

# **Annual Report**

**Montana State Special Education Advisory Panel**

**July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**



**[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)**

**Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction  
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## Overview

In accord with Section 612(21), of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Montana has established the Special Education Advisory Panel. The responsibilities of this state advisory panel are to:

- Advise the Office of Public Instruction of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; and
- Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Montana's Special Education Advisory Panel serves as the steering/advisory committee for the State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of IDEA, annual self-assessment activities and development of improvement strategies for improving outcomes of students with disabilities. In this capacity, the advisory panel, on a continuing basis, reviews statewide outcome data on key indicators for students with disabilities, advises the Office of Public Instruction on improvement strategies for improved outcomes and reviews progress on the key indicators on no less than an annual basis.

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes  
Jorgenson's Inn and Suites  
September 17-18, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Barbara Varnum, Estee Aiken, Stephen Morsette, Dan Laughlin, Robin Farrell, Josh Wigen, Wendy Studt (on Friday), Heather Denny, Tristan Scott

Excused Members: Courtney Bell, Christine Whitlatch, Kellie Ann Hicks, John Wetsit, Theresa Becker, Wendy Studt (on Thursday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, John Copenhaver, Dale Kimmet, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Anne Rainey, Marlene Wallis

**Thursday, September 17, 2015**

Vice-Chairperson Dan Laughlin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

The Proposed Agenda was accepted. There was no formal approval.

The minutes of the June 25, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Barbara Varnum moved to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2015, meeting and Robin Farrell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Dick Trerise explained the procedure that is taken for the Panel meetings. Dick informed the Panel that the meetings are somewhat informal. The Robert's Rules of Order are followed for meetings.

**Advisory Panel Orientation**

John Copenhaver, Director, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University, conducted the Advisory Panel Member Orientation.

He informed the Panel that the orientation provides training and information regarding their purpose and functions as an effective panel. John suggested that the Panel members: Read the Bylaws; Attend the Meetings; Represent their Stakeholder Group; Participate in Panel Items; and Work as a Team.

John went over the agenda with the Panel members that included: The Panel in the Context of the History of Special Education; Purpose for the Advisory Panel under IDEA; Required membership of the Panel; Relationship between Part B of IDEA and Part C of IDEA; Work as an Advisory Panel, not an Advocacy Group; the Major Functions of the Panel under IDEA; Panel Meeting Procedures—Open Meeting Requirements; Panel's role in regards to OSEP Verification, SPP/APR, SSIP and Results Driven Accountability.

The Panel was informed of National Hot Topics in Special Education. Included are: Reauthorizations; State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); Mental Health; Results Driven Accountability (RDA); Postsecondary Education; and Early Childhood.

John distributed the handout "Know Your Acronyms." He also distributed "A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff." John noted that it is important for Panel members to know the acronyms associated with Special Education.

Following the Orientation, the Panel adjourned for the day.

## **Friday, September 18, 2015**

### **Professional Development**

Susan Bailey-Anderson told the Panel that MBI—Montana Behavioral Initiative—is 20 years old in 2015.

Susan distributed two abstracts of new programs: The OPI's NITT-Project AWARE-SEA project will address the mental health needs of children, youth, families/caregivers and communities. The project will serve the entire state of Montana with Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training.

The School Climate Transformation Grant seeks to expand and enhance its award-winning MBI by strengthening our state-level capacity to better serve LEAs throughout the state. The objectives include: Improving the skills of OPI personnel to assist LEA implementation of MBI; strengthen OPI capacity to support and sustain implementation of MBI in Indian Country; develop a cadre of trained and experienced staff to provide MBI training and ongoing coaching to LEAs; improve the quality, accessibility and usefulness of statewide data collection and analysis. Other objectives are included in the Abstract that is a part of these minutes.

The ASPIRE grant provides a case study of 14-16 SSI students with disabilities to transition into Higher Education. Debi Cockrell-Gilsoul has been hired as a Case Manager; another Case Manager will be hired.

### **Call for Public Comments**

Vice-Chairperson Dan Laughlin asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

### **Additional Items**

Draft APR  
Erin Butts—Mental Health

### **Meeting Dates**

—Joint Meeting with CSPD

### **Adjourn**

Triston Scott moved to adjourn the meeting, Theresa Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at Noon.

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes  
Comfort Suites  
January 14-15, 2016**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Barbara Varnum (Thursday), Estee Aiken, Stephen Morsette, Dan Laughlin, Robin Farrell, Josh Wigen, Wendy Studt, Heather Denny, Tristan Scott, Courtney Bell, Christine Whitlatch, Theresa Becker (Thursday)

Excused Members: Kellie Ann Hicks, John Wetsit, Theresa Becker (Friday), Barbara Varnum (Friday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Steve York, Doug Doty, Dale Kimmet, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Anne Rainey, Marlene Wallis,

**Thursday, January 14, 2016**

Chairperson Dan Laughlin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

The Agenda was reviewed. Wendy Studt moved to accept the Agenda, Tristin Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Agenda was approved as written.

The minutes of the September 17-18, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Tristen Scott moved to accept the minutes of the September 17-18, 2015, meeting and Courtney Bell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

The election of officers for the 2015-2016 Advisory Panel was moved to the January 14-15, 2016, meeting.

Dan Laughlin, Co-Chair, moves into the position of Chair following his reappointment to the Panel.

Co-Chair:

Theresa Erickson nominated Courtney Bell for the position of Co-Chair for 2015-2016, Christine Whitlatch seconded the nomination and the nomination passed. Courtney Bell was elected as the Co-Chair for 2015-2016.

Secretary:

Dan Laughlin nominated Barbara Varnum for the position of Secretary for 2015-2016, Courtney Bell seconded the nomination and the nomination passed. Barbara Varnum was elected as the Secretary for 2015-2016.

**Division Up-Date**

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel that the Division of Special Education is fully staffed at this time. He told the Panel that the Division has hired 10 Behavioral Consultants that were trained in October and they began going into the field in November and December.

Frank said that the “Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment and Repeal” held on November 6, 2015, pertaining to Special Education received much feedback, especially in the Parental Consent proposals.

The Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment and Repeal is located on the OPI Web site.

### **OPI Report**

Steve York informed the Panel that Dr. Mickey Corso of the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations will be the keynote speaker at the CEC Conference in February.

Steve discussed the Montana Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Act, HB 374, with the Panel. The Act directs the Montana Office of Public Instruction to provide training and technical assistance to schools in Montana about youth suicide awareness and prevention training.

The OPI staff available for assistance are:

Erin Butts, School Mental Health Coordinator, 406-444-0688

Tracy Moseman, Coordinated School Health Unit Director, 406-444-3000

Jordan Brown, Project AWARE Initiative, 4-6-444-0773

Steve discussed the Teaching Learning Hub that is “Online Learning for Montana Teachers.” He said it is a far more efficient way for rural teachers to receive training. Susan Bailey-Anderson will discuss the Teaching Learning Hub during her presentation.

Steve informed the Panel that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaces the No Child Left Behind. A plan is being developed and should be finished by the middle of July.

### **Annual Performance Report**

The submission process for the Annual Performance Report (APR) has changed. In the past all data for each indicator was submitted in narrative form; now data is “fill in the blanks.” The amount of material submitted has been reduced.

Dick and Frank discussed the indicators with the Panel members.

The U.S. Department of Education had determined that Montana needs assistance in implementing the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. The determination is based on the data reflected in the state’s 2015 Results Driven Accountability Matrix, which is included with the minutes.

### **Montana Autism Education Project Up-Date**

Doug Doty, Statewide Coordinator, Montana Autism Education Project (MAEP), provided the Panel with an up-date of the Montana Autism Education Project. Doug noted that as of October 2014, there were 1,199 Montana public school students with autism and 153 school districts had at least one student with autism. The MAEP provides regional and district-level trainings on request or as needed.

Doug said that 200 online training accounts per year are purchased from a company that offers video training in educating students with autism spectrum disorders. This school year there are already 153 educators enrolled in the training.

Autism consultants are available and can consult on individual students, provide consultation to individual teachers and consult at the classroom level. There is no cost for the consultations. To request a consultation, send an e-mail to [ddoty@mt.gov](mailto:ddoty@mt.gov) with a brief description of the reason for the consultation and the student's school, initials, gender and age.

A newsletter is sent out monthly. The newsletter contains upcoming training in Montana and nearby states, availability of the online training, upcoming or recently archived Webinars, Blog Posts of interest, reminder of consultation and training services available and a link to a bibliography of autism books available through interlibrary loan.

### **CSPD/Professional Development**

Susan Bailey-Anderson presented an up-date on the programs of the Professional Development Unit.

#### **CSPD—Teacher Learning Hub**

What is the Teacher Learning Hub? It is an online interactive learning management system that provides free, high-quality professional learning; minimizes the time teachers spend away from their classroom attending off-site professional learning; saves school districts money by supporting online professional learning opportunities, as well as other opportunities.

The [www.mtplportal.org](http://www.mtplportal.org) provides access to professional learning information from across the state in one easy location.

The Montana Youth Leadership forum is scheduled for July 18-22, 2016, at Carroll College.

Orientation to Special Education—Online Facilitated Course—This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to special education and the needs of students who have disabilities.

The Paraprofessional Consortium has put together a ListServe as a way to reach out to Paraprofessionals and those who work with Paras. To subscribe go to: <http://opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/> and click on the box for PARAPROFESSIONAL.

The MBI Summer Institute is scheduled for June 20-24, 2016, in Bozeman. Registration opens March 31, 2016. To register use: <http://www.montana.edu/cs/conferences/mbi/>.

### **Friday, January 15, 2016**

#### **Call for Public Comments**

Chairperson Dan Laughlin asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

#### **Annual Performance Report (Continued)**

The discussion of the Annual Performance Report continued. Indicator 8—Parent Involvement was discussed. The Target for Indicator 8 was met. Surveys are distributed to the parents of districts that will be monitored. The surveys are returned to Utah University for compiling results.

Frank also informed the Panel of how the Set-Aside funds are distributed.

Chairperson Dan Laughlin, on behalf of the Panel, will write a letter to support the Annual Performance Report for FFY 2014.

### **OPI Data Overview**

Anne Rainey, IDEA Part B Data Manager, provided a presentation on the following: Overview and demonstration of the Achievement in Montana (AIM) system; Explanation of Child Count, Exiting and School Discipline reporting requirements; Demonstration of Child Count reporting system; and a Demonstration of Special Education Data in the Montana Growth and Enhancement of Montana Students (GEMS).

### **Meeting Dates**

May 4-5, 2016—Joint Meeting with CSPD

June 9, 2016—One-day meeting, including election of officers

### **Adjourn**

Robin Farrell moved to adjourn the meeting, Josh Wigen seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at Noon.

## **Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes Gateway Center/Comfort Suites May 4-5, 2016**

### **May 4, 2016—Gateway Center**

The Panel members attended the Annual Joint CSPD Stakeholder Meeting, held at the Gateway Center. Stakeholders across Montana met to network, collaborate, discuss and provide feedback to the Montana Office of Public Instruction regarding Phases 2 and 3 of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

John Copenhaver, from the Center for Technical Assistance Excellence in Special Education, facilitated the meeting.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Recognition of Stakeholder Groups
- Welcome New Stakeholders
- Regional and National Issues that Are or Could Impact Special Education in Montana

Presentations Included:

Jim Marks—Understanding the Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

BJ Granbery—Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Possible Impact on IDEA

Wendy Studt—The Montana Part C State Systemic Improvement Plan Phases 2 and 3



Norm Ames—The Big SSIP Picture: OSEP Expectations and National Trends

Dick Trerise—The Montana SSIP: A Review of Phases 2-3

Dick Trerise and Norm Ames—Moving on the Implementation Phase 3: Gathering Data and Reporting Results—Role for Indian Education for All; Montana Stakeholder Involvement

The stakeholders provided input regarding Phase 3 of the SSIP: Targeted Area-School Completion for Indian students with disabilities.

Small-Group discussions included:

- Suggestions regarding Phase 3 implementation.
- What should be the involvement of Montana stakeholders during Phase 3?
- How can CSPD support local implementation?

Prior to adjournment of the meeting the stakeholders discussed their final thoughts, reflections, comments and next steps.

### **Thursday, May 5, 2016—Comfort Suites**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Courtney Lynn Bell, Barbara Varnum, Christine Whitlatch, Stephen Morsette, Dan Laughlin, Theresa Becker, Robin Farrell, Josh Wigen and Heather Denny

Excused Members: Kellie Ann Hicks, Estee Aiken, John Wetsit, Wendy Studt and Tristan Scott

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Norm Ames, Anne Rainey, Danni McCarthy, Dale Kimmet and Marlene Wallis

Chairman, Dan Laughlin, called the meeting of the Panel to order at 8:45 a.m. The Panel members and guests introduced themselves.

The Panel members reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Christine Whitlatch moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Josh Wigen seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the January 14-15, 2016, meeting. Barbara Varnum moved to accept the minutes, Robin Farrell seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes were accepted as written.

### **Announcements**

Dick Trerise informed the Panel that monitoring is being scheduled for next year. Data collection is also beginning for next year.

Because it is a huge political year and a new State Superintendent will be elected, there will be many job changes within the Office of Public Instruction.

## **Call for Public Comments**

Chairman Dan Laughlin called for public comments. There were no requests for public comments.

## **Division Report**

Dick Trerise gave the division report. He noted that the monitoring cycle for this year just finished and the unit is preparing for next year.

The MBI Summer Institute is being held June 20-24, 2016, in Bozeman. Featured Presenters include Kevin Honeycutt: Creating Meaningful Learning; Jim Grant: Intervention Strategies for Struggling Students; Susan Isaacs: Creating Schoolwide Discipline Plans; and many others.

New Teacher Training is being scheduled.

## **Revisit the Annual Joint CSPD Stakeholder Meeting**

Dick Trerise said he was pleased that Kirk Miller from the School Administrators of Montana, Jack O'Connor from Title I and Mandy Broaddus from Indian Education were in attendance.

A comment was made that they enjoyed getting together with the different stakeholders. Also, they would like to see more group discussions and perhaps there could be time given to move to other tables for discussions.

## **Differentiated Monitoring (OSEP letter)/Results-Based Monitoring in Montana**

Dick Trerise informed the Panel that OSEP's Results Driven Accountability system for differentiated monitoring and support is designed to provide differentiated levels and types of monitoring and support based on each state's unique strengths, progress, challenges and needs.

Dick noted that Montana's determination will probably be Needs Assistance. Montana will be advised of available sources of technical assistance and encouraged to utilize technical assistance centers. Montana utilizes the technical assistance from Utah State University, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE).

## **Additional Items**

The June 9, 2016, meeting will be a one-day meeting. Outgoing members will be recognized and election of officers for 2016-2017 will be conducted.

The September 22-23, 2016, meeting will include orientation for new and current members.

## **Adjourn**

Josh Wigen moved to adjourn the meeting, Heather Denny seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes  
Comfort Inn and Suites  
June 9, 2016**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Stephen Morsette, Dan Laughlin, Robin Farrell, Josh Wigen, Kellie Ann Hicks

Excused Members: Courtney Bell, Barbara Varnum, Estee Aiken, Christine Whitlatch, John Wetsit, Theresa Becker, Wendy Studt, Heather Denny, Tristan Scott

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Dale Kimmet, Iris Ziegler, Mandi Gibbs, Anne Rainey

**Thursday, June 9, 2016**

Chairperson Dan Laughlin called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Dick Trerise explained that there was not a quorum of panel members at the meeting, so no voting could happen. Election of new officers will be done at the September 22, 2016 meeting.

**Division Report**

Frank Podobnik gave the Division Report. He noted that the division continues to be fully staffed, which is a good thing. He discussed the Legislative Commission on School Funding. This commission is taking a special interest in Special Education Funding, specifically, how our Cooperatives are funded. Currently, there are 408 school districts in Montana, and 80% of them are in coops. The commission is proposing a \$2 million increase for coop administrative and travel costs, as the coops have no tax base, and are struggling financially. The commission is also asking for Special Education Allowable Costs to be added to the Governor's Budget to be eligible for the inflationary increase. Currently, that is the only education component that is not in the Governor's Budget. The commission is planning to bring three bills before the Legislature: the inflationary increase, the coop increase, and funding for 19-21 year olds. If the commission decides not to bring these bills, the OPI is prepared to do so themselves. A question was asked if there has been any discussion about being able to bill Medicaid for on-line OT services. Frank directed them to ask Rena Steyaert, the state Medicaid person.

Frank noted briefly that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has a new process they are using to determine the performance of states. He mentioned that we are looking at changing our current compliance monitoring process to incorporate some of these changes. We are currently at approximately 98% compliance on paperwork, but we need to start looking at whether or not kids are actually receiving services. Dick Trerise will be giving more information on that later in the day.

Frank discussed the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) report that was released this week. He specifically noted that the data is not drawn from the OPI, but rather directly from the districts. This can result in numbers varying widely from what the OPI has reported in their EdFacts reporting. The report shows students with disabilities are being disciplined at a much higher rate than students without disabilities. The report also includes information on Seclusion and Restraint. The OPI does not have this information. That is included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) though, so it will be a discussion when the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities (IDEA) begins.

Frank discussed the ESSA, and how the OPI is responding to it. The OPI is currently working to determine what the accountability plan is going to look like. There are a number of special education division staff on the various committees within the office looking at this, and a number of folks with special education ties on the larger public stakeholder group. He noted that the ESSA has a number of references to students with disabilities.

Frank updated the group on the Special Education Guides. We currently have one large guide (the One Guide) that contains information on a myriad of topics – everything from Child Find to development of the IEP. It is considered to be a “living document” and will be updated as new things arise that need to be added. There are other guides that are currently being revised, or are scheduled to be revised. The Assistive Technology guide will be updated by MonTech soon. The Special Health Care Needs guide needs to be updated in conjunction with the Nurses Association – the office is working on getting that set up. The OT/PT guide is in the process of being revised in conjunction with the OT/PT Association. Discussions are happening with the University of Montana to create a School Psychology guide. The Procedural Safeguards guide continues to be worked on, and will hopefully be done soon. The office will also be developing a guide around Dyslexia and how it fits into special education in Montana. This information will also be included in the One Guide when completed.

### **Call for Public Comments**

Chairperson Dan Laughlin asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

### **CSPD/Professional Development Up-date**

Iris Ziegler provided an up-date for CSPD/Professional Development.

The School Climate Transformation Grant (SCT) was one of three state grants awarded in October 2014 under the “Now Is the Time” Initiative to improve school climate and safety. The SCT grant staff is working with three cohorts including the Montana SOARS “learning labs,” the High Tiered Community of Practice, and the American Indian cohort. All three cohorts are working toward implementing and/or sustaining the Montana Behavioral Initiative to increase positive climate, student engagement, instructional time and academic achievement. In addition, the Montana SOARS cohort is working to build relationships between school and community to increase mental health services for youth and families. The High Tiered CoP is working with 24/7 facilities to implement facility-wide MBI and transition planning for student moving between school districts and facilities. The American Indian Cohort is working with Indigenous Consultants and SCT staff to increase student engagement in culturally responsive ways. This cohort is also exploring ways to deliver MBI training and technical assistance in areas where staff time out of school is difficult due to lack of substitute teachers and extensive travel. There is emphasis on identifying alternatives to suspensions and expulsions, and increasing student voice.

### **Compliance Monitoring Yearly Results**

Dale Kimmet gave an update on the Compliance Monitoring Unit. He discussed the current Monitoring Cycle and the Technical Assistance offered in advance of a monitoring, either on-site or by phone or e-mail. He discussed the monitoring process and Record Review Document, and noted that both are available on the OPI Special Education Web site. He distributed a handout that contained this information, as well as a 5-year comparison report for districts that were monitored in the 2010-11 school year, and again in the 2015-16 school year. This will be put on the web site the first week in July. A parent expressed concern about their child’s IEP, and discussion was held about those concerns.

## **Early Assistance/Complaint Yearly Review**

Mandi Gibbs gave an update on the Early Assistance Program and Complaints. She noted that her office takes calls from parents and districts when they have questions, and gets involved when an issue arises. This year, they have had a lot of calls on:

- Bullying
- Anxiety
- Evaluations/reevaluations/independent evaluations
- Behaviors
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Extra-curricular activities/field trips
- Students not receiving ANY services
- Enrollment – districts refusing to enroll and serve
- Placement

Her office also offers IEP Facilitation and Mediation. She did note that once a decision has been made in a Hearing, and the specific student information is redacted, that decision is posted on the OPI web site, and Marlene will send out a link to those.

Mandi discussed the State Complaints and Due Process filings since June 2015. There have been 6 state complaints filed as of June 9<sup>th</sup>. One of those was settled through mediation. Another settled all but one issue through mediation. The issues in those complaints centered around transition, a student not receiving services, and a student's lack of progress. There have been four Due Process filings since June 2015, and three decisions since then as well. Those decisions are for the following Due Process Filings:

- 2014-03 (filed October 2014, decision August 2015)
- 2015-01 (filed March 2015, decision December 2015)
- 2016-01 (filed February 2016, decision April 2016)

## **Differentiated Monitoring Report, Results-Based Monitoring**

Dick Trerise gave a review of the Results Driven Accountability presentation by OSEP in April 2016 (powerpoint was included in the packets). There was a discussion of the new OSEP process, and the potential changes to the OPI's monitoring process. Those potential changes include creating a district profile prior to going in to monitor a district, looking at various factors/data that the office already has available, specifically things that may point to the district not providing the program/services as they should be. This will be an expansion of our current compliance monitoring, we don't anticipate changing that, as it is working well at this time. The office is hoping to pilot the new process this fall, with select districts, and expand to all the monitored districts for the 17-18 school year. The panel was asked if they think we are heading in the right direction, and/or if they have suggestions on what we could/should be doing. Comments back included: it's a good start, definitely don't throw out what you are doing now, because it works; and what about including parents in the process – is there a way to do that? There was also discussion about the assessments being used to make these determinations.

## **Administrative Rule Discussion**

The current Administrative Rules were sent to the panel for review on May 26, 2016. It was commented that the signature lines on the Criteria Checklists are incredibly helpful and much

appreciated. Dick asked the panel to please look over the rules and if something comes to mind that we need to update or add, to let the office know. It was mentioned that we do need to update the criteria checklists, but are waiting to do that until the IDEA is reauthorized, since changes are anticipated at the federal level.

### **Election of Officers, Recognition of Members Leaving**

The Election of Officers was not able to be done – there was not a quorum of Panel members. Instead, Dick discussed who is able to fill each position, and encouraged the members to think about who would be a good fit for each. It was mentioned that Courtney Bell (currently Vice-chair) will become the Chair as long as she stays on the panel for the 17-18 year.

Dan Laughlin was presented a plaque for his contributions to the Panel in the three years he has been a member, and thanked for his service.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Thank you, Anne, for covering for Marlene at the meeting.

## *Special Education Advisory Panel Membership List 2015-2016*

### **PRIVATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE**

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### **REGULAR CLASSROOM TEACHER**

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### **OTHER STATE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE FINANCING OR DELIVERY OF RELATED SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

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### **PARENT OF A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES**

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### **HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PREPARES SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES PERSONNEL**

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### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

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### **STATE/LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR**

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Principal  
Frazer Public Schools  
PO Box 488  
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### **STATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOSTER CARE**

Theresa Becker  
Foster Care Licensing Program Manager  
Grants/Contracts Unit Supervisor  
PO Box 606  
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

**VOCATIONAL, COMMUNITY, OR BUSINESS  
CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF  
TRANSITION SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES**

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**REPRESENTATIVE FROM JUVENILE &  
ADULT CORRECTIONS**

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**PART C/IDEA REPRESENTATIVE**

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**REPRESENTATIVE OF SUBTITLE B OF TITLE  
VII OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS  
ASSISTANCE ACT**

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