

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting**

December 13, 2011; 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Education Service Center Region XI, 3001 North Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76106

**Present:**

Judy Bell, V. Barbara Bush, Ray de los Santos, Deborah Endres, Cynthia Fisher Miller, Treva Franklin, Cathy Gabro, Rick Garcia, Anna Garza, Joy Goodrum, Mary Harris, Brooke Ingersoll, Jesse Jones, Marilyn Jones, Jean Keller, Calvin Lawrence, Danielle Mazzeo, Janice Moran, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Andrea Puente representing Patricia Castillo, Patsy Robles- Goodwin, David Setzer, Candy Slocum, Brenda Smith, Mary Villafranca representing Donna Solley, Cynthia Williams, Trisha Windham

Guests: Alejandra Barbosa, Terri Barnes, Jack Dalrymple and Tanya McDonald

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Greetings and welcome to Region XI Education Service Center. Jean Keller welcomed the Council. The Council members shared thanks with Region XI for hosting the meeting. Denise Holland, Kathy Wright-Chapman and Corya Campbell were extended thanks for the warm hospitality. We appreciate their efforts in hosting the event and making the Council members feel welcome.

Guests from **Dallas AfterSchool Network**: Tanya McDonald and Terri Barnes; **TxCAN/THSP:** Alejandra Barbosa; and **Tarrant County College:** Jack Dalrymple were introduced and welcomed. Nicole Volkman was introduced and welcomed as UNT P-16 and AVATAR project coordinator. The Council members introduced themselves.

1. **Approval of September 20, 2011 Council Minutes**

Don Perry noted the correction of the future Council meeting date from February 28 to March 6, 2012. Don Perry moved approval and Ray de los Santos seconded. Motion approved. Revised September 20, 2011 minutes sent to the Council members.

1. **Council Member Updates**

**AVATAR - Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal**

Mary Harris updated the Council members on the AVATAR project, highlighting the need for improving college and career readiness by sharing statistics regarding local students’ readiness and retention. AVATAR seeks to address the issue of college readiness, as evidenced by the gap analysis statistics. AVATAR is designed to facilitate secondary and postsecondary work groups to implement horizontal and vertical alignment of high school courses, lower division course higher education courses, and lower division course sequences in Mathematics, Chemistry, and English Language Arts (ELA). The anticipated outcomes of the AVATAR project are to: enhance the success of students graduating from high school to be college and/or work readied; prepare secondary students to be college-ready and prepared for smooth transitions to postsecondary education without remediation; create secondary and postsecondary course templates aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments, and Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) in Chemistry, ELA, and Mathematics. AVATAR will develop and deliver statewide alignment training and follow up with technical assistance in order to replicate the AVATAR processes and activities in up to 12 regions throughout Texas.

See: <http://notlb.com/ntp16/p16-councils> for Dr. Mary Harris’ presentation. Presentations are located on the *Additional Info* tab under *Resource Links*.

**State of the Region Conference**

Rick Garcia shared information with Council members about the State of the Region Conference. He proposed possible dates for Conference which included June or September of 2012.

**Action item**: Rick will send out a survey of possible conference dates, locations, and topics by December 15, 2011 and seeks Council members’ input.

**AVID** (Advancement via Individual Determination)

Rick Garcia informed the council about AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) which targets at risk, first generation secondary students and supports college readiness, retention and graduation. Anna Garza shared with the Council members that Texas Woman’s University is participating in a pilot program to test the application of AVID initiatives in a post-secondary settings.

1. **Dallas AfterSchool Network**

Tanya McDonald and Terri Barnes described the Dallas AfterSchool Network, a non-profit organization, created to improve the quality of after school programs across the DFW area. DASN seeks to improve the quality and availability of after school programs by improving safety, enriching programming and fostering nurturing relationships with children.

See: <http://whocaresabouttomorrow.org/>

**Action Item:** Tanya and Terri will return to update the Council on their organizations work in May 2012.

1. **Gap Analysis Report - A Look at the Region**

V. Barbara Bush shared an overview of a section of the gap analysis on behalf of the Research, Assessment and Accountability Committee. One of the key areas noted was a gap in the achievement of African American male students. As a result, the committee proposes inviting Mr. Robert Edison to from the Barack Obama Academy to a share the Academy’s vision with the Council. The Gap Analysis Report is posted on the website <http://notlb.com/ntp16/p16-councils>. Presentations are located on the *Additional Info* tab under *Resource Links*.

For more information on the Barack Obama academy please visit: <http://www.dallasisd.org/Page/2536>

**Action Item:** Based on the findings, the Research, Assessment and Accountability Committee will invite Mr. Robert Edison from the Dallas ISD Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy to reflect on enhancing male participation in college.

Additionally, Rick Garcia and Mary Harris attended the CREATE session in Houston where they met Dr. Omar Lopez, a research analyst/presenter that might be of interest to our Council. He has experience with TEA, THECB and SBEC.

**F. TxCAN/Texas High School Project**

Alejandra Barbosa shared an update that the TxCAN project would be piloted in San Antonio and North Texas regions. Alejandro highlighted the key initiatives for TxCAN are: to build an awareness of existing college access activities and resources; align strategic efforts of numerous stakeholders; and provide tools to measure the impact of access services. See <http://www.thsp.org/news-and-media/thsp-news/texas-high-school-project-communities-foundation-of-texas-launch-north-texa/> for additional information. Alejandra indicated University of Texas at Arlington will be conducting an asset map for TxCAN. This is an exciting project and the Council is eager to work in collaboration with TxCAN.

**Action Item:** Alejandra will keep the Council members informed of all events and return to update the Council on March 6, 2012.

**G. Destination Graduation**

Treva Franklin from Mesquite ISD and Danielle Mazzeo from United Way of Metropolitan Dallas presented information to the group on the United Way project Destination: Graduation. The purpose of the project is to assist secondary students in becoming college ready. This project originated from the connections between two Council members who networked at a Council meeting.

See: <http://www.unitedwaydallas.org/pages/destination-graduation/>

**H. Achieving Committee Outcomes – Workgroup/Committee Reports**

**Communications and Networking** - Cynthia Fisher Miller reported on the committee’s work and accomplishments. The Committee members were commended for producing the 2011 Fall E-Newsletter. Thanks for the great work!

2012 Spring Newsletter content: First page – leave the introductory part as is but cut it down and say “see page 4 for details”. Include highlights of 2010 Steve Murdock demographic data and link to the full report.

Second page – leave in the part about GenTX posting of events (modified as needed). Where the “Reach out and Read” section is now, put in a piece on the Dallas After School Network

Third page– we talked about a “mapping” or “walk through” of examples of P-16 segments. For example, we would start with “Early Childhood” and give a brief write-up and links to websites.  We would continue with K-12 (subdivided into Elementary, Middle, and HS) with a “best practice” example in each section, briefly described with a link.  Then community college, higher education, etc. - - and workforce.

The group really wanted to include Gap Analysis information, either woven into the above “mapping” or separately identified.

Fourth page:  leave it as is – check to be sure there aren’t any changes needed.

Cynthia and Brenda will schedule another committee meeting before March 6th 2012.  Candy said we could meet at Interlink again.

Committee members like the look and feel of the updated website <http://www.notlb.com/ntp16> - and were comfortable moving forward.

  Action Items: Spring e-newsletter will be published by May 2012.

**Professional Development -** Brenda Smith reported on the College and Career Readiness Conference for Middle and High School Counselors that was held on October 21, 2011 in Dallas.

Action Items: The committee is exploring future conferences for the Spring 2012 semester; continuing to explore the possibility of creating and implementing one major event annually within the region; and providing training sessions partnering with AVATAR and LEAP on curriculum and horizontal curriculum alignment.

**Funding and Sustainability -** Mary Harris and Don Perry shared the committee is going to provide grant opportunities in the future.

Action Items: Committee will revisit a dues structure; provide letters of support to Council members’ organizations seeking funding; and share grant opportunities.

**Research, Assessment, and Accountability –** V. Barbara Bush discussed committee members’ interest in exploring male student experiences through qualitative research. The committee will share gap analysis data at each Council meeting and help other committees’ use data to direct their work. Barbara discussed how the committee met with Dr. Mary Harris to explore how they can help with AVATAR’s evaluation. Additionally, the committee will bring forward a recommendation regarding inviting Dr. Omar Lopez to discuss the use of data.

Action Items: Committee will present on male participation in college. Gap analysis data will be presented at each Council meeting, and the Committee will determine how to effectively disseminate and use this data to support the north Texas region. The Committee will explore how it will work with AVATAR.

**Future Council Meetings**

March 6, 2012 9:30-12:30 Texas Woman’s University T. Boone

Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-

Dallas Center, 5500 Southwestern

Medical Ave., Dallas TX 75235

Room 3620

May 8, 2012 9:30-12:30 Tarrant County College, Trinity River Campus,

Action C. Room, Fort Worth, TX