

Region IV MCASE Meeting

January 28, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Via Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/vjx-icks-qeh>

Participants: Michelle Halberg, Dan Laughlin, Jenny Malloy, Sara Novak, Sara Jones, Mary Beth Pummel, Juliana Robinson, Jessica West-DeJarnatt, Sean Morrision, Sean Maharg Shelley Dempsey, Verne Beffert, Will Dickerson, Kim McCauley, Dede Frothingham, Melanie Home Gun (MSU Educational Leadership Student)

AGENDA:

1. Question and answer regarding legislative session, more specifically HB 26, HB46, SB 18 (Kirk Miller)
 - a. HB 26 <https://www.leg.mt.gov/> (Right on the main page is bill look up. Just click that and put the info in the drop down.)
 - i. Clean up of the definition of a pupil. Preschool programs and students older than 19 years old would be added in the future for funding. By cleaning up the definition, this will make it easier to add these students. 20-1-101 removes language around the age of under 6 which is significant language to change this using 20-9-311 7B. A talks about enrollment of pk. B talks about 19 and over. Moves together age in the same section of law-striking not using ANB. Send any questions or comments to Sara Novak.
 - ii. The Department of Labor involves language around Speech and OT licenses and changes the language from “speech assistant” to “ speech aids.” They want to have trained folks in these positions, not just a para without professional development. If in the position they are grandfathered but if the person leaves, they have to complete the 1 year certificate program in U of M to be licensed. For the certificate program there is no cap on how many can be in the program. The legislation has to be passed first. Would enact in 2023. It is pricey from \$12,000-\$15,000 for 2 semesters at U of M. Michelle would rather have the program provide a 2 year Associate Degree to be a Speech assistant. Would have to increase starting pay to afford the program.
 - b. HB 46
 - i. This bill has been tabled. Kirk is optimistic that the fiscal note will accompany this bill and it will return for consideration as it is directly linked to HB 2 which requires balancing the governor’s budget. There is a fiscal note regarding special education inflation allowable costs and this has been removed.
 - c. SB 18
 - . Establish Graduation Requirement for disruptive youth. Problematic: Definitions too broad. Allow students who met state requirements but not districts they would allow. On 2nd reading in the House. No relationship with Medicaid.
 - d. fiscal note for HB 16: https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/FNPDF//HB0016_1.pdf

- e. ANB funding bill for 3-4 year olds who are receiving services-have already seen it- been tabled. Fred Anderson, sponsored the bill. Have to have a program in place providing services to meet aggregate requirements. Some districts are collecting ANB on 4 year old students. Where are they getting the numbers for 3-4 year old students? Sara will dig in and find out this information and share with Danni. Someone would need to request the child count from OPI. Funding for 19 year old-there is a bill coming.
 - f. Elsie has been at all of the meetings and has been supportive.
 - g. "Handle with Care"-district would be informed that an incident occurred and they need to handle with care. This would be all they hear.
 - h. Medicaid
 - .CSCT funding not letting the education community know about the fed funding coming and using the DPHHS match. Told in 2016 that was a no, no. DPHHS- "soft match" to cover these costs. There is potentially a shortfall. Meeting ast Tues. night to discuss budget issues. Status: do not want schools to lose any money-full reimbursement. Legislators on the committee: Upset as we have known about this since 2016 and not dealt with but no intention of causing harm. Will be money to cover this year but need to determine funding over the summer to fix this. Taken for grants 1/3 from schools. Districts will have to send 1/3 match and coming back will be 100% return to get 2/3 federal funds.
 - i. Concerns of another loss to CSCT to cover mental health centers which may be the end of the centers. Districts would have to absorb the students in the centers. Losa school and community mental health services.
 - ii. The committee is working on solutions.
 - iii. Concerned about the new head of DPHHS as it appears he wants to cut Medicaid.
 - iv. A physical back and forth to meet the match. Kirk feels confident we have good folks around the table looking at solutions.
 - v. Future need: info from the folks delivering the services at some point. Kirk will use SAM to notify members when the info is needed.
 - i. AGATE Bill
 - .Hoping to change language from "shall identify" to "shall provide programming"
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- 2. Update on second round of ESSER funding and increase
 - a. Elsie sent out a statewide email with how much money Montana is getting but no clarifications on how to disburse.
 - b. Sara N. may have some information from a meeting last Tuesday.
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- 3. Assistive Technology and the resources that Directors use to fund appropriate devices (Shelley Dempsey)
 - a. MONTEC
 - b. Check with OTs and Speech folks as they may have gone through training and certification.
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- 4. Flow Forms (Jenny) <https://flowforms.io/>
 - a. Billings is using it.
 - b. Belgrade is using it for HR hiring.
 - c. Can do Medicaid billing
 - d. They have requested to join our next meeting to give a brief overview.

5. MSU Research Study (Jody Bartz)

- a. We want to support but staff is overwhelmed and not able to engage in the work that needs to be done

6. Hypothetical Cases (Michelle)

- a. Interrupted Evaluations/IEP for students with Transition IEPs.
 - i. Situations where kids transfer in from out of state and do not meet criteria or out of date as well as the IEPs. 18 years old and does not want to be evaluated or on an IEP.
 - ii. Transferred from in-state High School student-parents and students did not reveal sped services but had significant needs. At home, isolated and not accessing educational services. Parents are not responding to multiple requests to evaluate.
 - iii. Not want in the home, want him at school. Out of date IEP.
 - b. Possible solutions: Similar situation low SES program-struggle to engage until the pandemic hits and parents want support. Transient families with sped students out of school for a year and no IEP. Do no harm progress towards a diploma or we have time to plan for the student's interests to help prepare for life.
 - c. Sara has had 100% response from parents who have not responded after several attempts to engage them by leaving a voicemail, "I will stop by your house this afternoon at 3pm to see if I can connect with you."
 - d. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/IEP.QA.-June-2010-FINAL.pdf> "Even if the parent is unable to provide the child's IEP from the previous public agency, if the new public agency decides that an evaluation is necessary because it has reason to suspect that the child has a disability, nothing in the IDEA or its implementing regulations would prevent the new public agency from providing special education services to the child while the evaluation is pending, subject to an agreement between the parent and the new public agency"

Student who was going to go to Job Corps but keeps getting delayed. Mom has left and no way to contact the parent and no timeline of her return. He has to get a job to keep the lights on so he cannot come to school. Living with step dad? Anything in McKinney- Vento to help provide supports to the student. Surrogate parent appointment? Always obligation to provide FAPE to an at risk student. Contact DPHHS to provide supports not for placement. Schedule a meeting. Does he need parent permission to withdraw? Yes.
"homeless children and youth" - children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;

7. MT Recruitment Project - gather numbers for current year and 2021-2022

- a. Bozeman
 - i. Nowhere near being able to articulate our needs yet.
 - b. Belgrade
 - c. Park County CoOp
- .2020-2021 Shields Valley High Needs Para Educator
- d. Gallatin/Madison CoOp - No openings now

- e. Livingston
- f. Helena
- g. Anaconda
- h. Prickly Pear
- i. Contact Michelle about an OT
- j. Contact Jenny about a part-time PT
- k. Manhattan part time OT/PT

8. Agenda for Meeting with Family Outreach on Feb. 19, 2021, 1-3pm (Sara)

- a. Resource [OPI Guidance: Part C Transition Process](#) (starting on page 24)
- b. Part C Notification form

i. Add FSS name

ii. Ensure students on the list are sent to the appropriate attendance area school

iii. Timeline for sending out the notification

iv.

- c. Pre-school placement versus pre-school services
- d. Communication in general: private providers, in home ABA, etc.
- e. Impact of Child Find due to COVID

9. Frequency of OPI calls? (Sara)

- a. 1 time per month-an email will be sent out.

Next Meeting: March 4th at 9:30