1. **State and team personnel changes**

   A number of workgroups have been reconfigured or subcommittees of the workgroup have been created to draw on areas of strength and emphasis within the workgroups.

   - A subcommittee of the Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) workgroup has been created, with the developmental coordinator at each college of technology (COT) and the ABLE provider in each COT community.
   - A subcommittee of the Transitions workgroup has been identified to focus specifically on dual enrollment policy and protocol.

2. **Progress on common evaluation milestones**

   a. Identify and hire an evaluator, in consultation with SPEC ✓
   b. Participate in an evaluation orientation (in-state) ✓
   c. Submit baseline data (including year and source, if not IPEDS) for the seven core Delta metrics, to SPEC ✓
   d. Submit additional metrics and baseline data (including definition, year, source) to SPEC ✓

   Tyler Trevor provided the baseline data, and will resubmit as requested to ISKME by April 30.

   Additionally, state-specific evaluator Anne Clark worked with state lead and project director to finalize evaluation plan, and began data collection through formal and informal interviews and meetings.

3. **Upcoming activities and events relevant to the initiative**

   - May 6 and 20 Biweekly implementation team teleconference (even-numbered Thu.)
   - May 3 Dual Enrollment Subcommittee meets
   - May 12-13 David and Mary attend I-BEST demonstration in Seattle
   - May 20 Mary provides plenary session on COLLEGE!NOW at Montana TRIO Conference
   - May 25 Webinar with Montana College Access Network
   - May 26-28 Expected approval of Regents transfer core, report on related instruction, dual enrollment to Board of Regents

4. **Activities and progress this month, as they relate to the following (taken from the scope of work)**

   a. **The goals for overall project coordination**

      - On target. Implementation team continues to meet regularly to oversee progress. Staff has been using KC to share information with implementation team and work groups, using both public and private Montana spaces. Communications and engagement consultant, state adviser, and state-specific evaluator participate in Implement Team conference calls.
b. The goals for communications and engagement

- COLLEGE!NOW community tours across the state are planned for September and October. There will be multiple target groups in each community including the media, K-12 and service groups.
- Logo for COLLEGE!NOW and web site should be up in May.
- Presentations to Helena Rotary Club and Montana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO), were well received.

c. The goals for bringing the community college mission to all two-year campuses, including activities of the four work groups

i. Developmental

- OPI’s Joyce Silverthorne and Mary had phone conversation with Bruce Vandal of Education Commission of the States to get suggestions on next steps; Joyce and Mary also conferred with Linda Doran of TN on their developmental program. Plan to bring Bruce and Treva Berryman from TN to MT this summer.

- Developmental Workgroup has been invited to participate in webinar jam on developmental education hosted by ECS on April 29.

- Mary attended various sectionals on developmental education at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference April 16-18. Excellent examples from College Board, Texas, Virginia to explore.

ii. Adult-friendly

- David Morey from MT Dept. of Labor and Pat Wise, Governor’s workforce adviser, attended NGA Forum on Adult Credentialing in Washington D.C. and brought back suggestions for presenters at Montana’s Forum scheduled for August 12 in Kalispell.

- Mary attended AACC sessions presented by CAEL, Lumina, Gates Foundation, I-BEST and identified potential consultants/speakers.

- Mary and David will attend I-BEST demonstration in Seattle.

- Implementation Team considering state response to Lumina RFP on adult credentialing.

iii. Adult basic literacy education (ABLE)

- Implementation team is weighing pros and cons of pushing for statutory changes to move ABLE to the two-year colleges, versus seeking a collaborative solution.

- A meeting of the ABLE/Developmental Joint Subcommittee is being arranged to focus specifically on expanding programs and services at the COTs.

iv. Workforce responsiveness
– Pat Wise and Mary will launch the Business/Industry Workforce Responsiveness workgroup on April 27, with Jane Karas and John Cech servings as Implementation Team liaisons.

– A survey of current practices for workforce responsiveness at the two-year campuses has been conducted; results to be compiled this week and presented to the workgroup next week.

d. The goals for making two-year colleges regional hubs, including activities of the two work groups:

i. High School/College transitions

– Task force developed overview of dual enrollment, listing benefits and concerns; developed matrix of existing dual credit and college credit programs; made recommendations regarding definitions and issues related to curriculum, faculty, students, administration, and finance, which were presented to Board of Regents March 4.

– A subcommittee of the Transitions workgroup has been identified to explore the dual enrollment recommendations and identify appropriate groups for developing and vetting specific policies and procedures. Their initial meeting will be May 3. Governor’s education adviser Dan Villa is hoping to see progress on this in time for Race to the Top Phase II proposal, due June 1. An update with potential endorsement of strategic approaches by the Board of Regents will occur at the May meeting.

– In its April 2 meeting, MACRAO agreed to abide by language OCHE develops on how CTE college credits shall be reflected in transcripts.

ii. Curriculum coordination and alignment

– Completed review of program compliance issues by program, and drafted guidelines for coming into alignment. Draft was presented to Leadership Council (senior officials from all MUS-affiliated campuses) on April 7. Leadership Council advised Mary to begin using the guidelines with program directors and adjust as needed along the way.

– Proposal for Regents Transfer Core sent to that workgroup in early April. Conference call for the workgroup was conducted on April 15; revisions sent to workgroup on April 16. OCHE will send to all campuses’ Chief Academic Officers on April 23 with feedback requested by May 6. Goal is to bring a proposed certificate of completion of the Regents Transfer Core to the Regents by May 26. Campuses will be encouraged to offer this certificate and to encourage their students to pursue it.

e. The goals for technology infrastructure, including activities of the two work groups:

i. Technology for efficiency

– MSU integration of four campuses onto single Banner instance is progressing on schedule, as is conversion of Miles and Dawson CC to Banner.
Recommended guidelines on general and online program duplication have been developed by OCHE and the campuses will “test-drive” them with the Level I requests for the May Board of Regents meeting.

ii. Virtual community college

- Core program and six CTE programs have been identified for the COLLEGE!NOW Online Consortium of five two-year colleges
- Collaborative agreement has been drafted and is being revised for signatures by all campuses April 26
- Website for COLLEGE!NOW Online is being developed.
- Promotion of COLLEGE!NOW Online with counselors and high school principals will be emphasized April 27 – May 27.

f. The goals for outcomes-based funding

- NCHEMS’ Dennis Jones has assisted the Montana team in identifying a funding model based on student credit hours completed and a valuing of courses based on regents’ strategic plan. Model was vetted with chief fiscal officers in early April and with Leadership Council on April 7. Plans are to implement the model in July 2011.
- Montana has requested to send four team members to the Indiana site visit in May. Three are approved, and one is pending decisions by other states.