



## **ABout Students Regional Consortium for Adult Education Meeting Minutes October 21, 2015 2:00 p.m. – IEBW #440**

### **I. Welcome and Agenda Review:**

In attendance – Linda Aranda, Bernie Balland, Olga Cornejo, Jim Dawson, Ashley Etchison, Sandy Fielding, Charles Fischer, Edna Vallecillo-Garcia, Beth Gomez, Michael Gray, Dalia Gadelmawla, Tammy Guzzetta, Mark LeNoir, Maribel Mattox, Deanna McCarty, Tami Ostrosky, Mary Perea, JoDee Slyter, Eddie Villa, Ron Vito

Jodee opening the meeting by thanking everyone in attendance for their time and hard work. The agenda was reviewed and no additional topics were added. JoDee asked if there were any questions or comments about the direct funding proposal. Depending on the group discussion, there is a potential motion to vote. If the consortium votes today the Governance Plan can be signed off. The allocation schedule will need to be negotiated and discussed. Beth Gomez will share RCCD's proposal. Once important thing to remember is that consortium members will need to be accountable for one another, support one another and operate transparently in order for the consortium to be successful in its collaboration efforts to serve the region.

### **II. Motion to Approve Direct Funding for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year:**

The first topic discussed was a review of direct funding and fiscal agent options. JoDee thanked all the fiscal experts for being involved and bringing much discussion to the table.

Currently, there isn't a member who proposes to be a fiscal agent for 2015-16, so by default the proposal is for the consortium to use the direct funding option.

Direct Funding Recap (slide) – Impact of consortium dollars, all services must support the annual and three year plans. If members decide to use funds for services not identified as priorities in the plan then the plan will need to be modified. The allocation schedule must be approved by the members; the expenditures are bi-annual and must be submitted by the consortium collectively.

Mary Perea brought up uncertainty regarding bullet #4 which mentioned 5% indirect costs. Beth doesn't believe it's mandated. JoDee cited the website which indicates that the expenses allowable works the same as the AB 86 grant

funding. Beth informed the group that with the AB 86 funding, Norco College gets nothing from the 4% indirect allotted to the fiscal agent. She believes that it is a suggestion, rather than a mandate. Mary shared that she is in discussion with Neil Kelly about this point for clarification. JoDee asked if Beth could be involved in the discussions with Neil during the next conference call since Beth is in charge of AB 86 funding. JoDee told the group that Neil, as the State Project Monitor, has no authority regarding the Lead proposal. This is a local decision for the consortium to determine its leadership structure and once the details are finalized, JoDee will no longer serve in a dual capacity representing CNUUSD as the district's official representative and the consortium lead.

JoDee reaffirmed there were no other offers from members to serve as fiscal agent. She asked if the consortium is at a point in which a decision on funding distribution can be decided and voted upon? Chuck Fischer (RCOE) moved that

the consortium approve the direct funding model for 2015-16 fiscal year. Maribel Mattox (MVUSD) seconded the motion. The vote resulted in 7 approve and 1 opposed, motion carries.

### **III. Sign-off on Governance Plan (slide):**

JoDee reviewed the governance plan that has already been formally voted on and approved by the consortium. The only item remaining to complete is the signature pages. JoDee distributed the three signature pages. The only change for the Governance Plan was the wording for the newly approved direct funding model rather than fiscal agent. The next steps for the Governance Plan include scanning and emailing the forms to the state. The Governance Plan will be submitted to the state with consortium member approvals.

Governance Plan (slide) – the plan for the By-laws is incomplete. A draft will be available in November.

### **IV. Allocation Schedule (slide):**

The conversation regarding the allocation schedule started last week with the submission of funding requests from members with the exception of RCCD and Val Verde Unified. Beth Gomez and Ashley Etchison presented the RCCD's request for consortium funding in the amount of \$650,000 to develop ABE readiness classes and transitions to pre-apprentice and apprentice programs.

Olga Cornejo asked if the RCCD request put the consortium over the allocation total available. JoDee indicated that it did.

Mark Lenoir from VVUSD stated there are currently no adult education classes offered by the district. They do have some joint classes at Mt. San Jacinto College. He shared that VVUSD is in discussion with MVUSD to join forces and ass

some classes in the Perris Area. ABE and Spanish GED Preparation are the

classes VVUSD is hoping to start up. Tammy Guzzetta of MVUSD is revising the tables that were presented last week and will include specific funds needed to support the needs within VVUSD. JoDee encouraged MVUSD to include sufficient funding requests to cover the Val Verde area. Maribel reminded the group that MOE dollars have not been allocated to VVUSD since there was no adult school within the district. Edna offered the resources at WDC to help VVUSD gather any data needed to consider the needs of their community.

Status of Requested Funds (slide) – The group reviewed the table that was created with additional funding available along with the allocation requested. JoDee asked everyone to look at the last two items. She asked each member to confirm the information on the table.

Beth clarified the \$15 million on the table that is categorized as additional funding is not all real adult education funding. Jim Dawson agreed with Beth and expressed concern that this information will be interpreted by anyone not familiar with what has happened over the past several years, that there is not an adult education funding shortfall. The \$15 million serves all college programs, not just what is now considered adult education. Mary voiced the opinion that the state did not look deep enough into the colleges because they serve the majority of adults, although not just adult education as defined by AEBG. JoDee reminded the group that the numbers come from the state as a means for considering any and all funding for adult education; look at the numbers for what they are worth. The consortium still makes all local decisions. Ongoing funding numbers should be discussed to better understand the true amounts

available for adult education in the region.

Deanna (RCOE) clarified their allocation request is for new and existing programs, not just new programs. New funding requests are for ESL classes, while additional funding is needed for existing ABE/ASE classes. The reason for adding classes is to accommodate the growing population; they have several waiting lists. JoDee believes the consortium has made a good start, but she realizes some things will need to be adjusted.

Request vs. Consortium Funds Available (slide) – The requested amounts from the members total \$4,612,735. This amount exceeds the consortium allocation by \$769,972 (22.2%). JoDee asked the group what can be done to bring the requests down to the necessary number; such as prioritizing or an across the board percentage reduction? Beth suggested a percentage reduction. Mary asked if the group would consider those who did not receive a MOE? Dalia suggested fulfilling the requests of those who did not receive MOE and dividing the remainder evenly among the MOE recipients. Mary brought up another idea of looking at funding existing or new programs. Those who are starting up new programs could determine which of those could wait. Beth believes that the MOE takes care of existing programs already, but there was not consensus on that opinion. Deanna indicated she would be willing to reduce her new program areas with less amounts. Maribel suggested that everyone should look at each agency's tables in detail.

JoDee reminded the group they are on a time limit to come to agreement on a resolution. Beth though everyone should start at the same playing field; Diana asked if each member can reduce their request by 22%; Mary asked if looking at existing programs would be a great starting point. Sandy asked how much it takes for existing only; Beth asked for a

definition of existing. Mary reminded the group that there are limited dollars and several needs. If priorities have been established then that is something that should be examined. Beth mentioned that it is all not black and white; it's a good framework, but not the decision-maker. Mary wanted to add one other item and that was that the district will pull 5% off the top.

Deanna asked the group if they all have a tool to measure outcomes just to make sure everyone will be able to report. Everyone responded yes. Maribel again thinks everyone should go back and look at their own budget and prioritize, and as a consortium support each other. Michael agreed to review his budget also. The members decided on consensus to review and resubmit their tables reducing the consortium allocation requests where possible. JoDee asked the members to email her the revised tables by Friday, October 23, 2015. Once all the revision are submitted, JoDee will send out via email new tables with new figures.

Meeting time ran out, but JoDee asked for input on the annual plan survey and the remaining funds from AB 86. She also mentioned the current consortium meeting schedule required review because she received correspondence from a few people who can't attend meetings due to the current day and time the meetings are held. The requests didn't specify specific suggestions for a new schedule. Edna suggested considering quarterly meetings for updates and Jim also suggested that action items remain during the meetings when official members are present for voting and decision making progress. JoDee will consider those suggestions. Edna wanted to thank everyone for her time spent at the meetings, but she was handing the baton over to Olga who will now be representing WDC.

Next Meetings –

- Annual Planning Committee – October 23, 2015 at Riverside Adult School
- Regular weekly meeting – October 28, 2015 2-4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.