

Region IV MCASE Meeting

October 14, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Via Google Meet Link:

Participants: Michelle Halberg, Dan Laughlin, Kim McCauley, Jenny Malloy, Lani Smith, Verne Beffert, Juliana Robinson, Sara Novak, Maria Pace, Dede Frothingham, Mary Beth Pummel, Sean Maharg, Liz Conley

AGENDA:

1. ARP Application and Fund Use
 - a. Dan is using the funds for recovery services through summer school and after school programs, training (Dr. Garfunkel), technology, upgrade security systems
 - b. Dede using it for similar items as above. Increased the pay to entice people for summer school. Technology for 1:1 devices.
 - c. Fleet vehicle replacements
 - d. Michelle is working with OPI to ensure that the ARP application is correct.

2. Carryover Issues
 - a. Cooperatives had issues with carryover funds rolling into the FY 22 application. It was determined that if the expenditure report from FY 21 was not approved by OPI prior to opening the FY 22 application, the funds would not roll into the new application and an amendment would be required to the FY 22 application.

3. COVID Leave - What are your Cooperatives and Districts providing this year?
 - a. Dede is not providing any extra leave. It is provided through their own leave. They are discussing the option of extra leave.
 - b. Dan is providing 150 extra days
 - c. Bob is providing an MOU and providing an extra bank of days.
 - d. Sara N. using their own sick leave. New employees don't have leave for 90 days, but created a MOU to use sick leave.
 - e. Jenny provides flexibility to provide services, but use of personal leave.
 - f. Michelle is providing the option for virtual if possible.
 - g. Coops have struggles with working with what each district is doing for mitigation strategies.

4. How have you addressed the speech aide changes in your district/coop? Impacts of revenue loss? (Dede)
 - a. How are people getting around not being able to use them?
 - b. Sara Novak discussed that there is no way to regulate the use at this time. She suggests making little changes until there is guidance
 - c. Could use them as a para and assign them duties as needed.

- d. Continue billing under the supervision of the Speech Pathologist until told otherwise.
5. School Psychs and the Independent Contracting (Sara N.)
 - a. School Psychologists cannot do independent contracting.
 - b. Sara questioned if ALL school psychs know this. Julianna and Sara will work together on a joint statement to get the word out that it is not allowed.
 - c. Sara questioned the legal and ethical issues of districts putting other people's staff in a position to do evals and be paid, also the recruiting of our staff out from under us. It is happening in a lot of areas with unfilled positions across the state.
 6. List of assessments in Region IV that are in Spanish. What is effective? The growing number of ESL students has Bozeman asking how to complete a reliable evaluation. (Sara J.)
 - a. UNIT for psychological testing
 - b. Sara Novak may have a list of connections. We will reach out.
 - c. Brice Corts, School Psychologist at Belgrade has a great knowledge base and could be used as a resource to build a list of evaluation tools.
 7. Recruitment Project (Kaitlin)
 - a. Sped Teachers and School Psychs continue to be our greatest need with the highest number of unfilled positions this school year.
 - b. UM has secured the grant for advertising through the NASP career center. I believe it is a 30-day posting. You post your psych opening on their website <https://nasponline-jobs.careerwebsite.com/> and pay the fee, then submit receipt for reimbursement to teresa.johnson@umontana.edu
 - c. We have updated our website to include an interactive map that hosts all the special ed openings. Check it out: <https://saom.memberclicks.net/mcase-recruitment-project>
 - d. Our new website now has beneficial links for all potential candidates (ex. MT licensing, state associations, etc.).
 - e. COVID has again altered recruiting efforts this year and everything planned for this Fall is virtual. There are live events planned for the Spring (ex. NASP conference in Boston). We will have to wait and see if they will remain face-to-face.
 - f. We have the following virtual events coming up this Fall:
 - i. *University of Mary Healthcare Career Fair
 - ii. *University of North Dakota Career Fair
 - iii. *Speaking to UM SLP and Psych students
 - iv. *Speaking to MSUB and Carroll College Sped Students
 - v. *Increasing digital advertising for Sped Teachers and School Psychs (NASP).

- g. Districts and coops can enroll with us by completing the Google Form: **2021-22 MCASE Recruitment Enrollment Online Form.**

- 8. Current openings:
 - a. Prickly Pear
 - i. 1.5 FTE SLP
 - b. Belgrade
 - i. PT
 - ii. Para-Educators (7-8)
 - iii. Sped Teachers (Middle and High School)
 - iv. Behavior Analyst

- 9. CSCT and Child Protective Services Impacts
 - a. With the changes, there are big impacts due to cuts to the program.
 - b. There is a large concerted effort in revamping DPHHS at the state level.

- 10. Dyslexia Symposium. Free to register. <https://www.montana.edu/dxi/>

- 11. MCASE/MCEC Conference
 - a. No update
 - b. Look at nominating for the awards!

Next Meeting: November 18 at 9:30 via Google Meet (meeting link to come)