



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799
303.866.6600 • www.cde.state.co.us

Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner of Education

Robert K. Hammond
Deputy Commissioner

Kenneth R. Turner
Deputy Commissioner

Colorado Literacy Council Meeting Minutes July 22, 2009

Members of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC):

Co-Chairs – Colorado Department of Education:

- 1) **Kenneth R. Turner, Ed.D.**, Deputy Commissioner, Learning and Results
- 2) **Jeanette P. Cornier, Ph.D.**, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Teaching and Learning

Staff from the Colorado Department of Education:

- 3) **Debora L. Scheffel, Ph.D.**, Director, Colorado Reading First
- 4) **Barbara Medina, Ph.D.**, Assistant Commissioner, Innovation and Transformation
- 5) **Jami M. Goetz, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Professional Services and Licensing

Membership from the field:

- 6) **Patricia J. Hagerty, Ed.D.**, Representative from the CCIRA
Immediate Past President, Colorado Council of the International Reading Association
- 7) **Eugene P. Sheehan, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Colorado Council of Deans of Education
Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, University of Northern Colorado
- 8) **Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D.**, Nationally recognized faculty member with literacy expertise
Professor, College of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago
Director, Center for Literacy, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 9) **Nella B. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Dean of a four-year western slope college of education
Director of Teacher Education, Western State College
- 10) **Jill Ritter**, Rural district literacy representative
Principal, Rocky Ford School District R-2
- 11) **Kathleen DeVries, M.A.**, Community college representative
Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Red Rocks Community College

CLC Members Present:

Kenneth Turner
Jeanette Cornier
Barbara Medina (Judy Check attended)
Patricia Hagerty
Jill Ritter
Nella Bea Anderson
Eugene Sheehan
Kathleen DeVries
Timothy Shanahan
Jami Goetz

CLC Members Absent:

Deborah Scheffel

Other CDE Support Staff Present:

Elaine Cheesman
Pam Hitt

Public Attendees

Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer/Teacher Education, Colorado Department of Higher Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Proceedings:

The fifth meeting of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC) was held on July 22, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO, 6th floor conference room.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- (1) Ken Turner introduced and welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
- (2) Ken Turner reviewed the Meeting Agenda and asked CLC members if other agenda items were needed.
- (3) Jeanette Cornier gave a short history on how the CLC was formed.
- (4) Elaine Cheesman introduced Dr. Susan Smartt and Dr. Marty Hougen

II. Review the Charge and Goals of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC)

- (1) The charge of the Colorado Literacy Council is to advise the Colorado Department of Education on literacy initiatives including:
 - Systems for the review of literacy content in educator preparation programs;
 - Revision of the Program for Licensing Assessment for Colorado Educators (PLACE test);
 - Topics for research forums and professional development with higher education;
 - Innovative literacy preparation programs (both pre-service and in-service).
- (2) The Charge was read aloud to the CLC members.

III. Review Operating Agreements for Colorado Literacy Council Meetings

- (1) By general consensus, the norms were not reviewed.

IV. Innovative Literacy Preparation Programs

- (1) Presentation: Texas Reading first Higher Education Collaborative
 - Dr. Smartt distributed copies of a brief she co-authored: Smartt, S.L. and Reschly, D.J. (2007). *Barriers to the Preparation of Highly Qualified Teachers in Reading*. Washington, DC: National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality.
 - Dr. Smartt and Dr. Hougen presented information about the Higher Education Collaborative (HEC), including specific information about initial expenditures and the operating budget of the Texas HEC.
 - This initiative's goals are to "enhance implementation of scientifically based research practices in reading (SBRR) by engaging faculty in a series of focused and collaborative activities." Specifically, the goals are to:
 1. Ensure that teacher educators and administrators are knowledgeable about components of evidence-based reading research and instruction and incorporate these components into pre-service teacher and principal education so that institutions of higher education and K-12 school districts will be aligned.
 2. Provide evidence-based materials to teacher educators for use in preparing teachers.
 3. Establish a community of members who collaborate in the ongoing process of adjusting their instruction and developing materials to improve the preparation of teachers and school administrators.
 - Components of the Texas HEC include:
 1. Sharing knowledge and expertise through a series of seminars
 2. Revising syllabi and course requirements to incorporate SBRR
 3. Participating in site visits and observations to support implementation
 4. Participating in HEC Online discussions
 5. Documenting implementation through surveys of faculty and students
 6. Administering surveys of student knowledge
 7. Supporting the Reading First Initiative

- Vanderbilt's technical assistance to Colorado would include free of charge to CDE:
 1. On-site consultation 2-4 days
 2. Extensive materials and on-line resources
 3. Supervised practice in applying ICs to teacher preparation and continuing education programs
 4. Provide model course syllabi
 5. Extensive Power Point slides and integrated video on teaching the 5 content elements of reading including illustrations of explicit and systematic instruction with screening and progress monitoring,
 6. Keynote Addresses and Workshops,
 7. Collaboration and assistance on establishing within state consortia to share and promote evidence-based practices,
 8. Development of meetings of key constituents to consider needed improvements in teacher preparation, and
 9. Periodic meetings to consider and share ideas about making changes in teacher preparation
 - The operating budget was funded through Texas Reading First (RF). The Texas HEC is exploring ways to fund this after the RF dollars are no longer available. Average cost (not including Dr. Hougen's salary) was about \$1,000 per faculty member. After two years membership, faculty members paid their own membership fee. Peer advisors were paid \$750 / day.
 1. Possible sources of funding may be the Federal Stimulus Money, and could be aligned with informing Higher Education faculty about the content of the new Colorado Model Content Standards in Reading and Writing.
- (2) A discussion followed concerning (a) the merits of exploring this HEC for possible implementation in Colorado and (b) possible sources of funding.
- (3) Future action: Interest must come from higher education, not the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).
- CLC members agreed to form an advisory committee composed of an inclusive team of higher education faculty (e.g., large university, small college, community college; special education, regular education, etc.). Nella Bea Anderson volunteered to initiate this effort, and enlist various groups to nominate people to be on this Advisory Committee. This advisory group would first do an assessment of needs.
 - Ian Macgillivray noted that the Department of Higher Education would likely support this initiative.
 - Travel to the preliminary Advisory Committee *may possibly* be funded through Reading First, but would need to be considered with other budget demands.
 - Dr. Hougen invited all to attend the Texas HEC seminar (in Dallas) on November 4 & 5.

V. Revision of the PLACE test (Jami Goetz)

- (1) Timeline: The Elementary test is slated for February, 2010.
- (2) Tests: Several tests will be revised and tested, and will start with the test of highest priority, the Elementary Endorsement test.
- (3) Process: Each revision is an 18 month process.
- (4) Literacy Content test: CDE may need to ask the State Board of Education to approve a minor change in the *Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991* if CDE wishes to implement a literacy content test based on Rule 5 (*Performance-Based Standards for Colorado Teachers Standard One: Knowledge of Literacy*).

VI. Literacy Content Review (Jami Goetz)

- (1) School Speech / Language Pathologist (SLP) review
 - Currently, the SLP endorsement is required to have a full literacy review using the *Colorado Teacher Preparation Program Approval Rubric and Review Checklist for*

Literacy Courses: ECE, Elementary, and K-12 Programs (a.k.a. Rubric and Checklist), rather than a review using the Endorsement Standards from the Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991.

- Question: Does the School SLP endorsement need a full blown literacy review?
- Action: CLC Members agreed to no longer require the SLP Endorsement to receive a review with the *Rubric and Checklist*.
- A discussion concerning the use of the 11.08 Endorsement Standard was deferred until the next meeting of the CLC.

VII. Updates and News from CDE

- (1) CDE posted a Literacy Grants and Initiatives Director position on July 22, 2009.
 - Currently funded by Reading First funds.
- (2) Colorado Model Standards
 - CDE is about two-thirds way through all 13 subjects. CDE conducted an 8 city tour for public feedback and invited feedback through the Web. Every suggestion posted to the Web was reviewed by committee members.
 - The second group will be completed in a month. Another public tour will ensue.
 - All will be posted online at a future date.
 - In December, the Board of Education will review and decide adoption.

VIII. Concluding Items Needing Consensus

- (1) None

IX. Future CLC Meeting Dates

- (1) Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (1575 Sherman St., 6th floor conference room)
- (2) Thursday, January 7, 2010 (1575 Sherman St., 6th floor conference room)
- (3) April, 2010 (TBA)
- (4) August, 2010 (TBA)

X. CLC Meeting Adjourned at 1:03 PM

Colorado Literacy Council Website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/edprepprogram/CLCIndex.htm>