

**Montana Financial Education Coalition  
Board of Directors' Meeting**

Friday, June 22, 2007  
Montana Credit Union Network  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes  
**(Action items in Bold)**

**Board members present:** Karen Smith, Marsha Goetting, Diana Fiedler, Bruce Brensdal, Janet Harper, Karen Nebel, Sue Woodrow. **Attending by conference phone:** Jennifer Kirby, Maria Valandra, Lisa Beavers (for Tom Jacobson), Henry Thompson, Kris Leitheiser (for Annie Goodwin), Norm Millikin, Kelly Bruggeman. **Guests:** Nancy Brown (National Jump\$Start Western States regional coordinator), Chennille Olson (Colstrip High School). *A quorum was present.*

MFEC President Karen Smith presiding.

- 1) **Jump\$Start State Leaders Meeting Overview.** Nancy Brown gave an overview of the Jump\$Start State Leaders meeting in Washington D.C. in April. Highlights of topics included state coalitions' challenges with recruiting, retaining and motivating volunteers; preparations for the 2008 JS National High School survey; areas the National Jump\$Start will be focusing on to promote growth; and technical and operational issues that state coalitions may encounter. The next state leaders meeting is tentatively planned for April 9, 2008. Nancy encouraged the board to begin thinking about who from the MFEC could attend. Nancy also mentioned that, beginning in September, she is going to be coordinating Western States coalition leaders' joint conference calls.
- 2) **MFEC Conference Review.** Karen reviewed the MFEC Conference final financial statement. The conference netted \$5,045.76. Norm made a motion to accept the statement; Sue seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. Marsha was commended and thanked for the tremendous leadership she provided for the conference.
- 3) **Partner Events.** Sue discussed the need for the MFEC board to begin thinking about events or activities that will allow MFEC partners to participate and become active in the work of the coalition. Sue and Maria shared how the Montana Indian Business Alliance holds its quarterly partner events, and suggested a similar model may be appropriate for the MFEC. The board discussed possibilities for the types of topics and activities that may be appropriate for these Partner events. Nancy shared ideas that other coalitions are doing to engage their partners, and offered to send Karen information about Oklahoma's JS Coalition events. Karen suggested the Americorps "Montana Making Sense" program as one potential topic. October 2007 was suggested as a good time to host the first Partner event. **Sue, Janet and Karen Nebel agreed to take the lead in providing a proposal for an October event. Sue will set up a conference call with Karen Nebel and Janet next week.** Marsha suggested that the week of Feb. 24 may be a good time to host a second Partner event in conjunction with national "America Saves" week.

- 4) **MFEC Youth Advisory Council Proposal.** Chennille Olson, a junior (2007-2008) from Colstrip, joined the meeting by conference call to present a proposal to the board to establish a youth advisory council to the MFEC board. Chennille participates in one of First Interstate Bancsystem's minibank programs, and attended the MFEC conference where she first formulated her idea. Board members responded favorably to Chennille's proposal, and requested that she provide her proposal in writing. **Sue and Kelly will work with Chennille to draft a written proposal.** Norm suggested that Chennille also ask Les Mahon, First Interstate branch president in Colstrip, to help her draft the proposal. Chennille was thanked for coming to the board with her idea, and agreed that engaging the youth in Montana more actively was a great suggestion. Nancy indicated that no other state J\$ Coalition has a youth board such as the one Chennille is proposing, and commended the board for its enthusiasm for agreeing to explore this idea further.
- 5) **NOTES.** Karen requested volunteers to take over the coordination of the NOTES newsletter. She reminded the board that NOTES will be an online publication moving forward, and that she has the template ready, in "Publisher," for whoever agrees to take this on. **Jennifer and Sue will coordinate this together. Jen will input the articles into Publisher, and Sue will take the lead on seeking and editing articles.**
- 6) **MFEC Website.** Karen noted that Joice Franzen is no longer with the MT Board of Housing (MBOH), and that Penny (?) from MBOH is now the lead on updating and maintaining the website. Karen noted that we need to keep the website updated with information to make it useful. In particular, the service directory needs to be populated. The board discussed the possibility of seeking an Americorp VISTA volunteer to do this. **Karen and Karen Nebel will explore this option, as Karen N. has two VISTA volunteers she will be supervising during this next year.**
- 7) **Strategic Planning Session.** Karen discussed the need to hold a strategic planning session in the near future, and suggested that the board should utilize an outside facilitator to work with the board in this process. **Janet and Maria will provide contact and cost information for potential facilitators to Karen. Karen will send out a Meet-o-Matic notice to set a date for this session in late August or early October.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Woodrow  
Secretary pro tem

