

Montana's Emerging Leaders

A Project of the Montana Transition Training,
Information and Resource Center (MT-TIRC)

December 18, 2009



Contact Information

University of Montana

Rural Institute Transition Projects

<http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition>

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MT-TIRC

- 3-year project funded by Administration on Developmental Disabilities
- Dissemination (training, newsletters, listserv, Online Transition Tool Box, Fact Sheets, conferences, web site, etc.)
- Support and Technical Assistance (to at least 30 student teams over three years)
- Leadership Development (Advisory Board with 51% of members under age 30 with a developmental disability; newsletters; presentations; etc.)
- Alternatives to Guardianship Project
- Emerging Leader Project

What is an “Emerging Leader”?

- Montanan
- Between ages 13 and 30
- With a developmental disability (MT definition)
- Living, working, learning, and/or playing inclusively in their community
- A role model and guide for other young adults and their families



What does “inclusive” mean?

- This is what MT-TIRC Advisory Board members had to say:
 - Not leaving somebody out - everyone should have a chance because everybody has potential and something to share
 - Activities or living in places that are not just people with disabilities separate from people without disabilities
 - Being part of the community
 - Belonging



Housing (Living)



Employment (Working)

Education (Learning)



Recreation (Playing)



Why spotlight Emerging Leaders?

- To help youth, families, and schools create an expanded vision for what life in the community could look like for young adults who have ongoing support needs.
- To share information about how necessary supports can be identified and funded/provided.
- To encourage creative funding such as blended services and natural supports, SSA work incentives, privately funded services or traded or bartered supports.

Emerging Leader Showcase

- First EL Showcase September 2009
- Posted to Transition Projects web site, RI/PLUK Online Transition Tool Box

http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/Partner_vol6_iss5.pdf

<http://sites.google.com/a/pluk.org/transition-toolbox/>

- Continuing to solicit nominations



How do I nominate an Emerging Leader?

- Complete brief Nomination Form and Media Consent form
- Submit forms to Kim Brown:
brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu; fax (406) 243-4730; or by mail: UM Rural Institute, 700 SW Higgins, Ste. 250, Missoula, MT 59803
- **If selected, Emerging Leaders will be contacted to arrange an interview and photo session for the Showcase**

How can I help advertise the Emerging Leader Showcase?

- Tell people about it!
- Send them to our web site:
<http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/EmergingLeaders.asp>
- Share copies of the first Emerging Leader Showcase:
http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/Partner_vol6_iss5.pdf
- Buy Emerging Leader T-shirts for all your friends and family members! T-shirt previews and ordering information are available on our web site.



INTRODUCING...

◉ Charlene (Carley) Lefthand-Irvine

- Self-Employed (Carley's Workshop)
- Student of the Year for S & K Tribes and Polson HS District; graduated 2002
- Served on AIDTAC Board of Directors
- MT-TIRC Advisory Board member
- charlenelefthand@bresnan.net

RUNNING MY OWN BUSINESS

- ⦿ I run my business at my own house.
- ⦿ I make calendars and business cards for people in our community.
- ⦿ I design, print and package them with some supports from my helpers.

RUNNING MY OWN BUSINESS

- ◉ I work about 2 hours every day, 5 days per week in order to meet orders that need delivery and to create new calendars for sale.
- ◉ I also make All Occasion Cards, called Montana Cards.
- ◉ I sell my cards and calendars twice a week in the community to add income to my business.
- ◉ I call my business Carley's Workshop.

RUNNING MY OWN BUSINESS

- ⦿ It is fun to be self-employed and make my own money.
- ⦿ I feel great about contributing to my own income!

LIVING ON MY OWN

- ◉ I live in Polson, Montana.
- ◉ Since I was 12 years old, I've wanted to work on living in my own place.
- ◉ I told my mother that I would like to have my own living situation after high school.
- ◉ She helped me to learn my own Personal Care Program in order to teach my PCA workers myself.
- ◉ I felt like I was in control of part of my own life.

LIVING ON MY OWN

- ⦿ Throughout high school, I learned independent living skills such as microwave cooking, buying my own groceries, and doing the laundry.

LIVING ON MY OWN

- ◉ My family still helps with financial management and medical decisions.
- ◉ But I have my own house next door to my mother's house and I am ready to live alone at night.
- ◉ During the day I have a PCA program and a Day Habilitation Program that continues to teach me employment skills and where I learn about furthering my education.
- ◉ After 8PM, I'll be on my own. I'll call my friends, play my music, and watch the DVDs I choose!

LIVING ON MY OWN


- ◉ I have supports in place for my protection, such as an emergency alert and a high-powered intercom that runs between both houses at all times.
- ◉ I also have a large sliding fire window installed beside my bed with a sign on it to alert firefighters to the emergency exit. I can be pulled out of the house through this window in a minute if a fire occurs.
- ◉ We also have fire alarms throughout the house.

LIVING ON MY OWN

- ⦿ I have a medical table with my emergency alert button, telephone and all my remote controls permanently fixed within my nighttime reach. I can call my mom or PCA to assist me at night if I need them.

LIVING ON MY OWN

- ⦿ I am safe and independent.
- ⦿ I am reaching my goals by having the technological supports I need to live independently!



Introducing:

Maclaen Burningham

Introduction

- ▶ I graduated from Polson High School in 2002.
- ▶ Due to the impacts of my disability, professionals doubted I could live on my own.
- ▶ Instead of becoming discouraged and giving up, my family set out to prove the experts wrong.
- ▶ Today I rent a trailer, work several jobs, enjoy time with friends and family and find different ways to relax and have fun when I'm not working.

Work Experiences

- ▶ I had several work experiences through the WISER grant while in school:
 - Polson City Library
 - St. Joseph Assisted Living
 - Mainsail Video
 - Top 40 Video
 - Odyssey Glass
 - Various offices in the county courthouse
 - Linderman School
 - Also chose to volunteer at the local humane society
- ▶ These experiences helped me make valuable connections to the community.

Current Jobs

- ▶ Library Aide at the Polson City Library
 - ▶ I've been there since my high school work experience
- ▶ Courtesy Clerk at Safeway
- ▶ Recently I've done some pet sitting services and am looking forward to doing more of that
- ▶ I'm also enjoying doing work for the Rural Institute and Montana Transition Training, Information and Resource Center (MT-TIRC) whenever possible
- ▶ I love being with people

Renting My Own Place

- ▶ I like the independence of living in my own home, making my own choices like all adults.
- ▶ I had to consider two important factors when choosing my housing.
 - First I didn't have a lot of money, with only SSI and limited wages. Rentals in Polson area are quite high.
 - Second, I wanted to be near my family so they could assist me with home maintenance, meals, and other areas where I needed a hand.

My Grandpa had the perfect option –
A trailer a few houses away.

My Home

- ▶ My home has a big living room where I can watch TV, listen to music, play on my Playstation, use my computer and spend time with my cats, friends and family.
- ▶ I have a bedroom, bathroom, mud room and an outside porch where I can have picnics or just relax outside if I want to.
- ▶ My kitchen has a refrigerator where I keep the cat food to keep it fresh, and meals if my parents are out of town. The rest of the time, I eat my meals with my family. This is what we have come up with to deal with an eating disorder that is part of my syndrome.

Learning to Live on My Own

- ▶ To live on my own I have had to learn how to pay rent using my Supplemental Security Income check and wages.
- ▶ I also had to get the basic necessities like a smoke alarm, fire extinguisher, phone, bedding and so forth.
- ▶ I take care of my belongings and keep my home clean.
- ▶ My parents, teachers and friends have helped me learn what I need to do.

Benefits of living on my own:

- ▶ I have my own computer so I can play games and type things
- ▶ I have a Playstation for video games
- ▶ I can watch satellite TV whenever I want...and watch what I want
- ▶ I can talk to friends and family on the phone
- ▶ I can have friends and family come over to MY house to visit
- ▶ I don't have to share a room with my brother anymore
- ▶ I don't have to abide by my parent's rules (in my home, my parents have to respect my rules and my feelings...which they do)
- ▶ I can have my own pets

MT-TIRC

- ▶ I'm a member of the MT-TIRC Advisory Board
- ▶ I helped represent the board at the October Youth Transitions Conference in Butte
- ▶ I helped give out MT-TIRC information and looked for emerging leaders (I nominated one of my co-workers who was interviewed and featured in a newsletter put out by the Rural Institute...I think he really liked receiving the shirt and \$25.00 the most!)
- ▶ I was one of four board members who ran a cracker barrel session at the conference – no parents were allowed to that meeting, so we could say whatever we wanted

More MT-TIRC Activities

- ▶ Last week I was able to help out with the open house for the Rural Institute in Missoula.
- ▶ I helped with a fundraiser.
- ▶ The money from selling T-shirts will be used to pay emerging leaders, for continuation of the MT-TIRC board, and for future activities.
- ▶ This way when the grant expires, we can continue to be of service.

I love what I do, where I live and
the family and friends that I have.

Final Thoughts

- ✓ Believe in yourself and what you want to do. Never give up. Keep trying. Try new things. Anything is possible. Your dreams will most likely come true.
- ✓ Be friendly, kind, courteous and work as a team with your parents and the people who provide services to you. Believe in others.
- ✓ When things go wrong, talk it out as a team and don't hold it inside.
- ✓ Learn from the examples of other people.
- ✓ The only thing you can count on is change – everywhere, all the time and in all places.

Danielle Dorman – College Student and Self-Advocate

By Danielle Dorman

Getting ready for college

- In high school, I was part of the Recycling Club, Special Olympics, the Wildcat Warehouse Club (student store), Key Club (my freshman year) and cross country. These activities all helped me learn to advocate for myself – to let people know what I want and need, to understand what works for me and what doesn't, and to speak up when I'm not being treated fairly.
- I attended the Montana Youth Leadership Forum in 2007. It helped me decide what I wanted to do with my life....teach children.

Off to college

- I am a student at Flathead Valley Community College.
- Last year I studied computers.
- This year I'm studying sign language and math.
- I have to ask for any accommodations I need. My guidance counselor helps me arrange for tutors.
- I pay for my classes with my SSI and I've also applied for financial aid.
- Eventually I want to transfer to the University of Montana to earn my teaching degree.

Extra Activities at College

- At college, I belong to Circle K, a group that does volunteer work in the community.
- I am working with a college counselor to start an Alliance for Students with Disabilities at Flathead Valley Community College.

MT-TIRC Advisory Board

- I'm serving my second term on the MT-TIRC Advisory Board
- We have board meetings 4 times a year, plus work group meetings more often (I'm part of the Emerging Leader/Online Mentoring Work Group)
- We share ideas about training topics, newsletters, and projects
- In October, we had a booth and a Youth Cracker Barrel workshop at the Transition Conference in Butte

Telling people about MT-TIRC

Recruiting Emerging Leaders


Shopping for Snacks for the Youth Cracker Barrel

Helping Lead the Youth Cracker Barrel


BUSY!!!!

- With school, work, friends, volunteer activities, the MT-TIRC Advisory Board, and the Flathead Valley YODA Club that I'm in, I keep pretty busy.
- And that's how I like it!!!

Isaac Baldry
Life my way....
and it definitely
needs a beach!



What tools you
use for life, do
not decide who
you are. It is my
life and I decide.



It is important to advocate for yourself. You might see a problem where no one else does.

CONSENT TO AUTHORIZE ADVOCACY AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Help at School

I, Isaac Baldry, hereby authorize Miles City School District to release and exchange information with my advocate, Theresa Baldry, which pertains to my school program and placement. I am also requesting that my advocate be invited to any and all meetings about me, and I do not want any decisions made without her input. I do not wish to discuss issues or concerns about my school day or program without my advocate present. If the school or district has any documents I need to sign, my advocate must sign first with me present, before I will sign. This authorization, unless otherwise revoked by me, will remain in effect for the durations of the time I receive special education services and until my twenty-fifth birthday. My advocate has read through this paper with me prior to my signing to make sure I understood and want this agreement.

Isaac T. Baldry

DESIGNATION FOR PATIENT ADVOCATE FOR
CARE, CUSTODY, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT DECISIONS

Help with Doctors

I am Isaac Baldry and I live at 720 S. Jordan in Miles City, Montana. I want Theresa Baldry, my advocate, to help me if I am sick and if I need to go to the doctor.

My advocate read this paper to me before I signed the paper and I understood what they told me about this paper.

If I am sick, my advocate should take me to the doctor. If she is not at my house when I become sick, please call her to go the doctor's office. I would like the doctor to talk to her about what is the matter with me.

I would like the doctor to ask my advocate what we have decided the doctor should do. I would like the doctor to do what the advocate tells the doctor to do in regards to my treatment.

Sometimes a doctor says that I need to have a shot or some other care. Sometime the doctor says I need to take pills or medicine. My advocate and I will talk about it and decide if I should have the shot, or take a pill, or some other medicine. My advocate will also help me decide what other care I should have, but she will talk to me about what care I need.

If I am very sick, I might need to go to a hospital. My advocate will help me decide if I need to go to the hospital. I would like all the people at the hospital to speak with my advocate and myself about what the people at the hospital should do for me. I would like my advocate to assist me to decide about my care at the hospital even if I am unable to understand what the doctor says about me. This is very important since I want the people at the hospital to try very hard to care for me if I am sick. If I need to have an operation because am very sick, I would like to have the people at the hospital talk to my advocate. My advocate will say "yes" or "no" and that is what the people at the hospital are to do.

I understand that I want my advocate to help decide what care I need, and I want people to listen to her about my care.

If my advocate is not happy with my doctor, then she is able to get another doctor to take care of me.

Isaac T. Baldry

Date

Check with your insurance to see what forms they have, so that someone can assist you in speaking with them.

Link to BlueCross Blue Shield of Montana
<https://www.bcbsmt.com/BlueDocs/AuthFormDisclosureOfAnIndHealthInfo.pdf>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana

Authorization for Disclosure of an Individual's Health Information

Subscriber or Dependent Whose Information is to be Disclosed
 Please print information in this section.

Name	Policyholder's Healthcare ID Number
Street Address	Daytime Telephone
City	State ZIP Code

Person(s) or Entity(ies) to Whom Information May Be Disclosed
 Please print information in this section.

Name	Daytime Telephone
Street Address	Daytime Telephone
City	State ZIP Code

Information to be Disclosed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana at the request of the individual authorized to do so
 Check all that apply.

- Health Plan Benefit Information:** Includes information contained in your benefit booklet (i.e., copayments, coinsurance, eligibility, and other benefit information.)
- Claims Information:** Includes information related to payment of your claims for services you received, including pertinent information located on a claim form (e.g., billed amount, general procedure descriptions, claim payment or denial reasons.)
- Authorization Information:** Includes information regarding pre-certification and authorization, including specific medical information related to requests and determinations.
- Premium Information:** Includes information related to billing cycles, bank draft changes, etc.
- Services from (provider or supplier and date(s)):** _____ from: _____ to: _____
(Includes information related to services rendered by a specific provider or supplier during the specific time period)
- Other:** _____
(Specify other information authorized for disclosure if it is not listed in one of the above categories; please be specific regarding the reason for disclosure)
- Other reason for disclosure (other than "at the request of the individual authorized to do so"):** _____

Length of Time for Which This Authorization is Valid
 Under applicable law, this authorization is valid up to 24 months (or a shorter period of time if so indicated) or for a particular event that has occurred, as stated in the authorization. If you are making this authorization for an extended period, the authorization must be renewed after its expiration. This authorization will remain in effect until:

- 24 months from the date of signature of this authorization; or
- Until _____ but no longer than 24 months from the date of signature.
(Month/Day/Year)
- All information relating to a certain event or injury has been provided (e.g., "Back injury from April 2002" or "formal research").
 Specify event(s) and approximate date(s) of event(s) _____

- I understand that I may refuse to sign this authorization and that my refusal to sign will not affect my ability to obtain treatment or payment or my eligibility for benefits with BCBSMT. However, there may be consequences with the intended recipient of this information.
- I understand this authorization is not valid without the required signature.
- I understand I have the right to revoke this authorization at any time in writing, except to the extent that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana has already provided the information. To revoke this authorization, contact Customer Service at 1-800-447-7828.
- I understand that the recipient of this information may possibly re-disclose the information to others without my knowledge or authorization; therefore, the privacy law may no longer protect my information.

Print Full Name	Signature	Date
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RELATIONSHIP/AUTHORITY
 Please check one. Include documentation with this form for items marked with an asterisk (*) below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney*	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Personal Representative Designation*
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent of Minor Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian*	

Office Use Only { Tracking No. _____
 Name: _____

NOTE: The highlighted information is required.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCLOSURE INDIVIDUAL 07290 Revised July 2008 52


Cheatsheet

- Name: First, Last, Middle
- Birthdate, not birthday
- Home address: street, city, state, and zip code
- Phone numbers or contact numbers
- Email Address
- Social Security Number
- Passwords

**Keep in a
safe place,
but for
your use**

Alternatives to Guardianship Project

<http://sites.google.com/a/pluk.org/guardianship/>



I started public
speaking as a
Global Messenger
for Special
Olympics.

Now I can speak
at Conferences;
I love to travel.



I can't wait to see what my next adventure will be!

Questions?

