



## Early Childhood Services Bureau News – April 2015

What has been going on this spring at ECSB?

Here are a few updates:



Click to navigate:

[WEBSITE UPDATES](#)

[COMMUNITY FORUM OVERVIEW](#)

[SLOT CARE](#)

[GRANT UPDATES](#)

[BBAC](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD](#)

[CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH](#)

[ECSB STAFF LIST](#)

---

### Early Childhood Services Bureau Website

The State of Montana has been making some great revisions to their websites. DPHHS recently went through a revision process and now has a new design. This redesign project included all of the web pages of the Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB). As a result, our links have changed. The new link to the ECSB homepage is <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare>. You can still get to this page through [www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov](http://www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov). The site is easier to navigate.

Some exciting new features include:

- Breadcrumbs at the top of the page to help navigate. For example: [Home » Human & Community Services Division » Child Care](#)
- One page for all documents and resources
- Updates to the helpful links page
- Updated menu for access to programs and services
- General revisions to pages for cleaner content

[↑Back to Top](#)

---

### Community Forums - Discussions on Early Childhood

The mission of the Early Childhood Services Bureau is to improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of child care in Montana, with focused efforts on coordinated systems to best meet the needs of young children, their families, and the professionals who work on behalf of young children and families. We rely on Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to help ensure that this mission is realized in communities throughout Montana.

This fall, we visited with our 11 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and with community representatives across the state. One of our objectives was to provide up-to-date information about ECSB's programs. We also believe it is critical to share the ECSB vision with our clients and community stakeholders and solicit feedback from them regarding the future of early childhood services. The goal of these forums was to receive information and feedback on family and provider services and their delivery. We asked specific questions that will help us to meet needs in supporting and meeting the goals of the agency, families, and providers.

We developed a schedule of visits that extended through December of 2014. We scheduled some time with the Resource and Referral agency staff during each visit, and also organized an open forum with interested clients and community citizens. Information was provided about changes to policy for the Best Beginnings Scholarship program. STARS and PreK information was also provided.

We visited with a variety of stakeholders at each forum; providers, parents, business owners, school representatives, local coalition members, and many more were present at the meetings. We will be sharing themes and outcomes with you in the next newsletter.

Community Forums Schedule			
September	October	November	December
<b>29: Miles City</b> <b>30: Billings</b>	8: Bozeman 27: Kalispell 28: Missoula	17: Lewistown 18: Great Falls	2: Glasgow 3: Havre 11: Butte 15: Helena

[↑Back to Top](#)

## Introducing Slot Care

### ◆ What is Slot Care?

Slot care is a full-time space within a child care program that is reserved for a child receiving the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (BBCCS). Slot care will be piloted with STARS 3, 4 and 5 providers in the Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula regions.

### ◆ Who Can Fill a Slot at This Time?

- Child age 0-5
- Enrolled full-time with at least 80% attendance
- Currently receiving BBCCS
- Parents must be non-TANF
- Parents must work full-time
- A family with a signed agreement with the provider about the conditions of the slot

### ◆ How Do Payments Work?

Payments are set at a full-time monthly rate and will include a bonus percentage, based on STAR level. Reimbursement rates for slot care will be the rates set by the Market Rate Survey. Slots are paid at full time cost, which means that all absences are paid during the month as long as the 80% attendance is met. If the slot is vacated the provider will be paid for an additional 60 days, or until the slot is again filled and slot care continues. Rates can be found on the ECSB website, [www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov](http://www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov).

ECSB reimburses for 100% attendance.

### ◆ How Many Slots Can I Have?

- Family Homes: 1
- Group Homes: 2
- Small Centers (13-29 capacity): 3
- Medium Centers (30-59 capacity): 4
- Large Centers (60+ capacity): 5



[↑Back to Top](#)

## Grant Updates

### The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

The ECSB developed a multi-tiered approach to address the mitigation of toxic stress and trauma in early childhood. This approach includes efforts to address prevention, promotion, and intervention through training, education, and consistent messaging. Community participation is encouraged and necessary for these efforts to be successful.

A network of systems is collaborating to expand trauma informed practices. This network includes representation from various DPHHS programs, the Institute for Education Research and Service (IERS) at the University of Montana, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Montana Early Childhood Project, ChildWise Institute of Intermountain, and local Best

Beginnings Community Councils. Recruitment efforts are underway to include pediatricians, and many of the committees on the state Best Beginnings Advisory Council will also participate.

### Montana Project LAUNCH Initiative

The Montana Project LAUNCH Initiative (MT-PLI) is a grant received by DPHHS in September 2014 that will engage Montana's early childhood partners to improve systems and access to mental health services for young children and families in our rural state while piloting evidence-based practices in Gallatin and Park Counties. The MT-PLI aims to reduce disparities in mental health outcomes, improve the mental health status, and realize healthy children in healthy families. The ECSB, Children's Mental Health Bureau and the Family and Community Health Bureau are working collaboratively to implement this grant at the state level and oversee the local work. Partners in Gallatin and Park Counties include the Greater Gallatin United Way, Childcare Connections, Gallatin Mental Health Center, Thrive, the Early Childhood Project, the Gallatin County Early Childhood Community Council, the Gallatin City County Health Department and Community Health Partners.

### Montana Preschool Development Grant

The purpose of the Montana Preschool Development Grant (MPDG) is to support State and local efforts to build, develop, and expand High-Quality Preschool Programs so that more children from low-and moderate-income families enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life. Montana is one of five states who have received the Race to the Top Preschool Development Grant (Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, and Nevada). The MPDG supports states to:

- (1) Build or enhance a preschool program infrastructure that would enable the delivery of high-quality preschool services to children, and
- (2) Expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities that would serve as models for expanding preschool to all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families.

The MPDG will be jointly implemented by the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and DPHHS.

More Information about the MPDG can be found on the U.S. Department of Education Website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/index.html>

[↑Back to Top](#)

---

### Best Beginnings Advisory Council

The Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC) is managed through the ECSB. The BBAC provides advisory capacity and assist in developing a coordinated strategic plan across our Department and in supporting comprehensive early childhood services in Montana. The goal is that Montana shall have a comprehensive, coordinated early childhood system that provides a governance structure and leads to strong collaboration in order to best meet the needs of Montana's youngest citizens.

The BBAC serves as the advisory board for the following seven grants:

1. Child Care Development Block Grant
2. Early Childhood Collaborative System: Trauma Informed Care Grant (ECCS)
3. Head Start State Collaboration Grant (HSSCO)
4. Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program Grant (HMTPP)
5. Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant (MIECHV)
6. Montana Preschool Development Grant (MPDG)
7. Montana Project Launch Initiative Grant (MT-PLI)

The major responsibilities of the Best Beginnings State Advisory Council include:

- Children have access to high quality Early Childhood Programs.
- Families with young children are supported in their community.
- Children have access to a medical home and health insurance.
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs of young children and families are supported.

The BBAC met in January at the Red Lion Colonial in Helena. Some of the meeting highlights include:

- Updates from the Governor's Office
- Legislative Updates from Division Administrators
- A community café for BBAC members to learn about partners and grants involved with BBAC
- Information from the Montana Children's Trust Fund

Meeting notes and agendas can be found at

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/BestBeginningsAdvisoryCouncil.aspx#154223650-2015-meeting-resources->

The BBAC will meet again June 10-11 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.

[↑Back to Top](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

### Week of the Young Child (April 12-18): Celebrating Our Youngest Learners!

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. For more information, visit <https://www.naeyc.org/woyc>.

---

## Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month



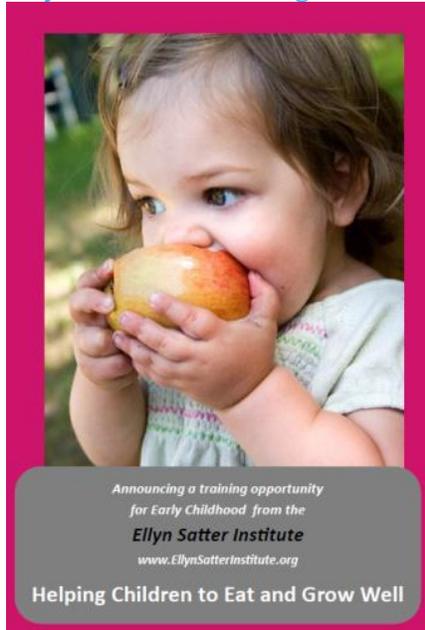
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/childrenstrustfund/preventionmonth2015>

- Visit the [National Child Abuse Prevention Month website](#) to find useful resources:
  - [2015 Prevention Resource Guide: Making Meaningful Connections](#) - learn how to strengthen families using the Protective Factors
  - [Tip sheets](#) - distribute to parents and caregivers.
  - [Activity calendars](#) - one for prevention programs, parents, and community partners - discover ways to integrate activities related to the protective factors into Child Abuse Prevention Month activities.
  - Child Abuse Prevention Month [widgets](#) - post to your website to help promote the initiative.

- [Online media toolkit](#) - provides traditional and new media strategies to help your organization or community partnerships raise awareness about events, reach potential supporters, and build relationships.

---

## Ellyn Satter Training



April 25  
Double Tree Inn, Missoula

---

## Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Conference

May 19-20  
Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena

---

## Upcoming PAS/BAS Training Opportunities

Visit <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS.aspx> for dates and locations

---

## Great Beginnings Great Families Conference

July 7-9  
Great Northern Hotel, Helena



---

## NAFCC Conference

July 15-18  
Minneapolis, MN

Visit [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) for more information

---

## MtAEYC Annual Conference

October 15-17, 2015  
Bozeman, MT

[↑Back to Top](#)

---

### ECSB Staff

[Patty Butler](#) ♦ ECSB Bureau Chief ♦ 444-1828

### Systems Unit

[Kathy Rich](#) ♦ Early Childhood Systems Unit Manager ♦ 444-0589

[Kelly Hart](#) ♦ Healthy MT Teen Parent Coordinator ♦ 329-1537

[Rhonda Schwenke](#) ♦ Best Beginnings Program Officer ♦ 466-2325

[Leann Worden](#) ♦ Best Beginnings Program Officer ♦ 329-1321

[Mary Pierce](#) ♦ Head Start State Collaboration Director ♦ 444-0309

[Diane Bocksnick](#) ♦ Early Childhood Systems Navigator ♦ 653-2272

[Serri Dodd](#) ♦ Early Childhood Systems Navigator ♦ 234-1385

### Fiscal Operations Unit

[Darla Tenter](#) ♦ Budget Analyst ♦ 444-2803

### Child Care Policy Unit

[Carrie Leu](#) ♦ Child Care Unit Manager ♦ 444-3657

[Sarah Adams](#) ♦ Office Support Specialist ♦ 444-9120

[Allison Drake](#) ♦ Compliance Reviewer ♦ 444-1400

[Chauntel Lucier](#) ♦ Child Care Resource & Referral Program Specialist ♦ 329-1286

[Melody Olson](#) ♦ Management Analyst ♦ 444-1839

### Child and Adult Care Food Program

[Mary Musil](#) ♦ Program Manager ♦ 444-4086

[Vicki Anfinson](#) ♦ Program Specialist ♦ 444-2674

[Diane Edgar](#) ♦ Administrative Assistant ♦ 444-4347

[Debbie Hansen](#) ♦ Program Specialist ♦ 444-9467

---

## Contact Us

Early Childhood Services Bureau  
Department of Public Health and Human Services  
111 N. Jackson  
Arcade Building, 5th Floor  
Early Childhood Services Bureau: (406) 444-1788  
Childcare Unit: (866) 239-0458  
CACFP: (888) 307-9333

[↑Back to Top](#)

