

EXHIBIT

DATE

NO.

2

1/22/09

2

Montana Youth Transitions



HOME

RESOURCES

PARENTS

PROFESSIONALS

YOUTH

To improve transition services and increase the number of youth with disabilities who achieve their desired post-school outcomes.

All individuals - with or without disabilities - live, learn, work, play, and participate together in all life experiences.



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MONTANA YOUTH TRANSITIONS ▪ 1617 Euclid Ave, Suite 1 ▪ Helena, MT 59601 ▪ (406) 442-2576

Conference Committee

JUNE HERMANSON
MIKE BEERS
MT Youth Leadership Forum

SUSAN BAILEY-
ANDERSON
MANDY BROADDUS
*MT Office of Public
Instruction*

SARAH EYER
Parent / MSDB

MARY BEHR
Special Education Teacher

DIANE TAVARY
Parent / PLUK

BRIGITTE WINFIELD
BARB SCHIEDERMAYER
MT Vocational Rehabilitation

LILY SOBOLIK
Governor's Office Liaison

In the spirit of discovery, the *1st Annual Montana Youth Transitions Conference* will seek to answer important questions about the challenging Journey from school to work for Montana's youth with disabilities. It will be an opportunity for students—and their support teams—to network, explore resources, and discover pathways to meaningful futures!

We expect 200 plus attendees, including youth with disabilities, parents, teachers, vocational rehabilitation counselors, case managers, and others. Please attend the conference as a presenter, sponsor, exhibitor, or all of the above. We hope you will join us on this—our inaugural expedition!

Included with this communication are:

- *Sponsorship Form
- *Presenter Call for Abstracts
- *Exhibitor Form

Featured speakers/Presentation:

Dale Dileo, International Consultant for his advocacy for people with disabilities. His latest book, Raymond's Room, focuses on ending the shameful segregation of people with disabilities in community life.

Andrew J. Imparato, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

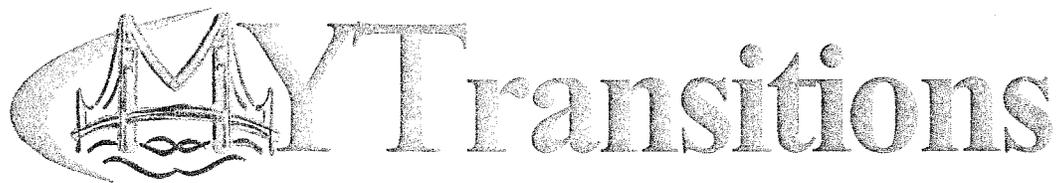
Bob Jahner, Parent and Chief Field Services, Montana Vocational Rehabilitation

Same Difference Inclusive Theatre Company

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

2008 Conference Committee



Montana Youth Transitions

In the spirit of discovery, a partnership of private and public organizations seek to answer important questions about the challenging journey from school to work for Montana's youth with disabilities. Through the establishment of an annual conference on transition and a statewide transition website for the first time there will be an opportunity for students—and their support teams—to network, explore resources, and discover pathways to meaningful futures!

Monday, September 15, 2008

11:30 AM– 1:00 PM REGISTRATION

1:00– 2:00 PM WELCOME and KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Anna Whiting- Sorrel, MT Governor's Office

2:00– 2:15 PM BREAK

2:15– 3:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE: Planning and Using Transition Assessments in IEP

Ann Verploegen, OPI

SESSION TWO: Youth Leadership Training and Opportunities

June Hermanson facilitating Youth Panel

SESSION THREE: On the Same Page: Understanding Social Security

R. Andrew Hudson, SSA

SESSION FOUR Transition for students with Mental Health Issues

Presenter TBA

3:15– 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30– 4:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE: Writing Measurable Post-secondary Goals

Sara Casey, OPI

SESSION TWO: Best Practices in Teaching Self-advocacy Skills

Panel of Self-advocacy Specialists

SESSION THREE: Housing Options in Montana

Panel of Housing Program Specialists

SESSION FOUR Parents Let's Unite for Kids

Presenter TBA

5:00– 5:30 PM EVENING RECEPTION

5:30– 6:30 PM Same Difference Theatrical Presentation

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

MY Transitions

Great Falls, MT

Montana Youth Transition Conference 2008

7:30– 8:30 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30– 10:00 AM KEYNOTE PRESENTER

ANDY IMPERATO, CEO
American Association of People with Disabilities

10:00– 10:15 AM BREAK

10:15 AM– 11:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE: Writing Transition Services that Connect with IEP

Nikki Sandve, OPI

SESSION TWO: Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills

Travis Hoffman and Mike Beers, Summit ILC

SESSION THREE: Cultural Competency Training

Mavis Young Bear, Fort Belknap VR

SESSION FOUR: Transition Website Focus Group

June Hermanson

SESSION FIVE: Transition for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students

Kathy Jury and Mary Morrison, MSDB

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCHEON PLENARY

DALE DELIO

Author of Raymond's Room

1:15– 1:30 PM BREAK

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Angie Walker, OPI

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T.J. Eyer, OPI

Continued... →

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Kathy Laurin and Leslie Mullette, MonTECH

SESSION FIVE: Raising an Adult: One Family's Story of Planning

Gayle Tom

2:30– 2:45 PM

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2:45– 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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SESSION TWO: Passing the Torch of Leadership to Youth

Martha Carstensen, MSU-B

SESSION THREE: Marketing, Partnerships and Job Development

Dale Delio

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Kathy Laurin and Leslie Mullette, MonTECH

SESSION FIVE: Customized Employment-- Part 1

Ellen Condon, Rural Institute on Disabilities

3:45– 4:00 PM

BREAK

4:00– 5:00 PM

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Barb Schiedermayer, MT Voc. Rehabilitation

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SESSION FOUR: MT School for the Deaf and Blind Transition Srvs.

Bob Corwin, Chris Gutshenritter and Jim Kelly

SESSION FIVE: Work Solutions for Today's Job Opportunities

Michelle Pickell and Susanne Meikle

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

7:30– 8:30 AM

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ROBERT JAHNER

9:45– 10:00 AM

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE:

MT Telecommunications Access Program

Sorenson Representative

SESSION TWO:

Transition Website Focus Group

June Hermanson

SESSION THREE:

Montana Independent Living Services

Mike Hermanson

SESSION FOUR:

Transition to Postsecondary Education

Kathy Laurin, Ph.D., MonTECH

SESSION FIVE:

Disability Navigator Program and other Workforce Services

Presenter TBA

11:30– Noon

WRAP– UP

Receipt of Conference Certificate, Continuing Ed. Credits, etc.

A wide variety of vendors and organizations will also have display tables and representatives available to answer questions!

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 **MT Transitions**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee;

I would like to enter into the record my testimony regarding Disability Services Division and the cut that took place between the November Governor's Budget and the December budget.

People with disabilities have worked diligently over the past two years in building a sustainable statewide transition network for high school students with disabilities. This has been driven by the State Independent Living Task Force and their Youth Task Force and the Montana Youth Leadership Forum, both are groups that are comprised of and controlled by people with disabilities.

The Office of Public Instruction school year 2007-2008 show that there are 6,287 youth with disabilities between the ages of 14-21, sixty percent of which have learning disabilities. Montana is in need of a consistent, sustainable, system of transition for youth with disabilities.

Over the past two years a model of partnership between the public and private sector has been created to take the first steps in the development of this system. The MYTransitions project has been created through the in-kind and financial commitments of the partners and we are now seeking the state to join the efforts on behalf of the 6,287 students with disabilities that are out there.

Through the MYTransitions Project a statewide transition web site has been developed to begin to address transition issues and resources specific to Montana. The site can be visited at www.montanayouthtransitions.org We have worked to secure sponsors and support for the site and it will be up for at least five years, however, staff time to do the administrative work on the site needs to have committed staff time.

Additionally, in September 2008 the first annual MYTransitions Project held a statewide transition conference. There were 140 people including youth with disabilities, family members, teachers, and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. All of the work for the conference was donated, but to build a sustainable conference staff time needs to be committed to this effort. Evaluations of the conference rated the conference as exceptional and everyone looked forward to the next conference.

Finally, due to no staff commitment Disability Mentoring Day did not take place in Montana in 2008. This is a national event where youth with disabilities are placed in job shadowing experiences to assist them in deciding their futures. This program needs to have staff commitment to continue.

Please reinstate the \$50,000 into the Disability Services Division budget for a contract with the Montana Youth Leadership forum to fund staff time to administer the MYTransitions Web Site, coordinate the statewide MYTransitions Conference, and develop and coordinate Disability Mentoring Day. That is \$7.95 for the 6,287 students with disabilities that could benefit from transition services in Montana. **Their future is worth it.**

June Hermanson
Helena, MT