

Northwest Montana Head Start

MARCY OTTEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

Northwest Montana Head Start promotes the well-being and self-sufficiency of children and their whole family by providing opportunities in a nurturing environment.

Vision

NWMT Head Start Board of Directors, staff and families collaborate with community agencies to provide quality services that empower families and advocate for children.

NWMT Head Start is focused on strengthening the social, nutritional, emotional, physical and educational well being of the whole family.

NWMT Head Start strives to create positive and fulfilling environments, thereby encouraging the continuity of qualified, competent staff.

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Goal of Head Start

- ▶ Pull communities out of poverty
- ▶ Promote School Readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child
- ▶ Wrap around services

To improve the lives of children and families

Families leave more knowledgeable and better prepared than when they came to Head Start.

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Head Start Structure

- ▶ Programs are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families division
- ▶ Federal Grant
 - ▶ 20% In-Kind match required—community and family involvement \$530,323
- ▶ Board of Directors
 - ▶ Legal and Financial responsibility
- ▶ Policy Council
 - ▶ Responsible for leadership and program direction
- ▶ Comprehensive Services and Two Generation Model
- ▶ Head Start Program Performance Standards
 - ▶ Implementation of services is left up to individual sites

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NWMT Head Start

- ▶ Started in 1969 as a summer program, eventually transitioned to school year program
- ▶ Serve the communities of:
 - ▶ Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Canyon, Eureka
- ▶ Funded for 192 children program wide
 - ▶ Currently in process of a Change of Scope application to reduce enrollment to 132 : 5 FD (Kal, NV, and TV) 2 half day (Kal)
 - ▶ 2.3 million per year (80% in wages)
 - ▶ At least \$23,170 must be put aside for training and technical assistance
 - ▶ 5 year funding cycle, must write continuation grant each year
 - ▶ Serve the neediest of the needy—must meet eligibility requirements
 - ▶ Ten percent of the children must have a diagnosed disability

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Enrollment

- ▶ Funded for 192 children
 - ▶ Currently have 132 enrolled. We have not been fully enrolled for 3 years. Partially due to staffing issues, partially because we do not have enough income eligible families in our service area.
- ▶ Cumulative enrollment this year: 143
 - ▶ 73 three year olds
 - ▶ 70 four year olds
- ▶ 40 children in their second year with us
- ▶ 3 children in their third year with us
- ▶ 139 children on waitlist—all but 24 are ineligible (72 are over income)

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Eligibility

- ▶ 41—Income at or below 100% of federal poverty line
- ▶ 34—Recipient of Public Assistance
- ▶ 9—Foster care
- ▶ 48—Homeless
- ▶ 8—Income 101-130% of federal poverty line
- ▶ 3—Other

***these numbers represent the cumulative enrollment

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Health Requirements

Physical	88%
Dental	92%
Lead Test	91%
Immunizations	98%
Developmental (DIAL)	98%
Hearing	89%
Vision	82%
Behavioral (DECA)	100%
Speech	98%

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Special Services

- ▶ 11 children with diagnosed disabilities (Required to have 10% of funded enrollment)
 - ▶ 2—S/L impairment
 - ▶ 1—Autism
 - ▶ 6—Developmental Delay
 - ▶ 1—Blind
 - ▶ 1—OHI
- ▶ 12 School District referrals in process
- ▶ 27 children receiving on-site Speech/Language services
- ▶ 11 children receiving on-site Occupational Therapy services
- ▶ 16 children receiving outside mental health support
 - ▶ On-Site mental health specialist working with 12 children with behavior support plans that do not have current IEP's

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Attendance

Average Daily Attendance:	86.887
Kalispell	86.56
North Valley	87.5
Tobacco Valley	91.07

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Staff and volunteers

- ▶ 42 employees (includes substitutes)
 - ▶ 8 are current or former Head Start parents
- ▶ Teachers are required to have a minimum of a AA in Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Teaching Assistants must agree to get a CDA within 18 months of hire
- ▶ Instructional Coach, Mental Health Specialist, Family Advocate, Managers, Administrative staff, Kitchen and Custodial
- ▶ 223 volunteers
 - ▶ Most (166) are family members who are completing at home activities with their children

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Questions?

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Resources

- ▶ Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC)
 - ▶ <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>
- ▶ Head Start Program Performance Standards
 - ▶ <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii>
 - ▶ <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/exploring-head-start-program-performance-standards>
- ▶ Head Start Act
 - ▶ <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/head-start-act>