



Let's Move! Missoula
5-2-1-0 OST Working Group
August 21st, 8:15-9:45 a.m.
Currents Aquatics Center



Purpose: The Out-of-School Time Working Group takes action to understand and create safe, healthy out-of-school time environments for all Missoula County youth. Healthy out-of-school time activities and hobbies prevent regression in learning as well as social, emotional and physical well-being.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Dale Olinger, Lolo School District
- Matt Driessen, DeSmet Public School
- Donna Gaukler, City of Missoula Parks and Recreation
- Nicole Martin, Missoula Family YMCA
- Kelli Hess, Missoula Food Bank & Community Center
- Katie Moore, Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County
- Carleigh LeBlanc, Freestone Climbing Gym
- Nathalie Wolfram, Broader Impacts Group
- Jessie Herbert-Meny, SpectrUM
- Meg Whicher, City of Missoula Parks and Recreation
- Lisa Beczkiewicz, Missoula City-County Health Department
- Nani Murray, Let's Move! Missoula Intern
- Lisa Dworak, MCCHD - Let's Move! Missoula
- **Organizations and individuals that either couldn't attend or need to be invited to next meeting:**
 - Dana Kingfisher, Missoula Urban Indian Health Center
 - YWCA – GUTS program
 - Flagship
 - Missoula County Parks, Trails and Open Space

2. Brief background: Why are we focusing on OST in Missoula County? (15 min)

- a. Childhood health is predictive of later life outcomes; Whole child approach to health
- b. What in society has changed that we need to focus on OST? (Meg)
 - 2 working parents
 - Summer school (activity) only available to Missoula city children. County children account for 50% of kids. No options for kids outside of city limits; no busses etc.
 - Middle school kids babysitting siblings
 - Technology
 - Fear of letting kids roam; perceptions of safety
 - Before school times are hard for working families; Morning Move is a great option for the three City schools – nothing like MM! in the County schools. Plus, **many County parents are leaving at 7:15-7:30 a.m. to commute into Missoula.**

- Add question to survey about before school/ after school
- Loss of youth – different experiences making it hard to transition from individualized society to group activity and healthy conflict resolution
- 4/5th graders lacking sport structure (income disparities) less non-competitive, affordable opportunities especially in the more affluent schools
- County schools and neighborhoods lack places for kids to even do unstructured play (DeSmet area)
- Meals for out of school times is even a challenge: stigma, hard for families to ask for help
- Drop in participation @ 4th grade, we need more age appropriate, 5-8th grade different things. Organized sports in this town are designed for elite athlete's - kids who have been cultivating that sport skill since a young age.
- Kids who don't like playing with other kids – wanting more individualized sport (tennis, chess...) – staff intensive, qualified coaches, safe environment are all resource intensive
- After school time Lolo – facility hosts boys and girls club site – no OST for students other than middle school sports.
- Structure (above school), district lines, 24 hr open school park. (Matt)

3. Brainstorm: (30 mins)

a. What is your organization's goal or vision for OST in Missoula County?

- Group 1: Lolo and DeSmet: diverse local options, transportation – activity bus to take kids home, accessibility, staffing (trained, qualified), indoor/outdoor facilities, extra help if needed for homework although not the focus, educational experiences, doesn't have to be free, opportunities to mix with other schools and kids
- Group 2: YMCA, Parks: Programs tailored to individual interests, 1 on 1, staffing (qualified, paid, social workers), indoor/outdoor facilities, activity bus!
- Group 3: SpectrUM, Food Bank, FreeStone: Accessibility, transportation, partnerships between schools and programs, age dynamic/ grouping inclusion, shared language between school > programs (green, yellow, red), shared experiences between multiple schools (broadening friend groups), bringing kids out of Missoula.

b. What concerns do you have about accomplishing these goals?

- School: Breaks are not serving lower income families because of weather, lack of food, stressed parents, more harm than good.

- School: Stability in funding (once grants expire, programs end), facilities aren't big enough for everyone.
- School: Really hard for County schools to align their breaks with "the rest of Missoula (UM, MCPS)" because UM keeps changing their schedule.
- YMCA: Staff \$, reaching rural areas (transportation), collaboration between schools and programs, participant behavior.
- What do we do when school doesn't feel like a safe place?

4. Discussion: Community wide youth survey

a. Review survey

b. Feasibility

- Change to range for grade: k-6th, 7-9th, 10-12th.
- Demographic info is optional (age, race...), students may opt out, parent opt out kids

c. Consideration for mixed-methods such as focus groups or interviews

- Conduct an inventory of all the OST opportunities in Missoula County: Geographic needs school to school (Dale)

- **Parent Survey**

1. Consider the parent survey being the opt-out form for the youth survey

5. Actions:

- a. Collecting youth voice – focus groups or listening sessions, something creative
- b. Add Before school programming questions.
- c. Questions 16-18 > choose several (5), how are they feeling, quality of life at school, what do YOU want to do.
- d. Complete an inventory of current OST activities in Missoula County

Thank you!

