

Notes Committee of Practitioners: December 1, 2010

Charter School Institute, 1580 Logan, Denver

HOUSEKEEPING

- Prior minutes approved – Mark moved, Anita seconded
- Member recruitment: Kathryn rec'd no applications yet. Still looking for a Title I teacher and a parent with a Title I connection. Jesus knows of someone who is a para and parent. Will also solicit via CASB.
- Reimbursement: Process is changing. CDE accounting will require a Scope of Work (SOW) and we will only be reimbursed as vendors if individually. Otherwise, they will reimburse our districts/BOCES, who will then reimburse us.

Personnel Tech Proficiency: DeLilah Collins

Title IID: Small (relatively) piece of \$\$ has 5 reporting requirements

Federal purpose of this “proficiency” data is to persuade that there is still need for tech funding

Will be \$\$ in Title II D next year

Self Assessment Survey: CDE Put it out free so districts can use; optional unless taking Title II-D \$\$

- Loaded thousands of teachers already done & being loaded into system, in the 14,000 range
- Oct 8 launch of survey
- Survey will be open until February when regular HR closes
- Once district sends survey, will get error messages if individuals haven't taken yet; technology report built into HR; or as DeLilah and she will send report
 - Problems not anticipated
 - Educator ID used but not updated if teachers move
 - So, some staff can't get into survey
 - Push back from individuals who feel survey doesn't represent their skills, especially if they aren't considered proficient
 - It was well-vetted
 - Is based on national ed tech standards for teachers
 - Delilah will collect and interpret comments and change for next year
 - Essential conditions: staff feedback on how they think district is supporting them; for info purposes only; some districts refusing to use due to that

- So, they have made that section optional
- HANDOUT: CDE announcement which will be in today's SCOOP, countering rumor that teacher data will only be used to satisfy tech proficiency; not part of SB191; individual teacher data will NOT be posted, etc. Districts may choose to use it however they wish, but CDE feels it is to be used for needs assessment and professional development planning
- Comment: teacher can backspace and change questions if their score isn't good enough
- Plans for next year include:
 - Breaking down scores for teachers
 - Need to get folks through it so can improve it for next time
 - It's not perfect yet; determine where go from there
- Getting some push back from people who want to do retakes

Ed Flex Waiver: Cheryl Miller: CoP gave Cheryl consensus that it has no problem with this proceeding

- Procedures for receiving complaints is up in Spanish
- HANDOUT : Notice of Intent to Grant Statewide Waiver; will be in next Wed, SCOOP and on website
 - Waiver capabilities for schools re: Title I ARRA funding
 - Difficult to plan for to spend wisely
 - The idea is you must spend your ARRA funds but can hold over your regular Title I funds; no threshold what you can carry over, more than 15%
 - About half districts are in this boat
 - What are implications for post award revision cycle? Still have to do what you are required to do, but you may fine tune as always. Things always change somewhat which is why post-award revision is available
 - If it is categorical, it will carry over as categorical
 - Can't supplant between ARRA and Title, so may not work for many situations

11/12 Consolidated Application Issues & Comments: Feedback please (also Cheryl)

- If require specific documents, could they tell in advance that they need something, ie job description or other supporting documentation so it doesn't come as comment
 - Can't it be put in Tracker and referenced in application?

- Don't put anything with a name on it in Tracker
 - Cheryl will talk to Jen, the Tracker guru
 - Be sure to put it in directions
- Problem with Comment Logs
 - Title IID comments didn't appear with others
 - Probably a fluke due to IID ARRA problems that will resolve itself
- Appreciated that data could stay at BOCES level to prevent doing for each district
- Any way for BOCES to get in/opened before last person in last district in? ARACK (sp?) because teachers are gone. **Even a month earlier would help.**
 - It's gatekeeper for allocations
 - Needs to talk to grants Fiscal counterpart
- Being in small district and not always having same people do it and then business office: any way to show where/line item in budget it goes?
- Dream to have an integrated budget system...but unless congress allocates \$\$, it won't happen
- Ideas: Annotate plans with activities and line items from budget and put it in application
- Predict that budget process will be the same for 11/12 regardless of reauthorization. Conversation must begin now.
- As planning gets farther along, Cheryl will share and get our insights at Feb 2 meeting. Mostly technical procedural and not substantive.
- Training will have limited travel, but would like to expand where they do work sessions. Workshops not talking heads. Maybe webinars, too, even though they are a limited tool.
- There was something funky with the approval boxes.
 - Could have been because it was a two step activation process: approval and date both
- The biggest glitch for some districts is budget because of the filter process. Would be good to enter budget into Tracker.
- Dream: Is there some way that Title I could start conversations with ESLU (exceptional students) to get more alignment? SPED ARRA process is mind-boggling...
- Do a "mythbuster" about mixing/matching funds btwn Title and SPED

RFP Process: Lynn Bamberry

- HANDOUT Competitive grant RFP
- Desire standardization with differences, but a generalized template
- Can give her feedback today, or via email by 1st of the year
- General template for eval being developed, too
- One person will receive, date stamp, etc to organize system better
- Parts 2 & 3 might be a little different based on specific program/situation
- Questions/comments:
 - How write given "blind review?"
 - Can use identifying info without "naming" your school

- Please ask for one piece of info per question
- Weights on categories very helpful
- What about intro part where it's required but not scored?
- Add checklist & exemplars
- Have a grace period with queries if a piece is missing
- Give more ample timeline, especially for smaller districts: at least 6-8 weeks
- Trying to keep it lean
- Want to make it more workable, not harder

Unified Improvement Plan: Lisa Medler

- HANDOUTS: Improvement Plan Submission Process (going online today and in today's SCOOP) Posted on School View
- Braiding with State's accountability system, so now all districts are going into Tracker
- Trainings coming up (see handout)
- Pre-populated reports not out yet, Lisa apologizes...maybe time line today...need to check that it's all working right, then they will release
- Will want feedback from folks to improve process...will hire someone to help survey in spring

Title I Evaluation Results: Nazie Mohajeri-Nelson

- Schoolwide vs targeted assistance vs those not being served were compared
- (HANDOUTS- graphs sent) Average trajectories only. So, we now need get at the variances and what other programming and cross-effect
- Graphs show no differences, no interaction effects
- Data disheartening: those started out unsatisfactory stayed unsatisfactory
- 3rd & 5th graders
 - broken down in categories
- Next step data digs
- Idea: state challenge re data EDAC and CoP
- At least Title I students are keeping up with all students
- What is impact of Title III?
- Want to find out what the schools who are successful are doing., both Title I and Title III
- Lot of \$\$ pumping in, but results aren't looking good
- Issue: you can have great Title programs but it won't take if the gen ed program isn't good

AYP and the Graduation Rate: Alyssa Pearson

- Starting with 2010 had to move to 4 year on time grad rate; or 5,6 year rate using an application process. Special ed wants 6 year rate
- Application process will be coming in near future: end of Feb or March
- Feds say 2014 goal of 80%, maybe 60% now

1103 (g) : Patrick Chapman

- Still working on this diligently because due Friday
- State app for School Improvement Grant
- State allocation \$6.5 plus some left over \$\$ = \$7.5 available
- Id lowest performing schools
- Created performance index, mainly using CSAP, and test various schools against index. Tiers 1,2,3 based on turnaround, etc status
- Negotiating about waiver, but decided not to go for it now but to apply for grant, then do waiver maybe.
- Didn't want to attach waiver to grant app, and create an endless loop of review as happened last year
- CDE will no longer provide list of "approved" providers but just a list of people who do such things; ultimately CDE will approve plan, so will have say about provider then
- Waivers CDE pursuing (p 29) : N size waiver; school improvement timeline; school wide program waiver; extend timeline for three instead of two years
- How calculate lowest performing schools, pp4-9; contact Pat if you have questions
- Meat of app in sections b-d
- One requirement is that CDE discuss this with CoP
- Besides SST, also use expedited diagnostic review (EDR) 2 day process with 2-3 people & quite rushed. Are tuning it up this year, including orientation and debriefing as well as modifying indicators and rubrics.
- Reauthorization timelines?
 - January hit ground running, authorization in April...BUT prob late 2011
 - Probably more formulaic and not as competitive

BOCES: Patrick Chapman

- [insert Anita's notes here]
- Second paragraph: when do monitoring of BOCES, who's responsible for "findings"? Are districts handing over fiscal or fiscal/educational compliance. Trying to strike a balance btwn BOCES and district. Puts BOCES in a support role.
- What about Title III?
- Just say "programs part of consolidated application?" Just add paragraph explaining. Or, just say federal dollars for grant funding.
- Might be issues of FIRPA laws, etc...
- BOCES can be LEAs but do they want to? Teachers, students, parents are all indirect.
- Idea is that it's a partnership among district/BOCES/CDE
- Patrick will send list of tweaks back out for our comments
- Role of BOCES as an LEA needs further discussion...ie grant eligibility

USDE Program Review results: Morgan Cox & Kathryn Smukler

HANDOUT: USDE, Title III Monitoring, Sept 14-17, 2010

- Very few findings
- Will put together webinar in early January explaining implications
- General memo with links you can forward to private schools
- Private schools not required to comply with OCR (Office of Civil Rights) laws, but Title III does require that

USDE Title I, homeless, I D Feedback: Kathryn Smukler

- HANDOUT: Title I Monitoring, 13-17 Sept.
- Limited findings on I A, much better
- Choose large districts in metro area for convenience of less travel
- Money needs to go to schools then back to districts for parental involvement
- Contracts with 3rd party providers had issues
- Children from one district who go to private schools in other district: student lives in district A, goes to private school in district B...District B needs to find those students and notify
- Trish is trying to get response back to USDE soon
- Please let Trish know if you have questions or comments
- No findings for homeless and I D

Even Start: Kathryn Smukler

- “job” vs “work” is a cultural issue, especially those who are undocumented; recommend change from “job” to “working”.
- Changes in the economy mean a need for changes in %
- Mark moved, Mary Ellen seconded that 5.3 be removed: motion carries
- Home visit conversations qualify for “as documented by program records.”
- Any thoughts on this, send to Kathryn by summer 2011, (gets zeroed out and may or may not get funded.)

Next meeting : Feb 2nd, 10 am, location TBA

ADJOURN