



Montana Association for Rehabilitation

2675 Palmer ST, Suite A
Missoula, Montana 59808 406-329-5400

MAR NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

Chapter Reports

Billings: Chapter president, Val Hummel reported that they are not having regular meetings throughout the summer. They are planning to have a barbecue or do something fun when they can find time to all get together. They have turned in the money from the raffle tickets that have been sold. The chapter will work on selling the remaining dozen candy bars. The group will meet once more before the state MAR conference.

Butte: This has been a year of growth for the new MAR chapter in Butte. Chapter President, Tracey Orcutt reported that the group has monthly meetings that feature an educational presentation. Their presenters included Theresa Willard, who presented about Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)/Energy Share, Pat Sanders speaking about transportation issues, Steve Fournier from Homeward Bound, Michelle Vincent from Job Service, Gary Keeler with Butte transportation, Mary Berg from Career Futures, along with Cassie Weightman, Nan Bryant and Lloyd Sparks from Montana Independent Living Project, Inc. (MILP). They generally have 10-15 people in attendance at the local meetings. The chapter has good representation from several agencies including Montana Independent Living Project, Inc. (MILP), Job Service, Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP's), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and others. The chapter has discussed charging a small fee to be a local member as a way to get funds for events, but nothing has been decided yet. Tracey is updating people on the conference preparations and encourages everyone to attend the conference. The former secretary Sue Moses, retired last year so Dana Kelly has stepped up to serve as the new secretary.

Helena: Chanda Hermanson has been trying to get an MAR chapter started in Helena. She was unable to attend the MAR Meeting today, but she provided a written report prior to the meeting. Chanda indicated that the local chapter has finally gotten a jump start. They have had two monthly meetings with guest speakers and approximately 5 attendees each time.

Great Falls: Great Falls chapter President, Brenda Johnson reported that there was a good turnout for the last meeting which included a presentation from the local Chamber of Commerce. The group has not been meeting regularly during the summer months. Brenda plans to email the chapter members about the raffle tickets and conference basket so they can start working on these fundraisers. The candy bars have been selling well. There are only 7 left. Brenda will mail the money in when the bars have all been sold.

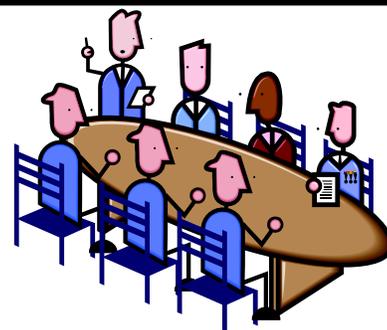
Miles City: The Miles City chapter President, Rhonda Shumway reported that they have been quite active recently. The chapter has representatives from VR, Eastern Montana Industries (EMI), the local CRP's, the public schools, Miles City Community College, Mental Health, and Job Service among others. The group has been discussing their focus and what they want to do in the local chapter. They have kicked around various ideas including hosting the conference in a couple of years. Interested Miles City chapter members were encouraged to run for a board member position at the Conference.

Kalispell: No one was available to provide a report for the Kalispell chapter.

Missoula: The Missoula chapter has continued to be a very active group and they generally have a good turnout for the meetings. The chapter members met in June and a speaker from the Bridges program presented information about their program. The group has been discussing awards in their meetings and coming up with ideas for potential nominees. They also continue to actively fundraise. The chapter members plan to go out for lunch in July as a fun activity. They will take the month of August off.

Please consider running for the 2012-2013 MAR Board. Nominations and the election will occur at the conference. The following positions will be open:

- ◆ 2nd Vice President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer
- ◆ 3 Member at Large Positions



Montana Association for Rehabilitation
Board Meeting Teleconference
July 12, 2012

Call to Order: MAR President, Brook Hodge called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Present: Brenda Johnson, Tammy Hogan, Brook Hodge, Jeanne Stone, Martha Ripley, Jake Kuntz, Melanie Beagle, Tami Hoar, Tracey Orcutt, Val Hummel, Wayne Dagele, Rhonda Shumway

Minutes: Board members reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. Brook Hodge mentioned that the Missoula chapter toured the YWCA-not the YMCA as recorded. Brenda Johnson moved that the minutes from the April teleconference MAR board meeting be approved as amended. Martha Ripley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Stone went over the MAR Budget for 2012 along with the actual income and expense report for the year. There is currently a balance of \$25,379.80 in the checking account and \$8295.82 in the savings account. Brenda Johnson made a motion to approve the budget and Tami Hoar seconded the motion. The budget was approved as submitted.

MAR Conference Update:

Tracey Orcutt prepared updated MAR Conference planning notes and information which she provided for the board in advance of the teleconference meeting. Tracey, Melanie Beagle, and Mary Bobst went to West Yellowstone to meet with staff and iron out various issues. They wanted to make sure that accommodations were accessible for conference attendees with disabilities. They spent some time looking at the rooms, steps, ramps and other accessibility issues at the Conference Center. The menu choices have been decided on and the prices negotiated. There is no cost to secure a karaoke machine for fun night, if we can provide a DJ. Mike Hermanson was suggested as a possible DJ. Alcohol will not be provided for fun night. The registration form will be revised to include a question about food choices or allergies and whether the individual is bringing a guest. There will be an annual member breakfast on Thursday morning instead of the traditional opening day luncheon. There was a discussion about how we can show appreciation to our presenters. Some things that have been done in the past include sending thank you cards, waiving the cost of the vendor table, paying for the motel room, paying for registrations, providing small gifts etc. We need to be sure to check with presenters to see how long they are staying and cover meals for that time frame. Many times, the agencies will cover the cost of rooms and meals for the individual who is attending. There is no specific policy, but we want to be fair to people who are donating their time to the conference.

Committee Fundraising: There are four candy bar boxes left to sell. Opportunity Resources Inc. (ORI) has committed to taking two of those boxes. People are starting to sell the raffle tickets. Jeanne requested that fundraising money be marked when it is sent in so she can accurately track whether it is from the raffle or candy bar sales. There are still not a lot of big raffle items such as hotel nights. Brook encouraged chapters to come up with a raffle item. It was also suggested that individuals could make something to donate to the raffle. Mary Bobst and Melanie Beagle plan to do a 50/50 raffle at the conference. Each chapter will be asked to bring a themed basket for the silent auction. The baskets are always a fun fundraiser at the conference. The Missoula chapter raised \$500 from their chapter garage sale. They plan to donate \$200 to the thrift store at the high school and \$125 to the state MAR conference.

Newsletter: Brook will work on getting a newsletter out to the members before the conference. She will check to see who hasn't been spotlighted and get a bio/picture from them. She also plans to include the MAR chapter reports, conference registration form, and information about the conference.

Awards: Mary Bobst is working on the MAR Awards. There are only two nominations at this time. The deadline is September 30, 2012. Missoula chapter members presented an idea for another award category. They would like to have an award for employees who do an excellent job of providing natural supports at a work site. The group will discuss this in more detail at their meeting in September and then write an award proposal for board members to review.

Website: Chanda has been updating the website on a regular basis. Please send Chanda any suggested changes or updates to the website.

Legislative: The MAR budget includes funding for a lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session. Chanda has been researching potential lobbyists who are interested in working with MAR. She has contacted lobbyist Annie Glover, who has an excellent reputation and good experience. Annie Glover will submit an independent proposal for the board to review. Board members agreed that MAR will continue the tradition of putting MAR related "factoids" into altoid tins for distribution to legislators. The Missoula chapter will work on the factoids.

Scholarship: Susan Rhodes was contacted about providing an MAR scholarship at MSU-Billings. This will be a year-long scholarship of \$500 per semester. There is a \$50 administration fee from MSU-B as well, for a total cost of \$1050 for the school year. The MSU-B staff chooses the scholarship recipient on the basis of GPA, financial need, etc. Once an individual is selected for the scholarship, they will become an MAR Member.

New business: Many board positions will need to be filled at the MAR Conference this year. The following positions will be available: Secretary, Treasurer, and two Member at Large positions being vacated by Wayne Dagele and Melanie Beagle.

Adjourned: The MAR Board Meeting Teleconference was adjourned at 11:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hogan
MAR Secretary



MAR BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jeanne Stone - MVR Counselor Missoula; MAR Treasurer

I have been with VR for 6 years, working for Blind and Low Vision Services as a support staff for 4 ½ years and then as a counselor for the past 1 ½ years. Prior to that I worked for 10 years in various capacities at a small facility that provided work services for developmentally disabled adults. I am a single mother of 4 with 2 grandchildren. I have three sons and one daughter. My oldest son, Sam, is a military policeman in the Army and recently got married. My middle son, Todd, is a single father of one son, and does air transportation in the Air Force. My youngest son, is married, is father to one daughter, and does road construction in Montana. My daughter has autism and lives successfully on her own with her two cats and one dog.



Please remember to submit your nominations! This is a great way to recognize each other for the hard work we do everyday.

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS AND AWARD WINNERS

Deadline for Nominations: September 30, 2012!!

The Montana Association for Rehabilitation is comprised of vocational rehabilitation counselors, orientation and mobility specialists, independent living specialists, vocational evaluators, job placement specialists, job coaches, social workers, and teachers, students of rehabilitation, and rehabilitation program support staff and administrators. As professionals in the field of rehabilitation, we endeavor to reduce social barriers through increased disability awareness, and to promote work and independence for Montanans who live with disabilities.

MAR's mission is to create a supportive environment in which committed individuals in the field of rehabilitation share goals, values, and experiences. This is done in an atmosphere of dignity, affirmation, celebration, and hope, promoting growth and fulfillment in ourselves, the field of rehabilitation and those we serve.

Dear MAR Members,

Attached is an Awards Nomination Form and Description of Awards for the MAR Conference, September 7-9, 2011. In order for us to screen and process awards for people in a timely manner and make it fair to all concerned, we need you to nominate your candidates and get us the paperwork by September 30, 2012.

Send award nominations and 3-5 supporting documents to:

Mary Bobst
700 Casey Street Suite B
Butte, Montana 59701
mbobst@mt.gov

Montana Association for Rehabilitation Award Categories

Employment Achievement Award: An award recognizing a person with a disability who has gained or sustained employment. This award would acknowledge the person's efforts, character, unique challenges and success in the pursuit of employment.

The Achievement Award: This is an award for technical and/or professional achievement in the field of rehabilitation. This award may be presented to a person or organization that has in the preceding years made a major contribution of importance to the increase of knowledge in the field of rehabilitation for it to the development of techniques for methods in the application of such knowledge or to the prevention of disability.

Eligibility for this award would be, for example, a) offer of a notable technical treaties of rehabilitation, b) a physician for medical school that has discovered a new technique useful in rehabilitating certain groups of persons with disabilities, c) a research scientist for a laboratory whose work has led to the discovery of a prevention or cure for a disabling condition, d) a rehabilitation worker who has put into practice a new rehabilitation technique or method which has had an important effect on rehabilitation practice, e) higher education school systems aspiring to be rehabilitation professionals or contributing to the rehabilitation field.

The Presidents Award: This is an award for outstanding achievement on behalf of persons with disabilities. It is presented to an individual for an organization whose activity in the preceding years has made a major contribution to the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities on a state-wide basis, in an area not generally considered technical.

Eligibility for this award would be, for example, a) a member of the state legislature who has made a major contribution to the passage of legislation which increases rehabilitation opportunities for people with disabilities, b) a member of a profession or other group whose zeal for rehabilitation has heightened the interests and enlarges the contribution of that profession or group, c) a person with a disability whose example has [influenced] others as to affect a state-wide impact upon rehabilitation.

The Organizational Award: The organizational award is presented to an organization with an outstanding record of service to persons with disabilities. The organization may be one whose principal objectives are in the rehabilitation field for one which, regardless of its major objectives, as demonstrated effect of concern for the care, treatment, education, or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Eligibility for this award may be organizations that have made a contribution to the well-being or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in activities over and beyond the purpose for which the organization was established. Nominees eligible for the organizational award would be: a) an organization that has established a unique service program to better serve persons with disabilities, b) an organization that has, through its initiative and creativity, developed programs which have contributed significantly to the rehabilitation movement on a statewide basis, and c) organizations that have acted as a catalyst in the community to better integrate, coordinate and develop services to persons with disabilities, and d) placement specialists. The recipient of an organizational award may be nominated for its past or present program of activities and for its contributions during the preceding year or for a major contribution in preceding years.

The Montana Association for Rehabilitation Meritorious Service Award: This state award is to be given to an individual who has demonstrated years of faithful service and leadership to MAR through any segment or combination of segments of association activities or life. Emphasis is placed on both the length of service and levels of service and is to be given to persons only showing outstanding service for leadership both qualitatively and quantitatively. It might be given to a member who has provided outstanding membership effort and leadership for a period of years, or for example, a member who has been exceedingly active in chapter, division, and/or national committee(s) effort(s) and has demonstrated leadership for a similar period of time. Sustained membership in the Association is required.

Dr. Louis Allard Award: This award was established in 1966 to honor Louis Allard, M.D. for his many years of devoted service to persons with disabilities. It is not anticipated that each and every year such an individual will be identified as deserving of this award. Examples of those eligible for this award would be a) an individual who has devoted his life's work, for major portion over the years, has greatly assisted persons with disabilities through the promotion of programs and encouragement of others through not directly providing service himself, b) an individual who has many accomplishments in various facets of rehabilitation work and may qualify for several of the other awards. An individual need not be a member of MAR to be eligible for the Dr. Louis Allard Award.

Counselor of the Year Award: This award is to be presented to a rehabilitation counselor "in recognition of the pursuit and attainment of excellence and counseling persons with disabilities." This award honors a rehabilitation counselor who has made outstanding contribution to improve services or more effective use of existing resources and approaches for persons with disabilities. The counselor must have an active case-load and be employed to work with and for an otherwise assist a clientele of persons with disabilities toward a goal of greater independence. Nominations will be considered without regard to employment setting or professional affiliation. The nominee should have demonstrated the imagination and ingenuity and the use of human and material resources for persons with disabilities or use more effectively existing resources and approaches. Consideration will be given to the quality of service provided, irrespective of age, background, or experience of the counselors nominated. The counselor shall be selected by the awards committee prior to the annual MAR conference.

Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) of the year Award:

This award is to be given to an individual who works for a Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) who has provided exceptional services to people living with disabilities. The honoree is a person who has made outstanding contributions, those considered "above and beyond" the call of duty, to help clients achieve their employment goals. Eligibility for this award requires the following criteria: The CRP must have an active case load and be employed full-time to work with and for and otherwise assist a clientele of persons with disabilities toward a goal of greater independence. Nominations will be considered without regard to employment setting or professional affiliation. The nominee should have demonstrated imagination and ingenuity in the use of human and material resources for persons with disabilities or use more effectively existing resources and approaches towards employment. Consideration will be given to the quality of service provided, irrespective of age, background, or experience of the CRP nominated. Accomplishments can be recognized by clients, the individual's employer, funding sources such as VR, and by the recipient's co-workers.

Supportive Worker of the Year Award: This award is for excellent performance in support service to persons with disabilities. The nominee should be employed in a support position for in a team member position. Accomplishments should be recognized by coworkers, supervisors, and the community. The nominee should exemplify individual achievement in the field of rehabilitation as well as in community activities.

Rehabilitation Award of the Year: This award is to be given to an individual who has made a significant contribution in the past year to the improvement of the life of persons with disabilities as part of a holistic, inter-disciplinary service delivery system, either professionally or in a volunteer capacity. They have participated in the continuous treatment, training or service delivery needs of persons with disabilities. These needs should encompass medical, psychological, psychosocial, recreational, and vocational for independent living needs of those with disabilities. The recipient should have demonstrated flexibility and creativity in dealing with the special needs of each person and have worked in a positive manner to emphasize individual abilities and support the rehabilitation process. Eligibility for this award would be, for example, a) an independent living skills instructor who has developed and implemented it created an innovative approach to instruction of living skills and training, b) a volunteer who has gone beyond the normal bounds or service in providing transportation to recreational activities, such as fishing or swimming, c) a job placement/job coach specialist who has shown excellence in the number and quality of placements made, d) transition worker, e) rehabilitation teacher or orientation and mobility specialist.

Employer of the Year Award: This is an award for an employer who's compassionate and persistent efforts provide employment for people with disabilities and inspire others to do likewise. This award may be presented to a small employer that employs one person, or to a larger employer that provides employment for several individuals. Emphasis is placed on employer that provides an environment that allows for the individual with disabilities to be competitively employed and an opportunity for advancement and/or skill enhancement.



...DID YOU KNOW?

How Many People with Disabilities Work in the Community?

People with disabilities work in integrated jobs at a much lower rate than people without disabilities. From the American Community Survey, and annual survey from the Census Bureau, we know that:

- 68% of people aged 16 to 64 without disabilities work
- 24% of people with cognitive disabilities aged 16 to 64 work. In this survey cognitive disability is a very broad category that includes people who say they have difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.
- 35% of people with any disability aged 16 to 64 work

Similar statistics were reported by the National Survey of Americans with Disabilities, which was commissioned by the National Organization on Disability. Based on this survey, 21% of adults with disabilities age 18 to 64 were employed in 2010. The corresponding figure for the general population was 59% (Kessler Foundation/NOD, 2010).

How Many People with Autism Spectrum Disorders Work in the Community?

There is no good source for this number for adults with autism spectrum disorders. Data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2, a 10-year study of youth who received special education services, suggests that young adults with autism spectrum disorders are less likely to work than most other disability groups. The final data collection point was completed in 2009 when participants were age 23-26:

- 32.5% of young adults with autism spectrum disorders currently worked for pay versus an average of 59.0% for all respondents. Only one disability group had a lower rate of employment participation.
- 47.7% of youth with autism spectrum disorders worked for pay in the past two years versus an average of 78.4% for all participants.
- 29.0% of young adults with autism spectrum disorders were looking for work if they were unemployed compared to 47.7% for all participants.
- Source: www.nlts2.org

How many people with Autism Spectrum Disorders use Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services?

State vocational rehabilitation agencies are one of the most important sources of employment services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities. The number of people with autism spectrum disorders seeking VR services has risen steadily. The number who exited VR services more than tripled between 2003 and 2008, and in 2008 5,344 individuals with autism spectrum disorders completed VR services. In 2009, 59% of people with autism spectrum disorders gained employment after receiving VR services. It is interesting that this figure was higher compared to the corresponding figure for people with intellectual disabilities (54%), and people with any types of disabilities (56%).

What happens to students with autism spectrum disorders when they leave high school, and how does it compare to other students?

A recent national study showed that a high percentage of youth with autism spectrum disorders work after exiting high school. However, fewer retain their jobs in the following years. According to this study, 66% of youth with autism spectrum disorders had worked at some point after high school. However, when surveyed a few years later, only 47% of these youth had jobs. These data were from



Missoula's MAR Chapter Enjoying "Out To Lunch" at Caras Park

“TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA”

Wednesday, October 24				
9-1:00	Registration Table/Vendors set up			
12:00-1:00	Lunch on your own			
1:30-3:45	Ann Garfinkle – Keynote Speaker Break 2:45-3:00			
4:00 – 5:00	Montana Autism Education Project			
6:30-10:00	FUN NIGHT (Halloween Costume Party with Appetizers. Drinks on your own)			
Thursday, October 25				
8:00-9:00	MAR Membership Breakfast			
9:00-10:30	Erik's Ranch (Presenter Kathryn Nordberg CEO) Break 10:30-10:45			
10:45-12:15	JAN Lunch on your own 12:15-1:15			
1:30-2:30	Marcus Red Thunder			
2:45-3:45 Breakout	MonTech	JAN	Ann G.	Marcus Red Thunder
3:45-4:45 Breakout	Bob Jahner/Dr. Allen Davis Topic to be determined	MTAP	Erik's Ranch	MILP
5:00-6:00 pm	<i>President's Reception/No Host Bar</i>			
6:00- 9:00	Awards Banquet –			
Friday, October 26				
7:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast			
8:30-11:15	<i>Ethics – Dr. Allan Davis and Bob Jahner Confirmed</i> Break 10:00-10:15			
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Suitcase Talk/Conference Closure</i>			
12-1 pm	<i>Board of Director's Lunch/Meeting</i>			

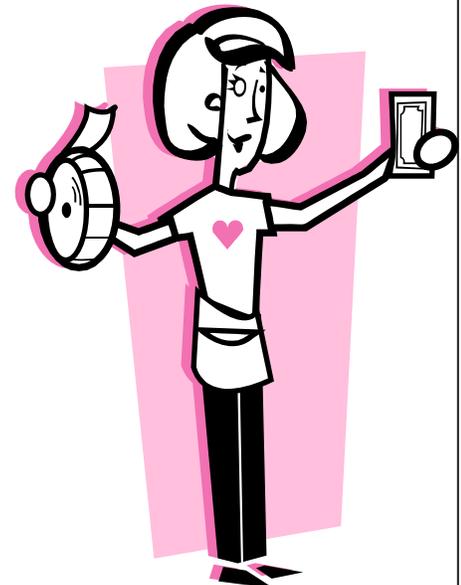
We have two great prizes to raffle off this year. Please support the MAR raffle by purchasing or selling raffle tickets - **\$1 each or 6 for \$5:**

1. Staying in a Winter Wonderland

2 nights stay at the Days Inn in West Yellowstone
 Breakfast included
 Your choice of Snowmobile Rental or Snowcoach Ride

2. One night stay at the Holiday Inn West Yellowstone

Contact Brook @ **214-4848** for more information!



Autism 101

CRC Credits Available

Montana Association for Rehabilitation
October 24-26, 2012
Holiday Inn West Yellowstone



Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Conference fee: _____ \$140 (MAR Paid Membership) _____ \$185 (non-members)

Billing/Payment information: Check _____ Money Order _____ Cash _____

Billing information: _____

I will be attending Fun Night Wednesday, October 24 at West Yellowstone: _____ YES _____ NO
(Evening of hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music and fun)

I will be attending the Banquet, Thursday, October 25 Yes _____ No _____ Guest _____ (Cost of each guest is \$25)

Please choose your banquet dinner:

- Yellowstone Bistro Filet
- Chicken Parmesan
- Fettuccini Alfredo

Will you need special accommodations while at the conference? Yes _____ No _____

Describe: _____

(Please email Tracey Orcutt @ torcutt@mt.gov or phone (406) 496-4925 with your accommodation or scholarship needs by October 15, 2012).

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please send registration and amount payable to: MAR, c/o Jeanne Stone, Treasurer, 2675 Palmer Street, Suite A, Missoula, MT 59808
email to jstone2@mt.gov or or fax to 329-5420

For More Information: torcutt@mt.gov Tracey Orcutt

Hotel Reservations: (mention MAR conference for state rates)

Holiday Inn West Yellowstone
315 Yellowstone Avenue
West Yellowstone, Mt. 59758



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

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