

## **Region III CSPD Transition Committee Meeting 5.12.17**

### **Attendance**

Janell Burton, Human Resource Development Council 7 (HRDC7); Susan Davis, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB); Anna Gibbs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services (VRBS); Chelsie Guilford, Support and Techniques for Empowering People (STEP); Libby Johnson, Red Lodge High School (RLHS); John Keener, Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE); Mark Kluksdahl, Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP); Brent Morris, Living Independently For Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT); Monica Pugh, Stillwater Sweet Grass Educational Cooperative (SSEC); Courtney Stamm, Center for Children and Families (CFCF); Charla Wetsch, Laurel Public Schools, (LPS)

### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Pre-ETS: Anna Gibbs**

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services closed all categories on March 15, 2017. All new clients are placed on a waiting list for services. Beginning July 1, 2017, Pre-ETS individualized services can be purchased for individual clients.

Pre-ETS are five defined services provided to students in an educational setting. The Billings Regional VR office is contracting with schools in nine counties. There are 36 schools in this area and 28 have contracts. The second year of contracting ends on September 30, 2017.

At the state level, they are changing the timeframe of school contracts and have stopped engaging new schools for contracts until further notice. They hope to engage new schools in the next fiscal year. There are possible changes in what contracts/work plans will look like in the future especially with reporting more details.

### **Center for Children and Families Pre-ETS/Secondary Transition Activities: Courtney Stamm**

Courtney reported they are serving seven Vocational Rehabilitation clients. However, everything is at a standstill due to Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services' current situation.

### **E-mentoring Program: John Keener**

In conjunction with Red Lodge High School, Shepherd High School, Reed Point High School, and Hardin High School, the MCIE is providing a mentoring relationship for students with disabilities considering transitioning into higher education with current college students with disabilities. In the first year of the program, the primary communication between the mentor and the mentee was online through Weebly with occasional face-to-face meetings incorporated into the program. This provided high school students with disabilities an opportunity to meet a successful student with a disability in the college setting. This year there was a new format that no longer focused on one-to-one

mentoring. Instead, it focused on group mentoring. Using WebEx as the technological tool for online group meetings on a bi-weekly basis more students were able to participate in the program.

### **Movin' On in Montana: John Keener**

MCIE at Montana State University Billings (MSUB) will offer twenty Montana high school students with disabilities who are sophomores, juniors, or seniors an on-campus experience which prepares them to transition from high school to college. At this time, there are still a few openings.

In June, program participants will attend a four-day event on the campus of MSUB. The high school students with disabilities will reside in university housing and dine at the Rimrock Café. The program coordinator and college students will explain the skills and strategies students should develop while they are in high school to ensure success when they reach college. The high school students with disabilities will take campus tours of the MSUB main campus, the City College, and Rocky Mountain College. College tours provide a first-hand experience and help determine the fit of the school. Appropriate social activities will also be included in the on-campus experience.

In the fall of 2017, the program coordinator will facilitate an on-line module addressing the paperwork students need to submit to Disability Services to prove they have a disability. Students will learn to take an active role in gathering documentation in order to maintain essential paper work in their transition portfolio.

### **Region III My Transitions Program: Brent Morris**

The 2017 MYTransitions Conference is on Nov. 13-15 at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center in Billings. Jan Clelend is the new director at LIFTT. Her email address is [JenC@liftt.org](mailto:JenC@liftt.org).

### **Human Resource Development Council 7: Janell Burton**

Janell shared information about their summer youth employment program. (See attached flyer.)

### **Member Sharing and Meeting Wrap Up**

The next meeting will be October 27, 2017.