

Region IV MCASE Meeting
September 28, 2022 at 9:30 AM
Via Google Meet Link:

Participants: JP Williams, Kim McCauley, Jenny Malloy, Lani Smith, Chad Berg, Juliana Robinson, Sara Novak, Maria Pace, Emilie Maule, Mary Farber, Sara Jones, Kathleen Evans, Mary Beth Pummel, Danni McCarthy, Bryan Ayers

Guests: Rob Watson, Cari Douglas

AGENDA:

1. Introduction to the new Program Director for Family Outreach (Cari Douglas)
 - a. Overview of the structure and a Q&A. [OPI Guidance on Part C](#) starts on P. 30

Cari Douglas-Program Director focused on building relationships and building the progra. Nicole Hofmeister is the site supervisor for Bozeman. Focused on hiring FSSs and building a solid team. Working with the state Part C Coordinator for support.

What do the directors needs:

Never get a notification on whether the CoOp has any Part C kids? Yes, please reach out and Cari is happy to send letters. Jenny recommended looking at the list on the meeting notice and emailing all the directors.

1. Lisa Loken, Intake Coordinators
2. Christian Ryan, Butte
3. Rosie Alvarez, Helena
4. 45 days to write IFSP from Referral

Child Find Process-

- a. ASP 3 for child find for a screener.
- b. Then DP 4 in Nov-new assessment
- c. IDA II or Battelle 3-still determining
- d. After eligible for DD coordinate w/physician. This was taking a long time. Now coordinating w/Lone Peak
- e. Tight timelines-if less than 45 days-OPI provides guidance on this:
- f. They have 8 FSSs and working on training
- g. Jenny suggested FO reach out to Park County: Gardiner child care providers as they take kids 0-5 years old.
- h. They have hired a community resource to visit child care providers in their region
- i. Contracting w/a consultant to increase their reach into communities. Julianna-In the rural communities technology is really limited so QR codes won't work. Cari: they will also look at the data and see how to connect better with all communities.
- j. CoOps are reaching out to local FO offices to invite to Child Find events. In the past no one responded or did not show up.

- k. **Cari is building accountability procedures-please reach out Cari Douglass cdouglass@familyoutreach.org 406-551-7605**
- l. **Dani McCarthy: OPI Lucy Belts is the 619 Coordinator-asked Lucy to reach out to Cari.**

2. "Grow your own sped staff" (Kaitlyn Sonderer via Jenny Malloy)

- a. ["homegrown page"](#)

Kaitlyn provided an email to all Region IV members with an overview of additional resources through the Montana Recruitment Project.

3. Interdisciplinary Teams (Rob Watston)

- a. Legislation in the 2019 session (Senate Bill 35).

This has been around for a while, but in 2019 they clarified team members. Wrap around service conversation.

- b. Here is a link to the state law: [County or Regional Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety team. \(MCA 52-2-211\)](#)
- c. And here is the link to a website on the [Montana Association of Counties](#) which outlines requirements and has some sample forms.

Rob's concerns stem from traveling and seeing that this law is implemented differently in each county/community.

One person had asked how to set this up. Links allow for information on this . Is it working or not, is there something at SAM that can offer support to get the teams up and running. County Supt. is required to report to the State that this is in compliance.

Chad gave examples of how it looks in Gallatin County.

What are other counties doing?

Park County - Happening, but rural school folks not being invited or involved.

Jefferson County - County Supt. is actively trying to get it going again.

Gallatin County - Bozeman centered, Manhattan is not included in this.

Madison County - Not sure - will be reaching out.

Sara Novak will check with her 7 County Supts. To see how it's handled there.

4. Science of Reading (Maria Pace)

Sped Directors play a critical role in reading practices for improvement. Maria will send out some information. 40% of all IEP services are Reading. This is good for everyone. There is an amazing course as well-\$500. Maria will email a bunch of resources. We need to improve high quality reading instruction/training for our sped teachers. Mark your calendars for the Big Sky Reading Conference, next year.

5. Private School/Homeschool Service Plans (Lani) An increase in referrals for evals and Private School Service Plans. What are the processes you use?

Page 38 of the [OPI sped guide](#) talks about who is responsible in terms of private schools

Are parentally placed private school students with disabilities entitled to receive special education and related services?

No. Parentally placed private school students with disabilities have no individual right to receive some or all of the special education and related services that they would receive if enrolled full-time in a public school. Parentally placed private school students are not entitled to FAPE. For parentally placed private school students who receive services, the LEA must

The district/coop in which the private school is in, is responsible for the eval and PSSP regardless if the child lives in a different district/coop.

If parents reside in one school district and enroll their student with a disability at a private school located in another school district, which school district is responsible for locating and evaluating that student?

If a student is parentally enrolled in a private school outside the boundaries of the school district in which the student resides, the school district where the private school is located is responsible for child find activities through referral.

- District/CoOp receives funding and determines how to spend the money
- Must be registered w/County Superintendent
- Colony school-parent provides the homeschool but is not registered with the County Superintendent. Yes, count on the private school.
- If a student lives in Belgrade and attends a private school in Bozeman, Bozeman gets to count the child and is responsible for the child find(eval) and the PSSP.

Regardless if the Private School accepts the federal funding, the District in which the private school resides is responsible for the child find and PSSP.

If a student does not receive the funds that are set aside (moved away, re enrolled, , the Set aside funds can be used.

Above the age of 16 and not required to enroll w/County Superintendent, how are these students accounted for? Parents may not respond to our attempts to engage in a PSSP. Parents are still responsible for the child. Students can drop out.

Offer of FAPE is an annual process to see if they want to enroll or a PSSP can be provided.

Asking for OPI to provide more training on Private School Service Plans

6. Sharing School Psychs/Sped Teacher (Jenny/Lani)
 - a. Paying for mileage, travel reimbursement, protocols
 - b. Payment of service
 - c. Cost per final evaluation

There are just not enough people so we want to support each other. Not contracting but under the CoOp contract. Muddy water on double dipping under labor laws.

Caution:OT, PT, Speech, Nursing, Interpreter services are driving costs up and can create discourse. Also the ethical practices when a staff takes a sick day from a District/CoOp to do services in a different District/CoOp for a higher rate of pay. Work with MASP/MCASE to come up with some guidance.

7. Follow up from MCASE (Sara)

John had reached out to Sara Novak about the information presented on the monitoring as to misinformation at MCASE. Progress Reports were in reference to the IEP Progress Report. Jenny emailed the clarification from John.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2022 at 9:30 (Virtual)