

MINUTES

DATE: April 11, 2024

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Dr. Lisette Allen, Maria Anzualda, Pamela Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Lauren Hodge, Ellie Ross

Members Absent

Laura Colangelo, Melody Collier, Meredith Dodd, Stephanie Dominique, Mia Hall, Marilyn Harris, Carrie Matthews, Cris Munoz, Alexis Neumann, Sharon Sanchez

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Didi Garcia, LaNetra Guess, Jaime Huerta, Matt Lashlee, Gerardo Ramirez, Vivian Smyrl

Call to Order

Jaime Huerta reviewed the virtual meeting norms and introduced Lauren Hodge. Mrs. Hodge will serve as the Title I Committee of Practitioners (TI COP) interim chair until the replacement is voted on. At 9:03 a.m. Lauren Hodge called the meeting to order.

Welcome

Welcome and Roll Call

Lauren Hodge, TI COP Interim Committee Chair, welcomed all. For roll call, Ms. Hodge instructed members to type their name and what LEA or organization they are affiliated with using the chat feature on zoom.

Committee Discussion Items

2024-2025 Private Nonprofit (PNP) Affirmation Submission Process

LaNetra Guess – PNP Ombudsman shared the agency is working on a new process for LEAs to submit their 2024-2025 Private Nonprofit (PNP) Affirmation of Consultation forms for participating PNP schools in the new PNP Smartsheet WorkApp platform. The PNP Smartsheet WorkApp will launch on July 1, 2024. The Affirmation forms are to be submitted via the WorkApp by September 30, 2024. Ms. Guess shared a sample of what a district's summary page will look like in the PNP Smartsheet WorkApp that captures the 2024-2025 PNP Affirmation Consultation forms submitted for the LEA.

Ms. Guess explained changes to the Affirmation of Consultation form. A line was added at the bottom of the form for both parties, the LEA and PNP representative, to populate the date the form was signed. Instructions for completing the Affirmation of Consultation form will be updated. A resource guide will be posted on how to access and submit data through the new PNP Affirmation Smartsheet WorkApp. Ms. Guess emphasized the Affirmation of Consultation form must be signed by both a representative from the participating private school and the LEA. If the private school does not want to participate in equitable services, then the LEA needs to notate and keep documentation of their decision to decline services on file locally.

Ms. Guess shared frequently asked questions regarding private schools and equitable services specific to websites LEAs can reference when searching for Texas' private schools, equitable services timelines, obligation of funds timelines, and carryover of equitable services. PNP equitable services resources from the agency and the Title I Capacity Building Initiative team were provided. Ms. Guess explained that based

on program requirements for receiving the ESSA Basic Services Initiative Grant, Education Service Centers (ESC) must provide LEA's PNP equitable services training, technical assistance, and guidance.

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Jaime Huerta – Division Director explained the agency is developing a new process and concept for the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validations process. The rationale for the change is TEA feels the current process was developed during the pandemic to minimize the burden on LEAs. The agency is shifting to pre-pandemic program monitoring along with changes based on data and feedback received from the United States Department of Education (USDE). The concerns on the current, pandemic-type monitoring are that the number of LEAs monitored is limited and the selection parameters for the LEAs monitored make it difficult to have a representative sample that allows LEAs to be monitored on a cyclical basis.

The proposed monitoring process is to consolidate all the federal programs, administered by the Federal Program Compliance Division, to be monitored as a whole, applicable to an LEA based on their participation in the program. The LEAs would have a 5-week documentation submission period. All LEAs would be monitored on at least a 5- or 7-year cycle.

The agency will provide a statewide training that will cover the new random validation process.

The various LEA program monitoring activities that occur in the Federal Program Compliance Division were reviewed. USDE is expected to visit TEA next month. Feedback from USDE's visit will be considered in the new program monitoring validations process. A benefit in the new process is there will be a single process to inform the LEAs if there is a finding and the next steps to make corrections.

TEA will be evaluating an LEA based on if it met the submission requirements, if the documentation was submitted in a timely manner, and on performance. To support the goals and for transparency, a Program Compliance Dashboard will be available to every LEA.

TEA is considering a 3-year rollout on the new program monitoring process. Mr. Huerta explained the implementation timeline and statewide virtual sessions where attendees have opportunities to share their feedback on the 2024-2025 Federal Program Compliance Division Program monitoring process.

Additional statewide training opportunities on the 2024-2025 ESSA Consolidated Application, as well as the 2024-2025 Title I, Part A Within-LEA Allocations & SC5000 were shared.

Smartsheet WorkApp updates, specific to the Federal Program Compliance Division (FPC) platform, were provided. Enhancements and opportunities to provide feedback on the WorkApp were shared.

COP Membership Update – Call for Nominations

Jaime Huerta – Division Director shared the last call for nominations for Title I COP Members was April 2021. Mr. Huerta reviewed the membership requirements for the TI COP Committee. A Call for Nominations email will be sent as soon as the process has been approved by upper management.

Committee Action Items

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Lauren Hodge, Interim Committee Chair, confirmed with the members that they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting which was held on February 22, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes meeting was made by Brenda Faz-Villarreal and a second by Pamela Evans. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Future Meeting Dates

Proposed Title I COP meeting dates for 2024-2025 were shared. Members are asked to check their availability on those dates and to be prepared to provide feedback during the next meeting on June 13, 2024.

Adjourn

Lauren Hodge, Interim Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.