



AVATAR Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

06/17/2014

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	AVATAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL		
Date:	June 17, 2014		
Start Time:	1:30 PM	End Time:	3:00 PM
Location:	ESC Region 11 3001 North Freeway Fort Worth, TX 76106		
Participants:	Robin Adkins, Janet Cunningham, Mary Harris, Kathy Harvey, Wally Johnson, Jean Keller, Brenda Kihl, Chris Kanouse, Joseph Kulhanek, Gary Madsen, Priscilla Martinez, Don Perry, Kathy Wright-Chapman		
Meeting Purpose:	Discuss AVATAR's progress and gain input from Committee Members		
Preparation Required:	Please be prepared to share what is going on in your region related to vertical alignment of math, English, and science courses and your perceptions of how this might be related to College Preparatory Courses		

Topic	Time	Discussion Leader	Desired Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Roll Call 	1:30 – 1:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Keller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After some telephone challenges not related to the host video network, Jean Keller welcomed all committee members and thanked our host, ESC Region 11. AVATAR statewide advisory committee members introduced themselves. Jean referred to the minutes from the last meeting, which had been distributed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on AVATAR and College Preparatory Course work in Regions 	1:55 – 2:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Harris & Jean Keller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Harris reviewed the highlights of the statewide coordinator/facilitator meeting held on Friday, June 6, in Austin. All AVATAR sites were represented, and presenters from THECB and TEA updated us on application of HB 5 and TSI implementation to our vertical alignment work. Each region shared a report of accomplishments. Mary presented a chart summarizing activities by AVATAR site, pointing out that some information might be incomplete, but the charts provide a sense of activities common to all groups and of approaches that may have been unique. • Janet Cunningham and Wally Johnson offered updates from recent meetings in their regions that suggested expansions for the chart. • Kathy Wright Chapman said for three districts in Johnson County, alignment of writing with CTE offered valued opportunity to collaborate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVATAR Regional Showcasing in <i>Texas College and Career Readiness Network Digest</i> 	2:05-2:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Mary Harris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Harris offered updates to a list of publications and presentations. She pointed out a presentation Jean Keller made as part of a panel about approaches to vertical alignment at SXSW has now been published by <i>The Evollution</i>, a periodical about adult learning. Also, as part of a monthly series of articles for the <i>College and Career Readiness Network Digest</i>, an article on College Preparatory Courses will feature work in Regions 10, 11, 12 and 15. Mary invited everyone who has made a presentation or published about AVATAR to submit it to her or to Amy Mougey.



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06/17/2014

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee Member input on AVATAR work with College Preparatory Courses as mandated by HB 5 	<p>2:10-2:40</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THECB has funded AVATAR to provide leadership for collaboration in development and implementation of College Preparatory Courses (CPCs) in all active regions and those that wish to join. The North Texas Regional P-16 Council devoted its May meeting to studying development of CPCs in Regions 10 and 11. Mary invited input from the members about PCPs, stating that her experiences with this so far suggest that designing the courses is only half of the necessary work. Janet Cunningham said that the Citizens for Educational Excellence in Region 2 has developed syllabi for 2-semester courses in mathematics and ELAR as well as an MOU. Many questions arose about the grade levels of students eligible to take the courses and the grading requirements for A, B, C, etc. They have decided that, in writing, a student must earn at least a 70% in the course and a 70% on each essay. A 70-79% is required to enroll in a college course. In math, an 80% is required for the student to proceed on to the college course. Gary Madsen agreed there must be established agreements about acceptable grades. He said that in Region 13, curriculum leaders from the larger districts were collaborating in sorting through these issues. Chris Kanouse reported that when Region 10 called together districts with college partners, the original focus was on face to face courses. Later discussion uncovered concerns of smaller districts that led to identification of curricular strands that could be offered as online modules. Don Perry reported that Dallas County Community College District was involved with 71 other entities in discussions that have led to a template for an MOU. Local grading procedures will be followed. The courses to be offered with DCCCD will not carry dual credit. Don pointed out the THECB is registered to comment on a proposed change in the rules about CPCs. The current rules refer to the IHE's entering into an MOU with an IHE, but this does not bind another IHE to accept the credit. Issues of grading have implications beyond the parties making the original agreement. There is not a provision for consistency. Chris Kanouse suggested alignment with recommendations of the Texas Success Center (TSC) as a starting point. Janet Cunningham reminded the group that the CPCs are for 2014-15 implementation. We have only a few months to figure this out. Don Perry mentioned that community colleges are now being evaluated 10% on success points, which focus to some extent on meeting HB 5 frameworks. The Texas Success Center (TSC of the Texas Association of Community Colleges) provides support for the community colleges around new measures that overlap with ISD agendas. Robin Adkins asked AVATAR to post draft MOUs and syllabi including assignments and
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee Member input on AVATAR goals for leadership of College Preparatory Course development and implementation 	<p>2:40 – 2:55</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members 	<p>grading procedures whenever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Kulhanek reported that Alamo Community College and UTSA were involved in approval of an MOU based on work with high school and school district partners. He agreed that decisions about grading were the hardest. A panel on which he served selected 75% as successful in ELAR and 80% in mathematics based on local assessments. All their work will be posted on the Region 20 website. The local control that is the hallmark of HB 5 makes consistency unlikely. Wally Johnson said Region 1 is working on materials that can be shared. Jean Keller said that 2-year colleges seemed generally more involved in this effort than 4-year. Mary Harris said an interesting aspect of the North Texas Regional P-16 Council panel was provisions of Tarrant County College for professional development of high school teachers of the CPC courses. A faculty liaison in ELAR and mathematics will be available at each of the 5 college campuses, and monthly professional development for the teachers will be held.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Perry brought up the issue of sustainability for AVATAR. He said the current funding will feed this work in each region but not sustain it. There needs to be a perceived impact for students and for market penetration. We need products that will serve as good guides for alignment and articulation. All community colleges in a region need to agree. Janet Cunningham said that in development of CPCs, regions need AVATAR. No one else in Region 2 was talking about vertical alignment, and the Citizens for Educational Excellence (The P-16 Council) already had a vertical alignment team in place. Chris Kanouse pointed out that the original work of AVATAR has been detailed by HB 5. Although this is both good and bad, it detracts from the long-term work of aligning a curriculum that can support the culture in which a CPC is most likely to succeed. Kathy Wright-Chapman talked about challenges of ESCs work with 2-year and 4-year colleges, private as well as public. She is forming a higher education advisory committee in Region 11 as a forum for discussion of CPCs and, longer term, how jointly designed endorsements can contribute to economic development in the region. Don Perry reiterated the importance of vertical alignment as a necessary response to standards and assessments. He urged members to look at the success points for the community colleges. HB 5 puts school districts in charge of the CPCs, but these efforts and any discussion of dual credit call for deeper partnerships. Wally Johnson pointed out that Region 1 includes 24 early college high schools and two CTE high schools. Much work with vertical alignment and articulation of dual credit has already
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you; date for Next Meeting has not been set 	<p>2:00-2:15</p>		<p>gone into their development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Keller thanked all for a thoughtful discussion. No time has been set for the next meeting. A Doodle poll will be distributed. With additions to the scope of AVATAR, we may want to add members to the advisory committee.
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2013 – 2014 AVATAR Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

(Connection through TETN System available at all ESCs)

<p>Dates to be announced</p>	<p>1:00- 2:30 p.m.</p>
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