

**Head Start Association Meeting
November 6 & 7, 2014 – Bozeman, MT**

Present: Bonnie Cheyney, Viola Wood, Tina Walls, Bev Matsko, Patty Dahl, Debbie Richert, Cindy Sinclair, Becky Krazelak, Sharon Skyberg, Ken Miller, Ron Conrad, Barb Brophy, Gail Mickey, Lyn Ohls, Loren Skelton, Mary Jane Standaert - staff.

Guests: Melinda (Edwards)Corso - representing Aware, Inc. in Butte. Kathy McGowan – MAC lobbyist, Kathy Rich – representing Head Start Collaboration Office.

Association Update and Conference Reflection: Mary Jane distributed a typed review of her work which has mostly been focused on the conference and MAC over the last few months. All National Centers provided worthwhile sessions. All other sessions were evaluated as very good, except for one. The overall conference had very good reviews. We should make some money but the final figures are not complete yet. It was very difficult to work with the college and she does not recommend doing it again. MAC is struggling to get focused but is meeting by phone once a month. There is some confusion about the Governor's preK proposal and other child care issues like sliding fee scale and market rate. See attached report for other details.

Program Updates:

Action for Eastern MT – Ron Conrad – they serve 4 different areas of eastern MT, had a review on April 1, found a property appraisal issue which was fixed, also an issue with Aware in-kind, but all worked out. Grant is due end of Nov. Not in 5 year process yet. Has 15 safety bus seats that screw into the floor to sell to anyone who wants them.

****How come some programs are under old system and others are in 5 yr system?**

Discussion followed about differences in expectations – some have to use gabi and others have to use something else with no name. Some in 5 yr system, some not.

Butte HS– 206 children in Butte, none in Dillon, UMW has placed students in Butte as lab site, new CEO and COO, suffering vandalism, staff turnover, hard to find new staff.

Anaconda – submitted DRS grant for 5 months, Board is supportive, hired grant writer, low staff turnover, working with OPI on Preschool Development grant, high waiting list. 38% of 0-5 yr olds of Deer Lodge county are low income. Levy passed.

Lewistown – lots of turnover, lack of Head Start buy in, lack of buy in to helping and covering each other. MH – contract with Aware – have nothing going on. But have free intern for a year. Self Assessment coming up, Preschool development grant – 2 day turn around, lack of parameters, unclear as to what is expected but wrote in lots of money for higher wages, etc. very long wait list, sensing a lack of stigma attached to HS.

Missoula –Child Start - DRS grant will be submitted soon. Thinks someone is competing, off site classrooms need to be located. In first year of STARS, working on union contract. 50-60 kids on waiting list, building is for sale.

Libby HS – bought a new bus, no full day, added an hour to half days. Dropped home based.

Fort Peck – Safety/Health review coming up, lots of staff turnover, Tribal leaders are focusing on education, have smart boards installed, helping with transportation and helping with repairs.

Billings EHS – staff turnover but finding good replacements, summer was difficult, another review coming up, new board chair – concerned about keeping their commitment. Earned a STARS 5 – 1st one in State.

Helena – staff turnover, low waiting list, has been a very stressful.

Great Falls – submitted child care partnership grant, 14 CC signed on as partners, enrolled in STARS (EHS), added 28 slots after sequestration, 12 MIECHV slots, grant due on Dec. 1.

Havre – getting a new classroom in a low income housing area, have had many children leave for moving out of town. Short waiting list for HS. Short staffed. EHS is fully enrolled.

Bozeman – low staff, lots of turnover, short waiting list, hard for low income people to live in Bozeman area, wanted to change some slots to EHS and never heard from RO officially but was told in person (no). Is going to apply again for conversion.

Ken shared what he has learned about the Safety/Health Review since he has one coming up soon.

Back ground checks in last year hires, CACFP compliance, basic safety and health compliance, visit classrooms, follow up with him after next week to see how it went.

Aware Inc. Melinda Corso joined us, announced that they hired Kim Kingston as new director but a new grandchild was born last night so she could not attend – they have had staff issues, new ed, new health, remodeled center, closed Dillon slots.

Discussion on Pre K Proposal: (John Filz was able to join us by phone for this discussion). The executive committee and MAC reps have had some discussion about the Governor's PreK proposal. No one is against it, we want to be supportive but there are issues and many who do not think it will be approved by the Legislature. We support what the governor is trying to do but have serious doubts about the current infrastructure to deliver a quality service. Legislators and others outside of the Head Start and early childhood need a description of what the infrastructure should look like and what services should be delivered for a certain amount of money. We have to keep focused on quality and what will support young children and their families. The Governor's proposal will not be a Legislative bill, it is just a line item in Governor's budget. Our discussions keep coming back to what can we do to make this endeavor productive. What would help us serve more children and serve children better? We wanted to have a discussion with all members of the Association to get a full picture of perspectives. The consensus ended with: MT should do part of what is proposed and do it

well. We should not encourage a 2 tiered system of service. The Governor's proposal does not include enough money. Do what is best for the most children. Assuming 4200 children in Head Start in Montana we would need approximately \$2800-\$3000 to bring our staff up to parity. So then the question becomes: How can we be in the right position at the right time without appearing to be in conflict with the Governor? If the Governor's proposal appears to not be accepted, then MAC can step forward to offer a proposal that would save face for the legislators for not accepting the governor's proposal. We could encourage them to start with pilots, address child care eligibility issues and serve at risk children first, with incentives for partnerships. We can encourage them to support the ongoing development and funding of the STARS system which will continue to elevate child care quality. We can encourage a change for compulsory age of school from age 7 to age 5. Currently there is a large gap.

Each of us needs to talk with local legislators so they hear these things from constituents and go to the session with facts and reality in hand. If you have relationships with any current legislators, let MJ know so she can pass that information onto our lobbyist. Please contact them, invite them to your program before the Holidays get underway.

Taking Action: Bev is going to a legislative luncheon in GF and will speak up on behalf of Head Start.

Kathy shared that forums are scheduled around the state focused on Access to Health Care – Kathy will send schedule to all of us. We should attend because your program supports access to all forms of health care and it is a good way to meet legislators as most attend.

Kathy will write down her thoughts about our discussion and her recommendations and will send to MJ to distribute to all.

Ken remained concerned because he supports the Governor's proposal as it is, even though funding is insufficient. It is important to have all kids have the opportunity. We should talk to Governor and tell him that funding is not what it should be, and let him know that we have some suggestions. He does not want us to be seen as subverting the Governor's proposal. Need to talk to Gov now.

ACTION: Should I make an appointment with the Governor for very soon?? We did not decide. This will be presented to MAC on Monday evening, Nov. 10. If I have misrepresented anything or neglected to capture – please let me know so I can include before sending out a final version of these notes.

We did not have committee meetings.

Friday – Nov. 7, 2014

Discussion on planning for Head Start Day at the Capitol – January 30, 2015

- Program displays – everyone bring a banner or tri-fold to be put on display.
- Invitation to each program – written invitation to each program will be sent by Mary Jane.
- Get the Word out to legislators – join us for Head Start Day. MJ can send out but each program should personally invite those from your area.

- Put Ad in Helena IR for invitation to Helena Community and government workers.
- Advocacy training – Patty will host in Helena by early December and do not want attached to Head Start Day. Want parents to have time to process and share with local policy councils. MJ will work with Patty to schedule a half day.
- On the day we could deliver a postcard with MT facts and a Head Start Works button and treats. Collaboration office offered to do and fund.
- Have finger food, cake – little flags with names of program, shaped like MT, red/white/blue – make sure to get EHS on there.

Professional Development – we all had a discussion about clusters and professional development for staff and the Association. MJ shared that clusters seem to be going well but we cannot assume that Managers are getting what they need and want. We need a better system of gathering data from them so that clusters can be planned more effectively to meet learning and networking needs. Programs collect information periodically so why not use what they collect. Carra offered to send a template so that directors can respond with pertinent information on topics. We can also survey staff ahead of time but responses have been sketchy, so maybe this new method will be more productive – we can try for this year and re-evaluate at this time next year.

March 12 & 13, 2015 – Ed/Disab. Mgrs in Great Falls

April 9 & 10 – Assoc. meeting & Family Advocates in Butte. Leia Pate–Terry is contact person. (Have Jamie Sheldahl connect with Leia).

CLASS Training – in April, include Tribal, can be flexible and add sessions if necessary.

Health Cluster – Nov. 2015

Region 8 & Montana TTA report – Lisa Murphy

Region 8 Leadership Conference in Denver– Feb. 24- Feb. 28 – Lisa announced that this is currently being planned and asked for specific topics that would meet learning needs of directors– status of grant cycles, minimize mixed messages, responsibilities/resources of the RO, Q&A, site visit protocols, review process protocols and differences, super circular, fiscal in general, new managers training, new performance standards, PIR information, how to navigate Enterprise

Preschool curriculum consumer report on ECKLC – she shared this report and brought it to our attention.

A handout of dates from the Region 8 TTA was distributed and a comparison chart of CLASS scores for Montana/Region 8/national from Chris Sciarrino were distributed.

Lisa’s full report is also attached.

Collaboration Update: Kathy Rich was promoted to Early Childhood Systems Manager and will be supervising the new collaboration director when that person is hired. She will be involved with hiring new collaboration director and Patty Dahl will be included on interview committee.

Kathy has been involved in the whole preK planning, standards and teacher certification development, helped to write the preschool development grant to support comprehensive services similar to Head Start. Learn about awards on Dec. 10. \$10 million a year – some Head Start programs are included in each of the 3 cohorts. Beginning with the Striving Readers programs.

Kathy Rich has Governor's Office contact – every 2 weeks with Siri, Patty Butler.

Title 1 conference – in Helena, at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, April 22-23, 2015. The registration link is now up and running, https://tofu.msu.montana.edu/cs/2015_opi_title_i_conf/registration, our presentation is at 10 am on the 23rd.

Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC) – would like Head Start programs to invite some parents to be members. Kathy will contact programs.

Launch Grant approved – early Oct. collaborative – child care, health, mental health in DPHHS, Gallatin/Park counties, using ASQ, local agencies working together, \$800,000 a year for 4 years,

Review of Collaboration Needs Assessment, distributed copies to everyone – this next year it will be more detailed and will conduct in person focus groups as it is the 5th year of the 5 year grant. The current Needs Assessment can be accessed at:

Collab office should be at a higher level in state government, she supports that and advocates for that.

Region 8 TTA and Region 8 Office updates: Chris Sciarrino – CLASS score comparison distributed and is attached.

Darcy – connection between quality coaching and teacher performance and child outcomes. Announced the Leadership Conference in Denver in February (see Lisa's report attached).

Brian Johnson – Grants Management – fiscal specialist – appeal board decisions – there will be an all day fiscal session at the Leadership Conference.

Michelle Outlaw Stewart – RO Staffing – 4 vacant positions. White House Summit – Dec. – expand access to high quality EC. Continuing Resolution – 50% funding. New Program Information (PI) on electronic communications – DRS cohort 4 will be announced in late Dec. or early Jan. New aligned monitoring system, Head Start is 50 years old and Early Head Start is 20 years old. Thanked everyone for their continued commitment and wonderful service to children and families.

Next Meeting – Jan. 29 & 30, 2015 in Helena. Jan. 30 is Head Start Day in the late morning. Have positions descriptions for officers updated and distributed so we can vote on new executive leaders for the Association, address the Preschool Development grant if it is awarded, invite lobbyist. Could

meet at St. Paul's, 1st interstate, Family Matters – Mary Jane will check on places and let everyone know.