

## MINUTES

DATE: November 3, 2022

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Members Present

Lisette Allen, Lauren Colangelo, Alex Dominguez, Stephanie Dominique, Pamela Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Marilyn Harris, Lauren Hodge, Carrie Matthews, Cris Munoz, Sharon Sanchez, Mary Thomas

### Members Absent

Estella Anzualda, Melody Collier, Meredith Dodd, Mia Hall, Alexis Neumann, Ellie Ross

### Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Didi Garcia, LaNetra Guess, Jaime Huerta, Idalia Ibanez, Nez Paniagua, Gerardo Ramirez, Vivian Smyrl, Anita Villarreal

### Call to Order

9:00 a.m. Jaime Huerta reviewed the virtual meeting norms. Alex Dominguez called the meeting to order.

### Welcome

#### Welcome and Roll Call

Alex Dominguez, COP Committee Chair, welcomed all. For roll call, Jaime Huerta instructed members to type their name using the chat feature on zoom.

### Committee Discussion Items

#### Title I, Part A Statewide Initiatives

**Jaime Huerta, State Director – Title I, Part A** shared the 2022-2023 statewide initiatives that are funded through Title I, Part A. The first initiative he reviewed is the ESC ESSA Basic Services Initiative for Title I, Part A. The ESC ESSA Basic Services Initiative for Title I, Part A is a \$2.6 million grant the agency provides to ESCs. This grant provides funding to ESCs to provide technical assistance to LEAs for the Title I, Part A and related programs. The funding allocations for each ESC is posted on the ESC ESSA Basic Services site. He reviewed the list of ESC requirements for the ESSA Basic Services Initiative. There were no questions from the committee members present.

Mr. Huerta also discussed highlights of the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Initiative. ESC Region 16 currently has this grant. He shared a responsibility in this initiative is for ESC Region 16 to host the Statewide Parent Involvement Conference. A new deliverable for the PFE Initiative is to provide an ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Institute for ESCs. The PFE Initiative is doing cluster trainings for customer service in schools. This grant will undergo a competitive grant process in Spring 2023. The committee asked about the selection process. Mr. Huerta explained that all ESCs are eligible to apply for the competitive grant. The applications received by the deadline are scored, and then a decision is made on who will be awarded the grant.

Mr. Huerta then shared highlights of the Parent and Family Engagement Council and Statewide Training Grant. ESC Region 16 has this grant, which is funded through Title IV, Part A. Due to the pandemic, the Navigating the School System in Texas Project has been on hold. This is a web portal that includes aspects on navigating the school systems in Texas. He reviewed the training/professional development opportunities provided through this grant.

Mr. Huerta then shared ESC Region 20 currently has the Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Statewide Capacity Building Initiative. He reviewed activity highlights of this grant.

Finally, Mr. Huerta discussed two Title IV, Part A Program Initiatives. One is the Title IV, Part A ESC ESSA Basic Services grant for all ESCs. This provides funds for ESCs to provide technical assistance and support. The other Title IV, Part A Program Initiative Mr. Huerta shared was the ESC Title IV Capacity Building State Initiative. ESC Region 14 has this grant.

## **Title I, Part C Statewide Initiatives**

**Didi Garcia, State Director - Title I, Part C (MEP)** provided an overview of all the initiatives and LEA funding provided by the state's migrant program. There are five initiatives and two contracts. The first initiative Mrs. Garcia reviewed was the ESC ESSA Basic Services Initiative – MEP for all 20 ESCs. She indicated the funding for this grant is \$4.7 million. The amount of funding ESCs receive is dependent on the number of students they have participating in the program in their region. If a district chooses not to participate in the migrant program, then it is up to the ESC to serve identified migrant students. She shared activity highlights for this initiative.

Mrs. Garcia then shared activity highlights for the MEP Consolidated Capacity Building Initiative. ESC Region 20 currently has this grant. She discussed the Texas Migrant Education Portal (TMEP) which is a one-stop shop app the Region 20 team has developed with this grant.

The third initiative Mrs. Garcia shared was the MEP Curriculum Initiative. ESC Region 20 has this grant. She indicated the funding and activity highlights for this grant. One highlight of this initiative is Project SMART. Project SMART has developed training and technical assistance, maintains all components, and has translated material into Spanish for grades Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

The fourth initiative shared was the TMIP Initiative that Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD currently has. She shared the funding and activity highlights of this initiative. This team manages a helpline in state and out of state.

Finally, Mrs. Garcia discussed the CNA/SDP/Evaluation Contract with Meta and Associates and the TX-NGS Contract with Catapult Systems.

## **Title I, Part D Program Overview**

**Gerardo Ramirez, Program Director – Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A**, provided an overview for the Title I, Part D program. which serves neglected, delinquent and at-risk students. Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 provides funding to state agencies. Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 provides funding to LEAs. Mr. Ramirez emphasized the need for these programs to have plans in place to assist students to transition back to the community.

TEA in collaboration with ESCs and the Capacity Building Initiative produced three resources for LEAs that are participating in Title I, Part D, Subpart 2. The resources are a template for the formal agreement, a sample of the formal agreement, and a guidance document with considerations for formal agreements.

## **Title II, Part A Program Overview**

**Gerardo Ramirez, Program Director – Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A**, shared the purpose of Title II, Part A, and areas of focus. He emphasized the need for activities under Title II, Part A to be evidence-based. It important to be mindful of the context of the research. There are six compliance requirements that program recipients need to ensure are occurring with this program. There needs to be a system for professional growth and the activities need to align with state standards. Funding for this program has been going up little by little.

## **Ed-Flex Waiver Review Training**

**Vivian Smyrl, TEA Ed-Flex Program Director** shared the committee will be considering an Individual Programmatic Waiver during the meeting. Therefore, Ms. Smyrl provided a refresher training, so the committee has information on this topic to inform their recommendation. The individual programmatic

waivers are aimed at providing program flexibility. LEAs can apply for districtwide or campus-specific waivers. Ms. Smyrl reminded the committee about which programs are covered by the Ed-Flex Waiver program and which requirements cannot be waived.

## Committee Action Items

### Individual Programmatic Waiver Application for High Point Academy

**Vivian Smyrl, TEA Ed-Flex Program Director** shared the waiver request from High Point Academy. The copy of the waiver application, as well as the staff analysis document was sent to the committee for review prior to the meeting. Also included in that information was a copy of the SC5000 schedule from the LEA's Consolidated Federal Grant Application. The LEA has one campus not served for Title I, Part A. The low-income percentage reported on the SC5000 is 28.72. This is below the district percentage of 31.42. For the current decision, the committee only has the authority to approve the waiver through the 2023-2024 school year because that is the current limit of the state's Ed-Flex authority.

Statutory requirements for the Title I, Part A Eligible School Attendance Areas was reviewed. If the waiver is approved, the district could also request the schoolwide waiver in the application so that it could offer a Title I, Part A schoolwide program at the campus.

Alex Dominguez, Committee Chair, initiated the voting process. Alexis Neumann moved to recommend approval of the waiver as submitted and so did Pamela Evans. Lauren Hodge seconded the motion. The majority of the members voted yes.

Ms. Smyrl also requested that the committee make a recommendation regarding the evaluation criteria for the committee. Lauren Hodge moved to approve the evaluation criteria that was previously used for a similar waiver. Alexis Neumann seconded the motion.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Alex Dominguez, Committee Chair, confirmed with the members that they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2022, Committee of Practitioners Meeting was made by Marilyn Harris and a second by Carrie Matthews. The minutes were approved as written.

### Adjourn

Alex Dominguez, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Committee on April 13, 2023.**