

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Department Directors
FROM: Brian Schweitzer, Governor
DATE: October 30, 2007
RE: The Montana Transition Task Force

On June 7, 2007, in a letter to you and numerous other 'Transition Stakeholders,' I stated that "providing successful transitions to adulthood by youth with disabilities is important to me, and a priority for this administration." In that letter, I also endorsed participation in the "Transitioning Young Adults with Disabilities to Independence" workgroup, known as the Montana Transition Task Force (MTT), and commended its work. I am grateful for your commitments to fully encourage the MTT's progress, and I am writing now to request your sustained and strengthened support.

My goal is to ensure that the State of Montana, acting through its agencies, officers, and employees, does all it can to assist the transition of youth and young adults with disabilities into adulthood. The fulfillment of this goal is dependent upon the practical cooperation and coordination among all levels of government, and between the public and private sectors. As leaders in state government, we can assist youth and young adults with disabilities in their effort to set and reach their own goals and dreams by working toward the creation of a seamless process of communication and coordination of resources.

In the coming months, I ask you to continue to work with the MTT and encourage you to take the following steps:

- Review and amend, where practical, state policies and underlying processes that impede moving youth and young adults with disabilities seamlessly through services provided by the state.
- Strive to coordinate numerous disability programs and services and encourage seamless communication and collaboration between and within departments and programs.
- Explore ways to design a comprehensive tracking system of youth and young adults with disabilities.
- Review income eligibility and definitions of "disability" and review options for mandated transitions meetings for youth and young adults with disabilities.
- Consider the budgetary and legislative recommendations of the Montana Transition Task Force when preparing your own biennial budget.
- Communicate with your MTT representative on a regular basis and ensure that your representative has appropriate access to department leadership and resources.

Again, my thanks for your assistance to the Task Force. I look forward to working with you and your Task Force designee to deliver on our commitment to young Montanans with disabilities.