

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is a plain white background where the text is placed.

# Fall YWCCSSC Advisory Meeting

September 10, 2024

# 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**  
7/1/2024 - 6/30/2027
- **Vice-chair Cathi Rude, Blue Creek**  
7/1/2024 - 6/30/2027
- **Alex Ator, Roberts**  
7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026
- **Luke Shelton, Elysian**  
5/10/2022 - 6/30/2025
- **Sheila Chouinard, Independent**  
5/10/2022 - 6/30/2025
- **Jennifer Hickok, Fromberg**  
9/20/2023 - 6/30/2026
- **Jim Goltz, Elder Grove**  
5/14/2024 - 6/30/2026

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

- Ken Adams
- Alex Ator
- Clark Begger
- Sheila Chouinard
- John Fitzgerald
- Nick Gallagher
- Jim Goltz
- Jennifer Hickok
- Kelly Hornby
- Jason Olson
- Doug Pfau
- Cathi Rude
- Tia Schacht
- Luke Shelton
- Eric Terrill
- Dwight Von Schriltz

# 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 for Teachers

# 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, 2027
  - ▶ 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 (July 2024 - June 2027)
- ▶ Copy available for review on our website, [www.ywccssc.k12.mt.us](http://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 unusual in 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](#) 2024, 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 2024-2025 School Year Office (406)633-4039 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)633-4039    Fax # (406)633-4286	696-5729	<a href="mailto:beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Heimbigner, Roger & Denise	Business Manager		530-9040	<a href="mailto:itbrsolutions.heimbigner@gmail.com">itbrsolutions.heimbigner@gmail.com</a>
Romo, Brandyn	Director		478-4364	<a href="mailto:brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Speech Staff				
Collinson, Konnie	Level II Sp-Lang. Aide	Broadview; Independent; Yellowstone Academy	670-3605	<a href="mailto:konnie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">konnie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Goettlich, Bridgett	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Joliet; Roberts; Luther (supervise Brigid Hagerty and Konnie Collinson)	530-4035	<a href="mailto:bridgett@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">bridgett@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Hagerty, Brigid	Level II Sp-Lang. Aide	Bridger; Fromberg; Belfry; Morin; Pryor	860-4317	<a href="mailto:brigid@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">brigid@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Hickey, Kelly	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Elder Grove	672-5592	<a href="mailto:kellyh@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">kellyh@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Lund, Jamie	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	Blue Creek; Canyon Creek; Red Lodge	505-629-6450	<a href="mailto:jamie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">jamie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Sam, Katie	Sp-Lang. Pathologist	CBEE Preschool at Canyon Creek; Elysian	208-4781	<a href="mailto:katie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">katie@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
School Psychologist Staff				
Contway, Isha	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Blue Creek; Broadview; Elysian; Independent; Morin	366-6472	<a href="mailto:isha@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">isha@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
McNeish, Sonya	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Belfry; Fromberg; Joliet; Luther; Red Lodge; Roberts; Preschool at Canyon Creek	263-9189	<a href="mailto:sonya@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">sonya@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Willis, Steve	School Psychologist	Primary Psych: Bridger; Canyon Creek; Elder Grove; YBGR; Pryor	812-0025	<a href="mailto:steve@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">steve@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Support Staff				
Gizicki, Andrea	Occupational Therapist	Blue Creek; Broadview; Canyon Creek; Elysian; Independent; Preschool at Canyon Creek; Morin; Pryor	208-2815	<a href="mailto:andrea@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">andrea@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Herrick, Shanna	Occupational Therapist	Belfry; Bridger; Elder Grove; Fromberg; Joliet Luther; Red Lodge; Roberts; YBGR	208-2785	<a href="mailto:shanna@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">shanna@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>
Spring, Lauren	Physical Therapist	All Co-op Schools	208-9449	<a href="mailto:lauren@ywccssc.k12.mt.us">lauren@ywccssc.k12.mt.us</a>

# YWCCSSC Regular Staff Assignments

## YWCCSSC ASSIGNMENTS 2024-2025:

### SPEECH , PRIMARY PSYCHOLOGISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

SCHOOL	Psychologist	Speech	OT
Belfry	Sonya McNeish	Brigid Hagerty	Shanna Herrick
Blue Creek	Isha Contway	Jamie Lund	Andrea Gizicki
Bridger	Steve Willis	Brigid Hagerty	Shanna Herrick
Broadview	Isha Contway	Konnie Collinson	Andrea Gizicki
Canyon Creek	Steve Willis	Jamie Lund	Andrea Gizicki
CBEE Preschool	Sonya McNeish	Katie Sam	Andrea Gizicki
Elder Grove	Steve Willis	Kelly Hickey	Shanna Herrick
Elysian	Isha Contway	Katie Sam	Andrea Gizicki
Fromberg	Sonya McNeish	Brigid Hagerty	Shanna Herrick
Independent	Isha Contway	Konnie Collinson	Andrea Gizicki
Joliet	Sonya McNeish	Bridgett Goettlich	Shanna Herrick
Luther	Sonya McNeish	Bridgett Goettlich	Shanna Herrick
Morin	Isha Contway	Brigid Hagerty	Andrea Gizicki
Pryor	Steve Willis	Brigid Hagerty	Andrea Gizicki
Red Lodge	Sonya McNeish	Jamie Lund	Shanna Herrick
Roberts	Sonya McNeish	Bridgett Goettlich	Shanna Herrick
YBGR	Steve Willis	Konnie Collinson	Shanna Herrick

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 7, 2024).

# 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 2023 indicated 3,502 total students
- ▶ Fall 2023 child count indicates 499 PK-12 students in current co-op schools were identified with disabilities
- ▶ Areas where our students qualify:
  - ▶ 13.0% students qualified in speech
  - ▶ 37.5% 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 9<sup>th</sup> birthday)
  - ▶ 3.0% students, emotional disturbance
  - ▶ 19.0% 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 2024-25 school year.
  - ▶ An annual stipend 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 - 406-633-4039
- ▶ Address - 714 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Laurel, MT 59044
- ▶ Email Brandyn at [brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us](mailto:brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us)
- ▶ Email Beth at [beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us](mailto:beth@ywccssc.k12.mt.us)