

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, August 27, 2024  
10:00 AM – Cooperative Office/Zoom

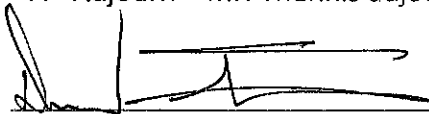
MINUTES - FINAL

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Thennis called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Thennis, Mr. Fiske, Ms. Schneider, Mr. Biesiot. Board Members not in attendance: Mr. Stiegler. BVEC administrators in attendance: Director Jenny Rammell, MH Program Supervisor Ashley Gillespie, Clinical Supervisor Rachella Moresi. Staff in attendance via Zoom: Liz Pepion, Robin Williams. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Biesiot made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Schneider. Motion carries by unanimous consent.
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Resignations
  - C. New Hires
    - a. Mathilda Hendin-Hoecker, Mental Health Therapist, Victor Secondary
    - b. Ashley Baugus, Mental Health Therapist, Darby Secondary
    - c. Rachella Moresi-Mental Health Clinical Supervisor
  - D. Next Meeting: TBD – Regularly scheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday falls on the same dates as the MASS/MCASE meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 10 AM.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Correspondence/Communications** – None.
5. **Board Action** – None.
6. **Information and Discussion**
  - A. **Special Education Training Schedule** – Ms. Rammell will be offering Special Education training for new staff, refresher training for existing staff, on the following dates from 1-3 PM at the BVEC Office:
    - i. September 13, 2024
    - ii. September 27, 2024
    - iii. October 11, 2024Ms. Rammell will send emails to Special Education staff and offer the training and will offer some make-up dates if these dates do not work for some staff. The training will include instruction on amendments per Mr. Fiske's request.
  - B. **OPI Documents (Procedural Safeguards & Special Education Guidance)** – Ms. Rammell communicated that there are new Special Education Guidance documents on the OPI website. These are good documents for Case Managers and Principals. Ms. Rammell will send an email to School Psychologists and Principals regarding the error in the OPI Procedural Safeguards documentation. The error is in the communication that foster parents can sign as parents. Montana laws state the foster parent can only sign if parental

rights have been extinguished. Ms. Rammell explained it is rare for parental rights to be extinguished and Case Managers verify parent rights prior to meetings.

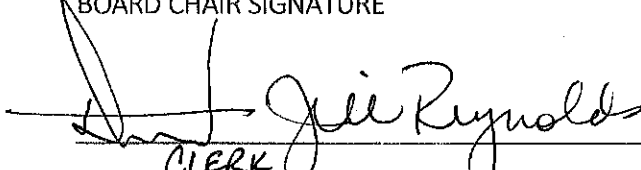
- C. Parent Involvement Survey – This is the survey Districts are required to send out annually. Districts determine how they would like to distribute the survey which must be sent to all parents of Special Education students. Examples of distribution include, but are not limited to, Blast, during IEPs, via QR code. Ms. Rammell will resend the information regarding the survey of ten questions the parents will answer regarding their involvement in their student’s education. Results from the state will be available to Districts, but no timing for those results has been communicated.
  
- D. BVEC Program Narrative – Ms. Rammell explained she was notified BVEC needed to update our narrative document by June 30, 2024. Ms. Rammell completed and submitted the revisions to OPI May 24, 2024. She made multiple requests for feedback on the revisions, with no reply from OPI. At some point between the request for revisions and the due date, there were some rule changes that OPI was unaware of that could lead to a complaint and corrective action needed in October 2024. BVEC legal counsel has reviewed the revised document and communicated they did not see any issues with the narrative Ms. Rammell submitted.
  
- E. School Based Mental Health (CSCT) – Ms. Rammell spoke to the summer program performance and staffing levels. CSCT did have a good summer, and we are fully staffed. Ms. Gillespie spoke in more detail about the summer programs, how the teams were able to adapt quickly when needed due to lack of student attendance. CSCT is starting the 24-25 fully staffed except Florence Secondary. All staff are aware we need to hit the ground running and will start reviewing referrals from the end of the year and meeting with school staff and reviewing any wait list. Ms. Gillespie also explained the issues incurred with billing new HSS services. We are working with the Children’s Mental Health Bureau and Montana Medicaid to reconcile what is to be done to bill and be reimbursed for these services. There was group discussion on the impact the increase in the FMAP percentage will have on the reimbursement rate the Co-op will retain because it will lead to a loss of \$1.40 per claim.
  
- F. Ms. Rammell is pursuing coverage for Physical Therapy services in lieu of Ms. Woods’ medical leave. In the interim services will be covered by our Occupational Therapists and meetings will be covered by Rock Creek Teletherapy. The option to use Rock Creek to cover meetings was chosen over delaying meetings.

7. Adjourn – Mr. Thennis adjourned the meeting at 10:57 AM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10/22/24

BOARD CHAIR SIGNATURE

DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10/23/24

CLERK  
BOARD CHAIR SIGNATURE

DATE