



AGENDA

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Strategic Planning Steering Committee
July 30th, 2014

Location:

Holiday Inn-Ballroom
22 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena

Guests must have a parking pass in the windshield of their car (while parked in the Holiday Inn lot) during meetings held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center to avoid a city parking fine. One can obtain a pass from the desk clerk in the lobby.

- 9:00 Introductions
 - Proposed extended timeline and process
 - Past meeting documents and Resources for today
- 9:45 Current processes and procedures
 - Client intake and assessment from the lens of OPA and WoRC
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Tribal TANF- Presentation and discussion including tribal stakeholders
- 11:45 Public comment
- 12:00 Working Lunch- Steering Committee conversation
- 1:00 Grassroots perspective on the history of the TANF program in Montana- Senator Caferro
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Review of TANF Non-Assistance programs in Montana- DPHHS
- 3:00 Listening session for Non-WoRC stakeholders:
 - If you could wave a magic wand, thinking about clients along a continuum of need and support (beyond cash assistance), what programs, policies, and approaches would you like to see?
- 4:30 Steering committee discussion:
 - What else do we need to know to wrap up the information gathering phase?
- 4:45 Public Comment
- 5:00 Adjourn

Public Comment - In accordance with 2-3-103 (1), MCA, the Department will hold a public comment period. Please note that this is the public's opportunity to address the work of the TANF Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

Americans with Disabilities Act - The Department of Public Health and Human Services is committed to providing meeting access through reasonable accommodation under the Americans

Meeting Notes

Time Agenda Item

9:00 Introductions-Katie Loveland

See Powerpoint: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Strategic Planning, July 30 2014

- Present: Representative Rob Cook, Bob Runkel, Stephanie Wilkins, Jamie Palagi, Ruby Benasky, Tanya Watson, Senator Mary Caferro, Kelsen Young, Heather O'Loughlin, Lesa Evers, Katie Loveland. Four committee members not present.
- Review of the TANF Strategic plan webpage, found at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/tanfstrategicplanning.shtml>
- Survey overview, asking contractors to contribute some ideas to increase response rates
- Where are we now-Extended meeting dates based on:
 - To allow for a broader base of data collection
 - To allow for a greater understanding for Strategic Plan recommendations
 - Would like more discussion about Non-assistance, TANF history, client intake, tribal TANF
 - What else do we need to know to finalize assessment?
- Strategic plan framework-charge to the committee
 - Developing overarching framework, strategy to effectively use funds, recommendations from committee
 - August 13 meeting-Finalize assessment phase.
 - How will we measure success-Ensure the process is structured and on track.
 - September 10 meeting, the final results from the participant surveys will be reviewed, develop strategic framework
 - October 15 meeting, Finalize framework, discuss carryover, measures of success and evidence based strategies.
 - November meeting may need to be scheduled
 - Direction setting, review, setting goals
- Steering committee comments on extended timeline
 - Lesa-appreciates the extended timeline and approach
- Current processes and procedures

9:45 Client intake and assessment from the lens of OPA and WoRC-Tanya Watson and Bobbie Brekhus ***Packets were provided for the Committee with examples of forms***

Office of Public Assistance

- The Client walks in and asks about benefits, application is provided including information and referral pamphlet. After the application is filled out and dropped off, a folder is provided for review.
- Interview-forms that are reviewed in detail
 - Child care absent parent-federal requirement. Right to cause-not cooperating with child support.
 - Child support referral form.
 - TANF payment selection choice.
 - Request to participate; only included with tribal new/tribal WoRC programs who they want to complete their participation with.
 - Family investment agreement.
 - Explain sanctions, supportive services, fair hearings, (see form).
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Referred to WoRC office
- How long it takes for benefits to be received?
 - Based on data in the Big Horn office, average of 1.2 days for first two weeks of June

- 19 cases, 2 cases pending, 2 denial
- Questions
 - Kelsen Young-HCS173: this was meant for the perspective of case manager, because it is not appropriate for participant-HCS173.
 - Lesa Evers-What is the timeframe for application and interview.
 - Tanya-Usually same day. Beginning of month could be 2-3 days. Will differ by office.
 - Jamie-Goal will be same day or as close to for statewide offices
 - Tanya-25-30 applications can come in at the beginning of the month.
 - Lesa-Are participants overwhelmed with information?
 - Yes, and Bobbie will go more into that
 - Lesa-Lame deer, timeframe?
 - Tanya-Intakes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so it should not be more than 2 days
 - Kelsen-Why is the family investment agreement not duplicative?
 - Tanya-It is completed on the computer and a second printed copy is provided.
 - Katie Loveland-What is confusing, and what is the best?
 - Jamie-Getting current forms to OPA, keeping up with the documents
 - Working on form simplification, and getting the information verbally, and entering into computer right away
 - Katie-What can help me right now?
 - Tanya-Interview, going over application and asking the questions
 - Sen Mary Caferro-Why not have a sheet of paper that lists all the programs and opportunities available and can utilize it when they go to their next step. Could be a TANF diversion to needing services. Stephanie-conversation is still important with the ones in crisis.
 - Katie-What about housing?
 - Tanya-Lot of the needs happen with the conversations
 - Lesa-is there a checklist that employees follow?
 - Tanya-They go over the checklist at the bottom of Rights and Responsibilities page. Section 8 apps are available in the office.
 - Stephanie-Resources and referrals that are available in each county are tailored to what is available.
 - Stephanie-TANF information brochure- The TANF program updates and pays for the brochure and it really is to help SNAP participants meet “categorically eligible” a. Brochure includes Statewide resources
 - Katie-What is the time it takes to do whole process?
 - Tanya-About an hour and repeats come in get it done and go out in a shorter timeframe.

WoRC contractor program

- Intake
 - Spends an hour or more depending on participant’s situation
 - Tools can be individualized depending on office
 - Client fills out information sheet, while waiting to be seen.
 - During interviews
 - Go over the welcome sheet
 - Intensive Case Management (ICM) from being sanctioned in the past.
 - Barrier Reduction Screening-asked questions by reading to client
 - Activities-broken down to pie chart 27-33 hours
 - It is like a full time job for a lot of folks
 - Required verification list
 - It does not seem doable to many clients
 - Questionnaire in CHIMES-referral done if necessary
 - Domestic safety violence program, if appropriate
 - Employability Plan

- Try to decide what activities are the most negotiable at the time.
 - Expectations are read out loud
 - 25% of the caseload comes and says they cannot do those activities due to health issues. They sign a consent form for the doctor to provide how many hours they can participate. Case managers research the Job Accommodation Network (JAN). Could you (the participant) still do some activities if we (WoRC) found accommodation for you? participants are still required to do full hours until form is back.
 - Time sheet-3rd party verification for every hour.
 - Most confusing piece of requirements
 - Child care need form
 - Completed in office, so case manager can submit online.
 - Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)
 - Introduction to WEX program
 - Resource list
 - Client tracking is done manually-developed their own tool in Billings
- Two parent household
 - Split the parents for conversations about domestic violence to take responsibility for their own participation without influence from the other adult.
 - Where there is only one case manager, they will interview parents together.
- Questions
 - Mary Caferro-The barrier reduction screening, does participant have a copy? Legal issues, etc What is done with the information? Does it inform Family Investment Activities
 - Bobbie-No it is on the screen
 - Tom - In Bozeman-multiple choice read aloud, plus we supply paper copies
 - Vicky - In Great Falls, Participants do have a paper copy that they fill out.
 - Bobbie-As each section is completed, is where case manager will make referrals.
 - Stephanie-it does have an influence on what their negotiated activities are, to get on the path of self-sufficiency.
 - Mary-Education barrier, learning disability, dropped out of school in 9th grade.
 - If at possible we encourage client to complete their GED, and it gives case manager reading ability to make sure client understands what they are being asked to do. Unfortunately, over 21 they can only count 5 hours of education activity.
 - Mary-What are accommodations with disabilities?
 - Bobbie-We go through site (JAN) to see if there is something that can be done. Or get from their doctor to see what accommodations can be met. Usually, accommodations mean a decrease in hours, but there could be weight lifting requirements, etc. Usually do not meet hours due to all or nothing rule.
 - Bob-What kind of training is there for on the job. How self-directed are the clients that would be deciding what is best for him.
 - Bobbie-Our case managers have a Bachelors in Human Services, they come in last year or right out of college
 - Bobbie- There could be repercussions of doing what they need to do, and if they don't follow allowable activity, there may be good cause. They are not told what to do; we want our clients to succeed. The list of activities can be restrictive.
 - Kelsen-Barrier reduction, all these questions we are asking-the connection between that process and negotiating what they need to do. Meaningful participation, how we are making it meaningful and what can we let go of if in fact it is not fully informing of what we get to do for activities.
 - Bobbie-Intensive screening and a narrow set of activities. Can address multiple barriers in one week, but does not mean it is resolved. Then there is a waiting period for things to come together. Result: Good cause hours or they get overwhelmed. Mostly they are not meeting hours until barriers are taken care of.

- Bob-Decisions on activities are so important to the likelihood of success. How are the activities so limited?
 - Jamie-Federally mandated. Whole dilemma has taken over good things for people. You feel case managers are assuring boxes are filled, signatures, etc. You want to get there, but this has taken over.
 - Bobbie-Focus is on paperwork and not getting client what they need.
 - Stephanie-Third party verification is federal requirement
- Lesa-Time sheet-How do you verify with employer?
 - Bobbie-Employer needs to provide schedule or paystub, something that is identifiable that they are employed.
- Lesa-Activities, where is there some flexibility?
 - Stephanie-Some, but not much. Use the 4 weeks, take a week off. Federal limit can only be a primary if under 21 for education. At the High level as we look at continuum, how important does state feel it is? Are we prepared to pursue in a more vigorous manner.
- Katie-Summarize Service First initiative
 - Jamie- Service First focus is on the OPA and there are some transitions here. Getting a handle on inconsistencies in all the offices. Using respect and accuracy, comes with policy simplification, there is extensive training with the high turnover, lacking efficiencies, and quality customer service. Gets around to informed choice. Essentially it is getting them out the door in a good way. Service First umbrella is partly why we are doing Strategic Planning, how can we meet the needs of these people helping them get over the barriers to get where they need to be. Continued push for getting where we need to be. It is a Paradigm shift.

10:30 Break

10:45 Tribal TANF-Presentation and discussion including Tribal stakeholders

Stephanie-Overview of Tribal TANF

See handout on Tribal TANF/NEW/MOE information

- If the Tribe meets the definition to operate their own tribal program
- To receive assistance through Federal government, and the State, funding is based on the 1994 service population.
- Chippewa Cree, Fort Belknap, Blackfeet and Confederated Salish Kootenai tribes operate Tribal TANF programs.
- The states SFAG is reduced by \$7.5 million, that goes over to the Tribal Family Assistance Grant (TFAG).
 - State provides MOE funding to two tribes serving the same populations as in 1994. Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap. They can use for assistance or supportive services. Both using it for assistance.
 - 4 tribes have a Native Employment Works or NEW program-able to serve in a more culturally based program. Often waiting lists.
 - Who makes decisions to expand services
 - Could potentially expand to serve larger population. There are some guidelines to doing this.
- George and Liz-have used MOE to expand their services. Serving more than the 1994 population with same funding. Negotiated with state and federal to serve an expanded population. SWAP (State Work Assistance program) through Blackfeet Manpower choose participants that are eligible to be served there. 2012 served: 332 state participants.
- Map-overview of what where tribal TANF is
- Time clock 60 month time limit. Need to be residing within geographical areas of the reservation or tribal service area
 - Employment threshold is 50%
 - Only for Native American Indians.

Elaine Topsy-Chippewa Cree Tribe

See Powerpoint: Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Overview

- A barrier is the location of their community
- In 2004-they have worked to prove the community could work the TANF program and build a good relationship with the State
- 169 were identified on the 1994 list for ones to serve
- Block grant does not increase, and they work off of that number. 30% comes from State.
- During the Government shutdown-Montana State came through and supported the Tribe with advanced funds.
- CCT TANF purpose is basically the same as the state.
 - At least one person needs to be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, does not need to be Chippewa
- CCTT needy families-25% are caregiver cases. Growth is due to the problems in society. Work on stabilizing homes, work on requirements of caregivers. Kids have to be in school. Work with the school find ways to help each other. Minor parents come in to find a plan to graduate or GED program.
- CCTT supportive services
 - Is there funding available
 - Programs to help with these services
 - 50-60% clients test positive substance abuse
 - Program pays for drug testing. And is tested outside community
- TANF Re-determination
 - Once a month clients are seen face to face.
 - Checks are issued
- CCTT Work activities
- Mandatory work requirements
 - Allowed to use culture, and prove it is leaning toward self-sufficiency.
 - Age limit for educational work
 - We're flexible, we don't limit it. It is the second highest barrier. There is not an active GED program and needs to figure out some timelines to address.
 - Recently there was a GED boot camp in Havre with the HRDC-12 to 13 people received their GED
- Time Limits
 - Winter-unemployment can be 80%
 - People that live on reservations, value their family and heritage
 - Still need to move forward
 - No unemployment benefits
 - Take advantage of educational opportunities-online college
- Challenges
 - Used to have a State worker in office- that is not occurring now.
 - Eligibility benefits are not known without access to State system to see what other benefits client already has.
 - No funding for family resources, and is always working hard to keep programs running
 - Always under scrutiny from the Attorney general, with no protocol, and is not courteous. Mostly testing eligibility for clients
 - Comment: Elaine Joyner-Local school district is permissible to levy to help fund GED program
- Questions
 - Benefit amounts, how do you deal with that. What is benefit amount?
 - \$221 per child There is a cushion with SNAP, we had help with propane twice in the Spring. Give school clothes to children that have good attendance.
 - Who receives benefit?
 - Enrolled person needs to live in the household. Urban tribe member has to live there and have proof of residency.

George Kipp-Blackfeet Manpower

Handouts were made available to the committee

- State certified one stop shop
- Reviewed org chart with programs available
 - Require participants to go through work certification
 - Need to pass drug test
- Reviewed allowed work participation activities
 - Long process to get accomplished
- 1994-911 members. What they found were unduplicated count was 1260
 - Served only 100% enrolled members in household
 - Everyone else went back to state
- Cultural activities were discussed

Liz-Coordinator GA and TANF program

- They do the whole process: eligibility and case management
- Serving just under 400
- 17,129 tribal members
- Worked with State for 5 years and moved to Tribal office in 2005
- They follow policy and procedure
 - Stick to sanctions
 - Fraud and recovery unit
 - Have access to the State interface and can check unemployment, get on CHIMES
- Benefits have been increased one time-similar to CCTT
- Limited on supportive services
 - Working on improvement
- Benefits issued with EBT(reliacard with US Bank)
- Challenges
 - 130 miles to Great Falls
 - Child care housed in Great Falls, Family Connections
 - Would like to see self-employment/business training
 - Likes being a native, and the career goals are culturally based.
- Questions
 - Jamie-Interested in understanding what in the state program is not working and what should we hear about doing something different with our state program?
 - Liz-Regarding the WoRC/OPA presentation; so much paperwork that feds are requiring. A lot of responsibility, with limited time, sanctions. Open the doors to look at their good cause, where they're coming up short and work with them
 - George-SWAP program, timeframe to get supportive services was a long period. Manpower-mostly emergency cases and need a solution right away.
 - George-Meeting locally on a regular basis with OPA and at the CMT meetings
 - Liz/George-Speed up process in SWAP program and have an employee work with Blackfeet to speed up process.
 - Elaine-Communications between Tribe and State. Would like to start up lunch meetings once a month again. Work on getting access to CHIMES.
 - Lesa-There are limited employment opportunities. Flexible on meeting work participation hours?
 - Liz-Tell case managers, case note the struggles you see, the times they are going there. As long as we show picture we have something to stand on, they do not do what they want to do. Sanctioning does occur (45 currently, and 6-10 that don't come in to do good cause or renegotiate) most sanctions are lifted before end of month. It is understood where client is coming from, but they have to make an effort. For frustrated clients, look at case and making sure there are no technicalities that case manager is missing.

- Stephanie-Tribes have the opportunity to be flexible compared to state regarding participation hours.
 - Allowed up to 12 weeks of job searching
- Jamie-Thank you for coming and joining us in a partnership in helping our process.

12:00 Working Lunch

- Gathering additional information from our guests
 - Child Care-State assisted
 - Running a background check, the caretaker will not do it.
 - There are background checks on Tribal daycare as well.
 - Overcrowded housing
 - Lack of jobs
 - Can lead to Domestic abuse
 - Children often are late to school
 - Tribal holidays
 - Federal Rules-Identify the holidays in the plan and it is allowed.
 - Transportation is huge issue
 - Family coordination and strengthening is a plus for Tribal communities
- Kelsen-Recommendation for the State to take on a meaningful investment in knowing the Tribal communities, gaining an education on cultural life. Work on Anti-racist practices, mainstream communities.

1:00 Grassroots perspective-history of TANF-Senator Mary Caferro

- Presentation is based on her personal experience and opinions
- Aid For Dependent Children (AFDC) had the flexibility on welfare to access what they needed to have upward mobility
- History from Mary's perspective
 - 1995-Montana put into place Families Achieving Independence in Montana (FAIM). This was a waiver ahead of welfare reform.
 - Welfare reform happened and imposed:
 - Time limits-60 months
 - Will work for your check
 - Child care to support work
 - Under the programs prior to welfare reform, we tracked persons leaving welfare and they stayed off welfare. Montana would get a bonus for doing a good job.
 - In the Early 2000's many were involved with grass-root non-profit organizations experiencing poverty and deeply engaged in TANF. Working with state and other organizations. Shoulder to shoulder coalition work and would go to legislation and testify why it worked.
 - Block grant changed the funding priorities
 - The grassroots mobilizers took Montana's way of doing TANF to DC with Senator Baucus support
 - Grassroots welfare org along with others from 45 states
 - Then, 9/11 happened and welfare reauthorization was put on back burner.
 - As a legislator, Mary served on the Health and Human Services subcommittee two times She has followed subcommittee work since 1998. She saw the committee was easy to discount people on TANF.
 - The last subcommittee liked the fact TANF is temporary. And the carryover was encouraging. It was disappointing to see that advocates did not come and testify at the committee during public comment.
 - National Conference of State Legislators did a report from 2004
 - #1 recommendation was taking 2 parent families out of federal program so their lack of participation doesn't hurt rates

- Increase Disregard
- Culturally sensitive activities as work activities
 - Center on Budget and Policy Priorities late 90's
 - Recognized TANF cookie cutter approach is not what they needed
 - Instead of wrap around services they don't need, give family child support and you can stay self-identified as a worker. State will take child support to pay themselves back.
- Car loan program-would you loan the money to this person if TANF promised to back up the loan 100% (Sen Lewis)
- Does not agree with and has a problem with the limited current work activities that are allowed
- There should be job training in non-traditional jobs that are in high demand. If it is relevant in Montana you will get a job.
- Education: Should be able to get GED
- Need family strengthening activities
 - Important due to most families having single parents
- Questions
 - Bob Runkel-What lessons should we not repeat? Setting the patterns for the next 10 years
 - A-Data is so important to go off of
 - A-Federal requirements make it so restrictive
 - Broaden the discussion beyond TANF
 - A-Focus on a population with high poverty and do some real innovation with carryover.
 - A-More relevant to the economy around Montana
- Kelsen-Investment of time which is where distress comes from. Ideas are there ready to implement, which has been successful in other states. Really wants this process to be thoughtful. Appreciates the states position, and not moving quickly to take some action to do a better job. The good idea has been there for a while and we need to be creative to make use of it. Do not need to reinvent the wheel. Change is needed, after some time lack of change becomes intolerant.
- Collaboration with department history
 - Kelsen-this is why there is/was a lack of trust. Wants to see this process through, staying committed.
 - Jamie-needs to be able to see things through, staying committed. Bureaucracy gets in the way, peel back layers and work on that. Wants to do this in a way that gets us where we need to go.
- Bob-cautious deliberation is the path we are trying to follow in a way is selfish. Wants the buy in of all, public, state, legislation. Broad base of constituents that believe in it will empower the legislature to make some good decisions for the future. By the time we are done with this, it will lead to a good solid foundation that will guide us for a long time.
 - Lesa-is hoping that the legislative branch will be there to support the committee.
- Dannica Jamison, United Way Bozeman- Family strengthening activities
 - Family strengthening activities could be counted with small children bonding with parent. Activity could be spending time with child. Not involved and not sure of what the activities were specifically.
- Heather O'Loughlin-should be an ongoing conversation (establish Advisory Council)
- Stephanie-needs to monitor the program and be proactive that we are meeting the needs of our people.
- Pam Carlson, CTI-comment-continue to think about the structured TANF program, and appreciates we have a place to focus on TANF
 - Look at this very structured WORC program where there might be some latitude.
- Darla Joyner, Career Transition-how do you feel it's really going to work on the political forum
 - Very hopeful to work with the state, DC is another story, Republicans and Democrats care about low income and people take the time to explain what you are asking for, it builds support.
 - Kelsen-moved by providers to giving testimony in seeing how it works for them.
- Legislature really likes to see data
- Bobbie-Tribal NEW/TANF focus on self-improvement, benefits whole community and then if there is an employment opportunity they are ready to move on it.
- How do they (tribal TANF) affect WPR

- Stephanie-It doesn't, they are like a separate state, separate government. Have the ability to write the things like family strengthening into their plan.
- Bobbie-Aside from cultural differences, the population outside of tribes have a lot of the same issues as tribal members, but we are lacking the tools that the tribal NEW has to use. We have nothing to lose with being creative and meaningful with those by instead of giving them good cause that are not going to make work participation, give them something that will make them successful.
- Not able to participate, due to barriers.
 - Having an extended assessment period, depending on situation to focus on barrier reduction.
- Community based partnerships, what hopes do you have with working together.
 - Statewide public assistance advisory council
 - Stakeholders: participants, legislature, business, people from the public, important committee
 - One way to get this back, is to have an advisory council

2:00 Break

2:20 Overview assistance vs. non assistance-Stephanie Wilkins
See slide from the: TANF program powerpoint

- Non- assistance
 - Current programs in Montana
 - Can work on creative things to help them be self-sufficient, noted in the handout from the April 23 meeting.
 - FES
 - Financial literacy
 - Subsidized employment
 - A variety of programs are in place right now. 35-40 contracts, and that does not include afterschool programs
 - Questions
 - Bob-How are people aware of these?
 - Stephanie-We are not collaborating with OPA and others in that these are available to our clients. It can get rebranded with the contractor that is running the program
 - Bob-there is not a central place to go for those receiving non-assistance to hear about this?
 - Coordinated services for non-assistance are not available, but are in some WoRC offices.
 - Lesa-A little more information on the savings program?
 - Stephanie-Youth and adult savings program. Can be limited on what you can spend funds on. Matched savings. Goal-matched part must be spent on goal. Length of time is individualized. It is being used; financial literacy is a requirement for enrollment.

2:35 Listening session-Non-WoRC Stakeholders

If you could wave a magic wand, thinking about clients along a continuum of need and support (beyond cash assistance), what programs, policies, and approaches would you like to see?

- Bob Buzzas, Montana Continuum of Care, Director of Montana HRDC Association:
 - Using TANF for rapid rehousing. Creating a number of leverage resources, we could eliminate homelessness.
 - Targeted 50 families originally.
 - In January, surveyed 196 homeless families with over 300 children in families.
 - National average 41% homeless receiving TANF, Montana 17%.
 - Rapid rehousing: getting someone in an apartment right away, can go up to two years.
 - Idaho provides 4 month of housing assistance with case management.

- TANF works with homeless services to connect with employment.
 - Large population of homelessness is disabled, could use dollars to connect the disabled with services that are needed.
- Question
 - Kelsen-what are the qualifications, to take this under consideration, personally do not want to box it in to only being homeless to qualify.
 - A-There is a long continuum associated with rapid rehousing. The focus today is on homelessness. Majority of families if you give them 3-4 months of housing assistance, they can get back on their feet. They can't be let go with only housing, they do need case management.
 - Lesa-How is number determined on report?
 - A-HUD guides, in the 12 communities in the state including Hardin and Billings. We capture some of the Native American numbers in places like Hardin. For the most part the numbers do not show up. Eg.: Doubled up households are not counted as homeless (HUD rule) 4-5% numbers are N/A.
- Committee asked Bob to send the report in how the numbers were collected.
- Jasyn Harrington, Career and Training Institute
 - Would like continued support of the TANF summer youth program
 - FES program Part A-Accelerated subsidized program
 - Criteria for all three programs would like to see it be the same. Hard to place a person in employment that is on TANF cash assistance involved in the accelerated work program.
- Linda Palagi-Big Brothers Big Sisters Butte
 - Supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters and their focus
 - Pregnancy prevention focus
 - Basic needs be met
 - Create higher aspirations for students beyond basic education
 - Soft skills are taught
 - Question
 - Kelsen-Are there income requirements to participate?
 - No, The focus is on one parent household for matching but do service children of two parent houses
- Barb Burton, Florence Crittenton Homes
 - Focus of Florence Crittenton and use of TANF funds
 - Continuum of needs
 - Beginning of life for young families, with high risk high needs is a critical need for use of funds.
 - Ages 16-21 have no access to services except possibly TANF
 - Give nurturing support, to help change the intergenerational cycles of poverty
 - Question
 - Jamie-Would a supplemental payment change in program help to support the ones you serve?
 - Yes
 - Heather O'Loughlin-How many programs receive TANF? Is there a service area?
 - 3 homes primarily serve 18-21 year old. Served across the state, taking different levels of acuity of need.
 - Program is 24 hours a day residential program that also provides counseling, classes
 - Question
 - Age requirements?
 - The other programs take the younger ones. Difficult to put children under age of 18 with those over 18
 - Senator Mary Caferro-Do you receive general funding? How much does it cost?

- No general funding for this program. With two fully functioning apartments, \$300,000 a year. Supplemented with HUD (which is no longer available). There is fund raising. Use Second Chance home funding.
 - Jamie-TANF dollars contributing to Second chance homes total is \$300,000 and is split between three programs in the state through an RFP.
 - Heather-How do you measure success?
 - Previously HUD reports, will be happy to provide you some information
 - HUD program goals have shifted. Rapid rehousing does not fit our program. More support is needed than the new direction they are going.
 - Average of 3-6 months is how long they are in housing. Structured originally to be up to 2 years.
 - Kelsen-Do you have regular conversations and are they similar situation with funding?
 - Very important funding, have done some restructuring but it is not enough.
- Karen Heisler, Rural Dynamics
 - Assets initiative to assure programs of children and families were providing holistic services to clients.
 - Financial education
 - Credit and debt management
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
 - Access to public benefits
 - Individual Development Accounts
 - Getting banked
 - Montana issued new RFP and financial and training components were split, FES program training is limited to 90 days
 - Being community specific is needed for training.
- Kelly Creswell, Student Assistance Foundation
 - Longer contract period to better manage their assets as they pursue post-secondary education.
 - Service recent graduates as they transition into post-secondary.
 - Updated policies of purchases they can make with matched savings
 - Questions
 - Heather-How do you target TANF population?
 - Use the 185% poverty level matches F&R lunch participants, marketing
 - Kelsen-How new are you? Joining the program now, and in the program the next year, what happens to matched savings?
 - Received our contract in January. Little bit of both. Matched savings are accessible through end of contract.
 - Kelsen-How much are they allowed to save with match? What are they required to do for education. Target to serve.
 - 3 to 1
 - 16 hours of curriculum
 - 1000 youth
 - Heather-How would you measure your success
 - Pre assessment on financial knowledge at beginning, and then at the end of their program.
 - Requests of purchases are supportive of their goals
 - They need to make at least 6 deposits. Flexible with types of earnings, 4H earnings count.
- Becky Bey, Center for Children and Families
 - Is not funded by TANF, their second chance home-is not qualified
 - Ran a pilot through federal grant(Administration for Children and Families grant)-serving 9 families that have increased risk for families with substance abuse.
 - Adult by age, but not an adult by function ability.

- Serving 16-25 year olds
- 7 years of outcomes to measure, including data on child development, decreasing time in foster care.
- Brian Dennis-Boys & Girls Club, Billings
 - B&G club focus and continuum of care
 - Looking specifically at kids, during a chaotic time in their life.
 - 34% kids are at 100% poverty level
 - Having a place for kids to go when they need it
 - Opportunities for TANF or near TANF eligible families; options for them to go.
 - Looking forward, in that TANF eligible environment how to give the kids opportunities to avoid the risk of continuing the pattern of their parents. Positive alternatives to less than desirable behavior.
 - Question
 - Katie-How do they specifically work on behavior?
 - Providing positive alternatives, adult mentors. Flagship prevention program. Age appropriate
 - Heather-How many programs are funded? Each individual program applies is it competitive?
 - Funds are transferred to child care. 110 MOST grantees. \$5000 a year, focused on out of school activities. Grant is good for 3 years.
 - Any clubs charging \$10 a year still?
 - Havre, \$10 a month
 - Who manages MOST grants
 - ECSB manages grant, it is a low investment on the State level regarding effort.
- Danica Jamison, United Way, presented a proposal to support the Afterschool Alliance.
- - Formally known as Montana After School Network, revamping and launching this Fall
 - Requested Ffunding of \$35,000 a year for three years, as a match to CS Mott
 - Three goals
 - Improve quality
 - Improve Sustainability
 - Improve accessibility
 - Provide standards as to what a good after school program would look like.
- Bob Buzzas, Montana Continuum of Care-To expand on Barb's losing HUD funding.
 - HUD is the funder. For many years they have encouraged transitional housing. Rapid rehousing is their new focus.
 - Q-Jamie, The issue of housing comes up all the time. There is a 4 month limit through TANF dollars. Has there been a statewide look / research on housing.
 - Bob-Department of Commerce has not done a good job on acting in their assessment.
 - Mary-At each session it does not go anywhere. Maybe at this session Bob can push harder for housing
 - New resources to build new affordable units? No
 - Heather-Administrative requirements through TANF, if there may be some funding streams that would better serve Florence Crittenton purpose, or are TANF dollars your good fit.
 - Barb-Does feel the population is a TANF population. Any funding we receive will have hoops of admin requirements. Learned to braid together different resources to make our program work. Have been around for over 100 years, and this problem has always been around with pregnant teens.
 - Becky-does not feel TANF is a good fit for their program due to the goals of their outcomes. There are probably other funding streams that would have less onerous requirements.
 - Heather-Extending Contract length. Would support the idea of making the program provide some certainty, with some balance.

- Jamie - There is an opportunity to renew contracts over three years. Other things administratively we were able to address. The State was late in getting contracts out, there were issues.

4:00 Steering Committee discussion

What else do we need to know to wrap up the information gathering phase?

- Jamie-Nobody has really taken the magic wand question and dreaming big. Maybe we are closer than we think?
 - Kelsen-Confused about the rule of the steering committee. Feedback from contractors is saying “save my program” feels like she is being put into contract saving mode. If direction is about who is going to be funded, need more information. Strategic planning for program as a whole, which seems more valid.
 - Bob felt that we were clear in the charge to the committee, develop a framework that the programs we do serve are complementary and provide good outcomes. Craft general direction, craft new concepts, but first and foremost complement and lead to good outcome. Do not think you will be put in a position to choose programs. That is the Department’s job. Credibility that comes out of this will be good for legislature and others to see and of course will have some programs that fit in that slot.
- Jamie-Was asked if private meetings could be held, but no under public meetings. Should be able to speak freely, it is not a reflection on any agency, and it should be comfortable. Public also now understands what the role of the committee is.
- Katie-What do you want to know, what’s left to discover to move to the where do we want to be question...
 - Tanya- Comfortable
 - Lesa- I don’t know what I don’t know, don’t have an answer.
 - Mary- Of the committee members representing the TANF world, what do they need to participate? What discourages their participation with our approach/structure?
 - Katie-Maybe we can at least get their feedback over phone and connect between meetings
 - Rob- Would like a cost of how much things would cost the State or program
 - Kelsen-would like on the spot costing if needed. (Candee come to next meeting)
- Rob-If 1994 program was so successful, any way to reintroduce that program? Ridiculous to have to play the Work Participation Rate game to make some good things happen.
 - Jamie-a year or two ago, there was an initiative to reintroduce waivers. Politically charged, and it failed. However, there are some specific things especially around our Indian population we should pursue.
- Kelsen-Chart on proposed concepts, costs, effects and dedicated time to review, and committee members to discuss what ifs. Nebraska had a more intentional holistic process and should get more information on how they addressed the hard to serve populations. Get more information that Liz provided to see how that we can apply to Montana.
- Refresh in your time alone to think of what has been discussed and key in.
 - Assistance and non-assistance paperwork
 - Liz Schott’s ideas

4:30 Public comment

- Danica-United Way-Always have kids and family at the center, Data driven, ongoing systems check, funded partners to have broad, diverse strong partnerships, diversified funding, community level outreach
- Pam Carlson-There is a small number of people in state of Montana, participation rate is on their shoulders which makes them responsible to pull the federal monies into our state.
- Bobbie-TANF WoRC and child care needs to be tied together. Opportunities for people and allowed child care, always. Ten allowable hours a week does not give the child care need. Look at non-allowed hours to give better child care.

- Looking at continuity care policies. ECSB is also looking at their policy related to family friendly
- Lesa-Hearing the tribal piece, they are doing a better job at serving the individual. Can we get back to focusing on the population that needs the service TANF provides? Need the flexibility to build them, may not fit into the timeframe. Strengthen the program while we strengthen the individual.

4:45 Adjourn