**Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Phone Conversation**

**Participants:** Christy Barnett, ECS Region 14, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

**Date:** Nov. 16, 2012 **Time:** 9:30-10:00 a.m.

**Status of documentation:**

Christy has submitted two session summaries minutes, a Data PowerPoint, and a regional Action Plan. She will send the updates to the team.

**Topics discussed:**

The team held meetings on Oct. 17th and Nov. 15th. Additional high school teachers and mathematics faculty from additional institutions have joined the team. The following partners are now involved in the vertical alignment team: Abilene ISD (Cooper High School), Anson ISD, Clyde ISD, Merkel ISD, Wylie ISD, Roscoe ISD, and Cisco College, Abilene Christian University, McMurry University, Ranger College, and Western Texas College. Hardin Simmons University is also involved but representative was not able to attend. The new team members are in the minutes. Recent meeting focus has been on perceptions of the difference between K-12 and higher education. The team established that the curriculum alignment around standards is clear but that the issues are more about policies and procedures. Discussions of TEKS, reference course profiles for the college core courses, local syllabi, guiding questions, and “culture shock” experienced by students, led to the team listing 7 or 8 key issues. One of them was weighting of homework in the final grade and how this is determined, with understanding that some grading practices in K-12 state mandated. The team discussed their concern about the stair-step nature of learning mathematics. For example, what if a student misses an important part of the sequence? The next planned team activity is a panel discussion about issues in the transition from high school to college. Christy reported feeling pleased to have brought together so many local institutions and with strong participation from mathematics faculty in key roles for disseminating the action plan. Christy received a message from Western Texas College about perceived value of this work.

**Follow-up actions:**

Christy will send Kerry Quinn contact information for the team members.

Mary will send Christy some resources put together for other mathematics teams. These focus on the research about the influence of math courses taken in high school on college success in math and science.