

Renee Hyde, Committee Chair, called the Committee of Practitioners meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the Daugherty Center Conference Room at Hastings College.

Attendees

Eileen Barks
Donna Bishop, via Zoom
Anne Caruso
Andy DeFreece
Susan Evans
Bill Heimann
Renee Hyde
Tara James
Kraig Lofquist
Deb Ross
Kris Schneider
Barbara Sunderman
Bob Ziegler

NDE Staff

Brooke David
Pat Frost
Karen Hardin
Sue Henry
Joan Luebbbers
Randy McIntyre, via Zoom
Cathy Mohnike
Diane Stuehmer
Janine Theiler
Beth Wooster
Benjamin Zink

Not in Attendance

Cheryl Burrell
Veronica Estevez
Lyn Forester
Tina Forte'
Jan Handa
Michele Hensley
Linda Hix
Melody Hobson
Randy Johnson
Kim Larson
Pat Madsen
Ann Nickerson
Susan Oliver
Deb Romanek
Kristin Schultz
Terri Schuster

Welcome & Introductions

Diane Stuehmer, Director of School and Student Support and Services, welcomed members and introduced Kirk Russell who will be joining the NDE team in Brad Conner's old position in July and Bill Heiman, ESU #1 Administrator who is new to the committee. Members were asked to introduce themselves and finish the sentence "My life is like . . ."

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Reminder

Renee Hyde, reminded the committee that the committee follows the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A written copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review at all Committee of Practitioner's Meetings. Renee asked if there was any public comment, there was no response.

Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2017

Kraig Lofquist made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Susan Evan seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the members unanimously approved the minutes.

C.O.P Membership Needs

Diane Stuehmer shared that the committee is still in need of representatives in the specific areas of local school board members, parents, teachers, paraprofessionals and building level administration. Please submit the names and contact information of possible candidates to the Ad-Hoc committee or Diane Stuehmer.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Diane Stuehmer shared that NDE offered services to all ESUs in the state to provide presentations on the changes to the 2017-18 ESSA Consolidated Application. NDE staff went to all but two of the ESUs. A PowerPoint including the changes was shared and then time was provided to those wishing to work on the application. The response for these workshops were very positive. NDE anticipates doing this again for 2018-19. Andy DeFreece and Kris Schneider shared that having NDE representatives on the spot was very helpful.

Educator Equity Plan Update

Janine Theiler shared that Nebraska is working on final adjustments to the ESSA Plan per feedback by the US DoE. For the Educator Effectiveness section of the ESSA Plan, the feedback includes requested adjustments to what is currently our Nebraska State Equity Plan. The most significant adjustment is an expectation that Nebraska will define and report on rates of access to “ineffective” teachers. Many states are using their statewide system of evaluation to comply with this reporting requirement. The Nebraska Model System of Evaluation was originally developed, in part, to fill this need, and the Nebraska State Board Education Vision and Direction cites the goal “By 2020, 100% of Nebraska schools will utilize performance standards and a research-based evaluation system for all certificated staff as aligned to Rule 10.” Nebraska hopes to use the “2020 goal” to catalyze capacity building so that all districts might comply with the federal “ineffective teacher” reporting requirement, and the Nebraska Model system of Evaluation may be able to serve as the reporting framework. Before any formal decisions are made, preparatory work must take place. At this time, the Nebraska Department of Education is establishing an Advisory Group to guide decision-making and engagement activities that will be necessary in order to all forward movement is informed by Nebraska stakeholders and thoroughly communicated to all stakeholders. Barb Sunderman, Director of Field Experiences for Hasting College, shared that Higher Education has just created clinical practice resources for a pre-service statewide system for student teachers. The documents were forwarded to all COP members during the meetings for their reference.

Nonpublic Updates

Diane went over the within boundaries nonpublic consultation changes and checklist which will be a helpful tool in the consultation process for 2018-19 services. She provided clarification regarding transferability and how that affect public and nonpublic equitable allocations. Diane also reminded the committee of the requirement that Nonpublic funds are to be spent in the year they are awarded. These funds must benefit the students learning not an individual teacher or the school as per a conversation with Libby Witt from USDE.

ESSA Consolidated Application for 2018-19

Diane shared that NDE does not anticipate many changes to the Consolidated Application for 2018-19 school year.

Consortia

Diane shared that Consortia will continue as all or none (100% consorted) assigned to ESUs. There will be the option to consort Title IV funds for the 2018-19 school year. Information is coming soon. Since NDE is late in getting this information to ESUs, the due date will most likely be pushed back to allow ample time for ESU's to contact districts.

Monitoring 3-year schedule continues

Beth Wooster, Assistant Director of School and Student Support and Services, reported there are no changes to the monitoring schedule. Diane added that if an LEA requests a change, it can be moved up, but not back as there cannot be more than three years between visits. This was a finding during a recent State Audit. Beth shared that time and effort reporting is being looked at very closely, not only semi-annual and Personnel Activity Reports (PARs) for regular staff, but also examples for substitutes, tutors, and stipends. For time and efforts used for PD activities or activities where it is used to pay stipends, it's important to have a dated sign-in sheet, which includes the name and date of workshop, and signed by the supervisor for professional development.

Nebraska Allocations

There is no news right now as allocations for 2018-19. USDE is operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) until March 23. Preliminary allocations will be posted as soon as they are available.

Title I-A: Educationally Disadvantaged

Beth Wooster shared that the National Title I Conference was in Philadelphia in February. There were many great sessions with a wide variety of focus. Plan ahead for next year, the 2019 conference will be in Kansas City January 30th- February 2nd. In 2020 the conference will be in Atlanta, GA; in 2121 it will be in Boston, MA; and in 2022 it will be in New Orleans, LA.

Beth shared that Schoolwide Peer Reviews will be taking place April 10th through the 19th in Kearney, Norfolk, Omaha, North Platte, Wakefield, Lincoln and Scottsbluff. Plans that are to be reviewed are due to NDE by April 2nd. Those participating in reviewing plans will also do a schoolwide plan self-review, which is due by May 1st. The other third of the Title I schoolwide buildings are participating in monitoring this year. NDE is looking into other options for schools to submit Schoolwide Plans, as the use of thumb-drives is being discouraged.

Head Start:

Joan Luebbers, Head Start coordinator, presented information on the Head Start Center-Based Service Duration. Originally the reauthorized Head Start Performance Standards stated by August 1, 2019 Head Start programs (for children ages 3 to 5 years old) must provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations over at least eight months per year for at least 50% of their center-based funded enrollment. On January 2018, the Secretary cancelled the mandate due to insufficient funding to avoid serving fewer children. The increase in duration was based on research, which shows that half-day programs (minimally 3.5 hrs. four days a week for 128 days) are less likely to provide the necessary exposure to high-quality early learning experiences that children need to be ready to succeed in school. NE Head Start grantees currently provided full-day services (mostly 6 hrs. daily with some providing 8 hrs. daily) to about 49% of the 4,059 children. Programs are still free to increase the duration of services.

What remains in effect until August 1, 2021 is that Head Start grantees must provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations for 100% of their enrolled children. If Congress does not appropriate

significant funds, the Secretary would likely make a similar determination to waive this mandate. The increase in Early Head Start (EHS) (birth to age three) duration also remains in effect. By August 1, 2018 programs must provide 1,380 hours of planned class operation for infants and toddlers enrolled. An exception is a program which to meet the needs of the young parents operates in a public school setting. EHS may follow the public school calendar if it provides regular home-based services during the summer break.

Title I-A School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Karen Hardin, School Improvement Consultant, gave an update on the School Improvement Grant (SIG). The final Intervention Project Manager (IPM) meeting for this school year is scheduled for March 21. The spring onsite visits will be done in April. The end of year SIG presentations are scheduled in June. This is where each of the SIG schools gives a 30-minute presentation that covers leading indicators, sharing data and success stories about what has occurred in this year's SIG process. There are currently seven SIG schools receiving funds that total around \$5,000,000. These funds run through the 2020-2021 school year.

Karen also reported on the award of supplemental funds. Five of the seven current SIG schools applied for additional funds through the SIG Supplemental Funds application. The amount available was \$110,000 and allowed NDE to only award additional funds to two current SIG schools. The focus was on serving as many students as possible, biggest impact on students and those with greatest need. Lincoln High School was awarded \$70,000 to be spend in the next three years and Umo n Ho n Nation was awarded \$40,000 to be implemented in 2018-19.

Diane shared that the first Comprehensive Support and Intervention (CSI) will be identified in the fall of 2018, and Targeted Support and Intervention (TSI) schools will be identified in 2019. How CSI and TSI schools will be supported is still being determined. CSI schools include the lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools and high schools with graduation rates below 67%. TSI schools will focus on low-performing subgroups of students.

Title I-C: Migrant

Benjamin Zink provided information in regards to the upcoming Migrant Education Program (MEP) state conference. Benjamin also provided the *2018 Nebraska MEP At a Glance* document. The document provides a brief summary of the purpose of the program, demographics of the Nebraska migrant students, and types of services provided to enable migrant children and youth to succeed in school.

During the summer of 2018, the Nebraska MEP will be hosting 15 teachers from Mexico as part of the Binational Migrant Education Initiative – Teachers from Mexico Summer Exchange. The purpose of the program is to improve the education of migrant children who travel between the U.S. and Mexico. The program promotes ongoing communication between U.S. and Mexican teachers in order to share educational experiences that promote continuity of educational practices. Host sites participating in the 2018 binational program are ESU 1, ESU 7, ESU 13, Hastings Head Start Child & Family Development Center, Madison Public Schools, and Omaha Public Schools.

Sue Henry provided information regarding the MEP process for determining how funds are provided for priority services for children and youth with greatest need. In reviewing the process for the past several years the sub-allocation formula had included the number of migrant child served vs the migrant child count for each designated migrant project. Using the child served criteria; there has been significant

fluctuation in the amount of funds a MEP project receives through the sub-location process. It has been difficult for some projects to develop a comprehensive service delivery plan for migrant children and youth due to the fluctuation of funds from one year to the next. Beginning with the 2018-2019 MEP sub-allocation process, the state will use “child count” instead of “child served” criteria as part of the process for determining sub-allocations. This should minimize the fluctuation of funds a project receives from one year to the next.

Title I-D: Delinquent

Pat Frost, Title I Part D Coordinator, provided a brief summary of Part D in Nebraska. She explained how the caseload counts are used to generate the funds for each state. This April there will be a National Webinar on ESSA Part D and Juvenile Justice facilities. Ms. Frost will present the Educational Academic Online Plan information in this webinar. In May, the National Part D, Neglected and Delinquent Conference will be held in Washington DC. The Education of Students Involved in Systems group will have an institute this summer for the Rule 18 and Special Purpose Schools.

Title III: English Acquisition

Brooke David, Title III Consultant, updated the group about the changes to Rule 15. We are waiting on the Governor’s signature for approval of changes included in the updated Rule. In April, NDE staff will lead the work on updating the Rule 15 Implementation Guide, which will be ready for folks to implement the changes in the fall. The ELPA21 testing window finished on March 16th. Reports will be available in the Online Reporting System on May 4th. The ELPA21 Screener will be seeing some changes on August 1st including a new speaking item and semi-adaptive testing. Results will be (mostly) immediate. Scoring options are still under review. Brooke also shared the resources that were developed as a result of the ELA-ELP Standards Alignment work and the Math-ELP Standards alignment work. Resources include materials with supports for English learners in Math and ELA, sample lessons, and webinars.

Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program

SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program applications are due to USDE by April 20th. Districts are now required to submit an annual application. This grant is awarded directly from USDE. There was no report for RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program

Title VII-B: Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento grant will be tested in April and will be ready to open in May. Since substantial changes were made to the grant last year, no changes are being made for this year. ESSA requires the McKinney-Vento grantees to be on a monitoring schedule. It has been decided that Nebraska’s McKinney-Vento grantees will be monitored the same year as their Title programs are monitored. This year that includes Hastings, Lexington, North Platte, Fremont, Crete, Ralston, Westside and Papillion LaVista.

ESSA also requires the training of every local liaison. Initially Nebraska was working to contract with a company that was building a program for the liaison training. This project did not pan out as hoped, so Nebraska will build a program in-house.

The 30th Annual National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference is October 27-30 in sunny Anaheim, CA!

Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality

Karen Hardin gave an update on the Title II-A Program. The NDE Title II-A website has been updated to include the ESSA law and guidelines. The list of allowable activities for State and Local is posted and the definition of Evidence-based is included. Karen reminded members that Title II-A funds should be tied to needs assessment and aligned with state standards through meaningful consultation. There is continued discussion concerning the continuation of Class-Size Reduction (CSR) next year. The Title II-A application provides recommendations regarding CSR.

REMINDERS: Title II-A funds can't be used to replace anything previously purchased or paid with district funds. AdvancED training can be counted as continuous improvement training IF this is new to district and never purchased with district funds. Title II-A funds cannot be used to pay memberships, licenses or renewals of any kind. The funds MUST focus on professional development trainings.

Title IV-A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)

Diane provided background information on the Title IV-A, SSAE Grant. Areas of focus include Well Rounded, Supporting Safe and Healthy Students, and Supporting Effective Use of Technology. Since Nebraska awarded funds through a competitive process for 2017-18, the responsibility of meeting requirements for distribution of the funds fell on the State rather than individual districts. Eleven grants were awarded throughout the state ensuring geographic and school size distribution. It is unknown whether Title IV-A will be funded for the 2018-19 school year.

Diane reported attending a Title IV-A national meeting in January. At that time representatives of USDE did not know what kind of reporting or monitoring would be required for this grant. NDE held a ZOOM meeting in February for all Nebraska Title IV-A grant recipients.

Title IV-B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

Beth Wooster shared on behalf of Jan Handa that the 21st Century Learning Center grant program recently conducted a grant competition. Proposals recommended for funding will be on the agenda for approval at the April 6th State Board of Education meeting.

Title II-B: Math and Science Partnerships - no report

ESSA State Plan Update

Diane reported that the ESSA State Plan was submitted. Feedback was received from USDE on December 23rd. Due to the timing of the feedback, NDE requested an extension for submitting revisions. The plan was resubmitted in January and the team was had conversations with ED in January, February and March. They still have questions on the specific sections of the plan. The state goal is to align AQuESTT and ESSA into a single accountability system.

NDE Reorganization

Diane shared with the committee information about the reorganization at NDE. There are three divisions: Student and Client Success and Services lead by Mark Schulz – at least until Mark heads to USDE for his new job; School Improvement Support and Services lead by Dr. Deb Friesen; and Operations and Division Support lead by Brian Halstead. The goal of department is to have communication among/between departments to better meet the the needs of districts. The reorganization is to be fully implemented by July 1, 2018. Renee suggested that it would be nice if the commissioner share his plan with districts at Administrator Days.

Hispanic/Latino Summit Update

Beth shared that the future of the Hispanic/Latino Summit is on hold. There will be more information at the June COP meeting on the status of this conference.

NDE Data Conference

The NDE Data Conference will be on April 16-17, 2018: *Building Connections: NSSRS to ADVISER Conference* at the Younes Center in Kearney

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 @ LPSDO Board Room, Lincoln

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 @ ESU #9, Hastings

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM