCASE/SAM Update - Sara Novak-Summarized in an email from Jenny.
- a. SAM renewed contracts for SAM office
    - i. Rob offered no increase in salary and advocated for an increase for office staff as they help us with lots of conference support.
  - b. MCASE Board Meeting June 9, 2023, delegate assembly meeting in Helena
    - i. Same time as the Delegate Assembly. Encouraging many people to attend this.
  - c. People are signing up to become involved in MCASE office positions
    - i. Winners for next election cycles will be coming.
    - ii. Need for Regional representatives.
  - d. Recruitment Project Director Vacancy is posted.
  - e. Still Legislative actions. Emails from different folks on updates.
4. Program Narrative- Participating districts do not need to sign approval, but approval needs to be through one approval Board.
- a. Program Narratives should be updated every 5 years
    - i. Not filed with the Secretary of State
    - ii. Lots are outdated-in the process of updating
    - iii. Need Districts to submit to Dani with Board approval
    - iv. If you need to know what the last one submitted, please contact Dani
    - v. No signatures needed but the Board needs to know
    - vi. Lots of Superintendents and Sped Directors are not aware they need to do this
    - vii. Dani has them all. Need the letter that says approved by OPI. Send Program Narratives to Dani in a draft form so she can send revisions and then get Board approval. Proof of Board approval-take the Sped Director's word of Board approval.
    - viii. ARM on Program Narratives:  
<https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/RuleNo.asp?RN=10%2E16%2E3220>
    - ix. Need to update if new policy on student attendance up to age 21 years old.
    - x. Program Narratives may come up in the Audits.
    - xi. ARM-Districts and CoOps are stated in this rule. CoOps-completed by CoOp Director and all sped District policies and procedures attached-child find, collect, maintain and report child find pk-12, private schools.
  - b. Interlocals every 3 years need to be updated-Send to JP
    - i. What do you do if schools refuse to sign
      - 1. This is a problem. Send to JP and Dani. OPI will send a letter for action needed. Talk to accreditation who will refer to the Board of Education for further action.
    - ii. Amendments need to be filed with the Secretary of State and all counties

- iii. Interlocal Purpose: (a) The districts desire to offer full services to persons requiring special education (said persons defined in 20-7-401, MCA) and to all children within said districts.
  - b) The districts desire to provide these special education services in compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws, regulations, and accreditation standards.
  - (c) Establish a full service cooperative to perform all education administrative services, activities, and undertakings it is authorized to perform according to 20-7-451 through 20-7-456, MCA

\*\*\*Please check with JP as to the needed process. Signature will be needed. This is a process and will take time to review and provide feedback. Dani is willing to support as well.

- 5. Grants for Summer Institute & national conference - Danni
  - a. Additional funds available that would need to be expended by September 30th.
  - b. Discretionary grant for special education directors and staff to attend the summer institute (June 19-23rd in Bozeman)
  - c. Any National Conference (before September 1st) could be covered as well.
  
- 6. A student who needs to be reevaluated-VI. Lots of medical needs-lots of heat on reevaluation from the doctor and parent to get speech and ABA 5 days a week in the school environment. Lots of medical information with doctor statements that the student is functioning as a 1 year old. What are you using to evaluate a severe and profound?
  - a. Developmental history, review medical reports/diagnosis, review of data, if the child is untestable-the review of data is the best tool
  - b. Oregon Survey-child engaged, observation
  - c. Kerri Norick offered this assessment
  - d. Functionally what is she able to do? Non verbal, sleeps a lots, behaviors, seizures have declined her ability to function,
  - e. Every Move Counts -<https://www.everymovecounts.net/index.html>
  - f. Contract with a nurse to summarize all the medical reports/diagnoses and include in the ER for the team to consider educational implications.
  - g. Drafted letter to Family Outreach in regard to the psychological assessment results are included in the Evaluation Report and not a separate report. Lani has a drafted letter she provided to Lisa Loken at Family Outreach for 0208 waiver applications. If the student is untestable, Family Outreach will accept this documentation too.

**Next Meeting: April 27th at 9:30**