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Fall YWCCSSC Advisory Meeting

September 12, 2023

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Cooperative Organization
 - a. Joint Advisory Board
 - b. Management Board
 - c. Cooperative Services
 - d. Interlocal Agreement
 - e. Funding of Cooperative
3. Special Education Guides
4. YWCCSSC Staff
5. Child Count, Private School Count, and Students Served by Cooperative
6. Hiring of Special Education Staff
 - a. Certification and Roles
 - b. Recruitment Project
7. Early Childhood
8. Office information

Cooperative Organization

- ▶ 7-Member Board elected by members of the Joint Advisory Board

- **Chair John Fitzgerald, Red Lodge**
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2024
- **Vice-chair Bill Phillips, Bridger**
7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026
- **Cathi Rude, Blue Creek**
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2024
- **Alex Ator, Roberts**
7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026
- **Brent Lipp, Canyon Creek**
5/10/2022 - 6/30/2025
- **Luke Shelton, Elysian**
5/10/2022 - 6/30/2025
- **Sheila Chouinard, Independent**
5/10/2022 - 6/30/2025

- ▶ *Molt School is currently in a non-operating status for the 2023-24 school year (third year)*

- ▶ Joint Advisory Board where one representative for each of our 16 active school districts is appointed by his/her local Board of Trustees

- **Alex Ator**
- **Bill Phillips**
- **Cathi Rude**
- **Clark Begger**
- **Brent Lipp**
- **Ken Adams**
- **Nathan Schmitz**
- **Jason Olson**
- **John Fitzgerald**
- **Dwight Von Schriltz**
- **Luke Shelton**
- **Jim Goltz**
- **Sheila Chouinard**
- **Tia Schacht**
- **Jennifer Hickok**
- **Eric Terrill**

Purposes and Services of the Cooperative

Including but not limited to---

- ▶ Speech Therapy
- ▶ Occupational Therapy
- ▶ Physical Therapy
- ▶ Psychological Assessments related to IDEA Criteria
- ▶ Support for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- ▶ Support for Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans
- ▶ Coordination with the Montana Hearing Conservation Program
- ▶ Extended School Year Related Services
- ▶ Technical Assistance
- ▶ Assistance with Child Find Responsibilities
- ▶ In-service

Interlocal Agreement

- ▶ Prepared in 2019; necessitated by our reorganization
- ▶ Submitted to OPI upon receipt of all districts' administrative representatives following local trustee approval
- ▶ The revised agreement has been signed by all current district representatives
 - ▶ The current agreement expires June 30, 2024
 - ▶ Notice of renewal was sent to all member districts in June of 2023
 - ▶ Districts not wishing to continue membership were required to give notice by September 1, 2023.
 - ▶ No districts indicated a desire to withdraw from the coop at this time.
 - ▶ Participation terms are for three years
- ▶ Copy available for review on our website, www.ywccssc.k12.mt.us

Current Funding

- ▶ The Cooperative is funded primarily through IDEA Part B funds and IDEA Preschool funds. Our funds are received after the consolidated e-grant for the Cooperative is approved.
 - ▶ Other funding sources include state funds, district match funds, and Medicaid
- ▶ Federal funding approval is based upon all schools submitting their applications and each being approved at the cooperative level. After this step the cooperative as a whole is reviewed.
- ▶ Currently districts in our cooperative are not assessed a membership fee which is unique to cooperatives.
- ▶ We receive Medicaid funding based upon service delivery in several areas with speech services being our largest area for generating funds.

Recommended Guides

- ▶ YWCCSSC [Handbook](#) 2023, found on website
 - ▶ Policies
 - ▶ Regulations
 - ▶ Procedures
 - ▶ Annual Assignments, schedules etc.
- ▶ OPI “[One Guide](#)”
- ▶ OPI [Early Childhood](#)

YWCCSSC Staff

Yellowstone-West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative 2023-2024 School Year Office (406)839-2339 Fax (406)633-4286

Name	Title	Co-op School(s) Served	Co-op Cell	Co-op Email
Central Office Staff				
Vogele, Beth	Administrative Assistant	Office (406)839-2339 Fax # (406)633-4286	696-5729	beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Heimbigner, Roger & Denise	Business Manager		530-9040	itbrsolutions.heimbigner@gmail.com
Romo, Brandyn	Director		478-4364	brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Speech Staff				
Saliba, Jessica	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Belfry; Luther; Canyon Creek; Preschool at Canyon Creek	860-1059	jessica@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Cotrell, Sheridan	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Red Lodge; Preschool at Red Lodge; Roberts	670-3680	sheridan@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Collinson, Konnie	Level II Sp-Lang. Aide	Broadview; Independent; Preschool at Independent	670-3605	konnie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Goettlich, Bridgett	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Joliet; YBGR (supervise Brigid Hagerty)	530-4035	bridgett@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Hagerty, Brigid	Level II Sp-Lang. Aide	Bridger; Fromberg; Morin; Pryor; Blue Creek	860-4317	brigid@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Harris, Lisa	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Elysian (supervise Konnie Collinson)	855-7213	lisa@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Hickey, Kelly	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Elder Grove	672-5592	kellyh@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
School Psychologist Staff				
Contway, Isha	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Blue Creek; Broadview; Elysian; Independent; Preschool at Independent; Morin	366-6472	isha@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
McNeish, Sonya	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Belfry; Fromberg; Joliet; Luther; Red Lodge; Roberts	263-9189	sonya@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Willis, Steve	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Bridger; Canyon Creek; Elder Grove; Preschool at Canyon Creek; YBGR; Pryor	812-0025	steve@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Support Staff				
Gizicki, Andrea	Occupational Therapist	Blue Creek; Broadview; Canyon Creek; Elysian; Independent; Preschool at Canyon Creek & Independent; Molt; Morin; Pryor; YBGR	208-2815	andrea@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Herrick, Shanna	Occupational Therapist	Belfry; Bridger; Elder Grove; Fromberg; Joliet Luther; Red Lodge; Roberts	208-2785	shanna@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
Spring, Lauren	Physical Therapist	All Co-op Schools	208-9449	lauren@ywccssc.k12.mt.us

YWCCSSC Regular Staff Assignments

YWCCSSC ASSIGNMENTS:

SPEECH, PRIMARY PSYCHOLOGISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

SCHOOL	Psychologist	Speech	OT
Joliet	Sonya McNeish	Bridgett Goettlich	Shanna Herrick
Preschool at CCS	Sonya McNeish	Jessica Saliba	Andrea Gizicki
Pryor	Steve Willis	Brigid Hagerty	Andrea Gizicki
Fromberg	Sonya McNeish	Brigid Hagerty	Shanna Herrick
Bridger	Steve Willis	Brigid Hagerty	Shanna Herrick
Morin	Isha Contway	Brigid Hagerty	Andrea Gizicki
Belfry	Sonya McNeish	Jessica Saliba	Shanna Herrick
Luther	Sonya McNeish	Jessica Saliba	Shanna Herrick
Red Lodge	Sonya McNeish	Sheridan Cotrell	Shanna Herrick
Roberts	Sonya McNeish	Sheridan Cotrell	Shanna Herrick
Elder Grove	Steve Willis	Kelly Hickey	Shanna Herrick
YBGR	Steve Willis	Bridgett Goettlich	Andrea Gizicki
Broadview	Isha Contway	Konnie Collinson	Andrea Gizicki
Independent	Isha Contway	Konnie Collinson	Andrea Gizicki
Molt	Isha Contway	Konnie Collinson	Andrea Gizicki
Blue Creek	Isha Contway	Brigid Hagerty	Andrea Gizicki
Elysian	Isha Contway	Lisa Harris	Andrea Gizicki
Canyon Creek w/o Preschool	Steve Willis	Jessica Saliba	Andrea Gizicki

Please note: Lauren Spring, **PT**, serves all schools.

Child Count coming soon!

Child Count may be submitted anytime between PRESCRIBED DATES IN EARLY OCTOBER AND MID-NOVEMBER. The six-week period between Child Count day and the deadline provides time for districts to review the Child Count list for accuracy. The Child Count list is generated from data extracted from AIM; therefore, changes to the list must originate in AIM. For instance, a student may be missing from the list because his/her IEP in AIM is unlocked. Once the IEP is locked and the information is re-imported into the Child Count application, the student will appear on the list.

The following information must be in AIM for students to appear on Child Count:

- a completed, locked IEP;
- a completed, locked Evaluation Report with an age-appropriate disability;
- an age-appropriate Setting of Service; and
- an enrollment on or prior to the Child Count day (October 2, 2023).

Child Count and Private School Counts

- ▶ In accordance with IDEA 2004, every public school district must conduct a child count of all IDEA-eligible students who are parentally enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools within the public school district's boundaries. Homeschool students are considered private school students. The child count for these students must be conducted annually on the first Monday of October (to coincide with the Child Count reporting date). A copy of this count must be maintained by the public school, or the special education cooperative on behalf of its member school districts.
- ▶ *The Private School Child Count Form is the basis for calculating the proportionate share of Part B funds for the annual application for Part B/Preschool Allocations.*
- ▶ The Special Education Division is requiring that all districts return the completed and signed Child Count of Parentally Enrolled IDEA -Eligible Students to the division by MID November.
- ▶ In order to be counted on the Child Count of Parentally Enrolled IDEA-Eligible Students, a student must:
 - ▶ Attend a Private School (or homeschool) within your district boundaries
 - ▶ Have been identified as having a qualifying disability under IDEA
- ▶ This count must include all IDEA-eligible students, whether or not they are receiving special education services through a Services Plan.

Who Did We Serve?

- ▶ The cooperative supports all students enrolled in member schools. ANB counts for Fall of 2022 indicated 3,639 total students
- ▶ Fall 2022 child count indicates 498 PK-12 students in current co-op schools were identified with disabilities
- ▶ Areas where our students qualify:
 - ▶ 13.1% students qualified in speech
 - ▶ 37.6% students, learning disability including some with dyslexia
 - ▶ 8.0% students, other health impaired
 - ▶ 2.8% students, intellectual disability
 - ▶ 4.2% students, autism
 - ▶ 11.6% students, developmental disability (now a criteria in use potentially until 9th birthday)
 - ▶ 3.0% students, emotional disturbance
 - ▶ 18.9% students, multiple disabilities
 - ▶ 3.8% students, multiple disabilities including autism
 - ▶ 0.2% students, hearing impairment
 - ▶ 0.2% students, visual impairment
 - ▶ .4% students, orthopedic impairment
 - ▶ 0% students, deaf
 - ▶ 0% students, TBI

Hiring Teachers and Service Providers

- ▶ OPI Endorsement Project
- ▶ Limitations of staff not certified in special education nor in endorsement project -
 - cannot be special education teacher on record; cannot write IEPs or ERs
- ▶ The OPI Special Education Endorsement Project is accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year.
 - ▶ An annual stipend of \$3,600 is paid to special education teachers to offset their tuition costs.
 - ▶ The Internship Program is an option for those who don't get into the Endorsement Project. It also allows for a candidate to work in special education for up to 3 years while completing their coursework when they have a different Class 1 or 2 endorsement, but it does not include a stipend.
 - ▶ The internship program is preferable rather than having teachers get a class 5 endorsement. Only one class 5 endorsement is allowed per individual in their lifetime.
- ▶ MCASE Recruitment Project
- ▶ MCASE is working in conjunction with School Administrators of Montana (SAM) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to recruit highly-qualified personnel to Montana.

Early Childhood Education

- ▶ Resources at OPI site under Early Childhood
- ▶ Part C to Part B Transition meetings
 - ▶ It is your responsibility to attend and address your district's preschool services.
 - ▶ ECI will set up the meetings and invite you; you are responsible to provide Procedural Safeguards at Transition meetings.
 - ▶ ECI invites me to attend as well to ensure the cooperative meets our responsibilities to a timely evaluation on behalf of your district.
- ▶ Co-op will provide evaluations and related services; early inclusion of therapists is recommended

YWCCSSC Office

- ▶ We are here to assist Monday through Friday
- ▶ Phone - 839-2339
- ▶ Address - 714 East 5th Street, Laurel, MT 59044
- ▶ Email Brandyn at brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us
- ▶ Email Beth at beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us