



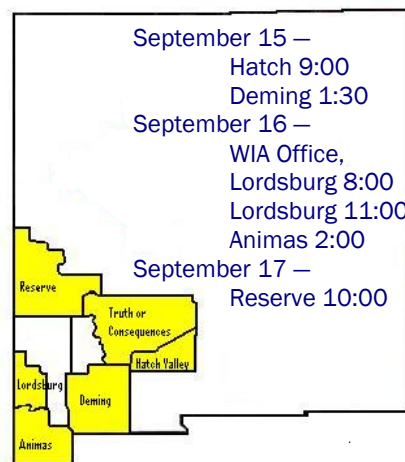
Southwest Regional Education Center

Newsletter

District Visits

Members of the REC will be visiting each district on September 15, 16, and 17. The purpose of the visits are to go over the new IGA's that we have to have in place with each district, finalize your Medicaid budgets, update you on the programs and ser-

vices we provide to your district, and to go over the budgets of the funds we manage on your behalf, and discuss any items you or your staff would like to discuss.



Special points of interest:

- Districts Visits coming soon
- New staff member, Sarah Clem
- After school program in Lordsburg
- Continuous Improvement Training

From the desk of *Sarah L. Clem*, Special Programs Coordinator

I am very excited to be a part of the SWREC! Thank you for welcoming me. I look forward to a very busy year.

September is full of exciting opportunities. I will be attending a four-day Crisis Prevention Intervention workshop, September

9-12, this will allow me to work with all of the districts and instruct various staff members on these techniques.

By the end of September, I will have visited and worked with almost all of our districts.

Trainings will include: Rtl, Mentoring New Special Education Teachers, Teaching Students with Autism and Down syndrome, SAT, New Mexico's Expanded Grade Expectations, Medicaid, and specific needs identified through file reviews.

Medicaid

Our Medicaid has just completed the first round of training for your related service providers. There have been some changes in the Maximus billing software that will make it more user-friendly and easier for staff to input data.

Now that we have 1 year of using Maximus under our belt, the entire process is going to be much smoother.

In addition we are getting the billing set up for nursing services and transportation services in your district.

This should help to increase your revenues.





Continuous Improvement Training

The SWREC has contracted with Dr. Debi-Molina Walters from ASU to provide Continuous Improvement training to Hatch Middle School and Las Montanas Charter High School.

Lordsburg has utilized her in the past and continues to work with Dr. Molina-Walters this year as well. Dr. Molina-Walters presents practical strategies for using classroom data for making decisions and improvements in student learning.

“Dr. Mo” as she likes to be called, is very energetic, enthusiastic and brings the practical experience of her many years of teaching to her presentations. We know that the schools in our region will benefit greatly from her technical assistance.

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21st Century Grant

We received notification that a 21st Century grant the REC wrote on behalf of Lordsburg schools was approved. The grant is for 4 years and will assist in providing after school programs for high school and middle school students. The first year amount of the grant is \$88,000.



From the desk of *Randy Piper*, Special Projects Coordinator

September will be a busy month for me as I will be attending mandatory meetings for the 21st Century Grant that we received for the Middle and High schools in Lordsburg.

I will also be attending a Teacher Mentorship workshop for two days relating to the development of the “New Teacher Mentorship Plans” that will be

due no later than November 26th to PED.

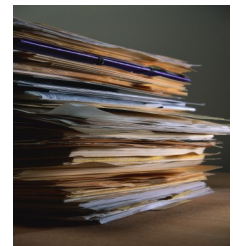
Also planned for the month will be New Teacher Mentorship meetings in T or C and at Las Montanas Charter High School in Las Cruces.

Finally, CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) trainings are planned in Reserve as part of their district in-service.

Audit

As I write this, our auditor is completing his visit. There will be 1 or 2 findings, but they are for things that we have no control over. One finding is the result of one of our banks pledging securities in Texas to cover our assets. This was something we did not know about.

The other finding is due to a bank paying us \$11 interest on a federal fund. We had requested the bank not to pay us interest, but they did. Overall, our audit will come out very clean and Geri is to be commended for her work.



REC Task Force

We had our last meeting of the REC task force this past week. The task force was created out of SMJ 41 to study REC’s and their funding. The REC directors and LESC staff will make a presentation to the LESC on September 9 in Chama to present the work we have done.

We will also make a legislative funding request to the LFC on September 26 in Santa Fe. We have not finalized our request amount yet, but we will request funding for an increased appropriation for fixed costs and to add an IT/Technology person to our staff that could provide services to member dis-

tricts. Types of services to be provided could include distance education, network administration, data analysis, and other services to meet your needs.