



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2010

CPT, 19th Floor, Studio

Committee Members Present: Lindy Harmon-Committee Chair, Michael Miller, Vikki Hall

Committee Members via phone: George Patmor, Sharla Six, Tonya May, John DeAtley, Greta Casto, Diane Hatfield, Jacqueline Austin, Nancy Reed

Additional Attendees Present: Kim Willhoite, Sandra Hamon, Cherry Boyles, Nick Gustin, Susan Ronca-Budgets, Kristi McIntosh-Budgets

Additional Attendees via phone: Melissa Clements-MGT of America, Susan Cantrell-CCLD

Welcome and approve meeting minutes from January 2010 meeting: Lindy Harmon welcomed all committee members and asked if there were any changes to the January 2010 meeting minutes. Michael Miller made a motion to approve January's meeting minutes. George Patmor seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor of approving January 2010 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved.

Funding Update: The steering committee discussed moving away from the 35%/65% funding structure currently in place. Funding would be switched from a reimbursable grant to up-front grant funding. This would eliminate the possibility of funds being seized and/or swept at the end of the fiscal year. Schools would sign a contract that specified assurances/grant requirements. KDE program staff, CCLD, and the Division of Budgets would monitor the assurance statements. Members indicated feeling comfortable proceeding with paying the schools up front but stated safeguards should be in place to ensure schools are implementing the grant appropriately. Nancy Reed made a motion that the committee recommend to KDE to move from the quarterly reimbursement funding to an up-front grant. Jacqueline Austin seconded the motion. All steering committee members were in favor; motion passed.

RTA's Common Assessment: RTA's current common assessment has approximately \$1.5 million contract per year. Committee members stated there are uncertainties regarding the use of the data and if the assessment is effective for all K-3 students. The Steering Committee members shared pros and cons of using a common assessment for RTA and the impact schools and districts would have if the common assessment was eliminated for FY11. If the common assessment was removed, the grant award amount sent to schools would increase. Committee members discussed several reasons for maintaining a common assessment such as:

- the instructional information it provides to identify students for intervention services

- the concern of changing to another testing vendor as longitudinal data is not possible if the assessment is changed every few years
- some kind of common assessment was needed in order to report to the legislators and felt that funding may be compromised if RTA program effectiveness could not be shown

Members also discussed reasons for eliminating a common assessment such as:

- the over abundance of data most schools already have due to school, district, and state assessments.
- the current data is difficult to use to make instruction decisions because it is given too far into the school year and early in the spring. Based on this year's testing windows there was not enough time to see what kind of progress students were able to make.
- could not find anywhere in statute/regulation stating that every school has to use a common assessment across the state to report on the evaluation of RTA
- not confident in the way the current common assessment is administered or the way the assessment data is being used.

Michael Miller stated that he suggest the Steering Committee make a recommendation on this assessment for one year. KDE will have no additional funds to put toward the evaluation and there will be no financial adjustments to the research agenda in an upward fashion. He also stated it would be up to the research team to continue their research without additional funds. Susan Cantrell, CCLD, stated it would be impossible to continue their research goals without a large group of schools using a common assessment and measure the effectiveness of the RTA program--it would not be possible from a research standpoint to answer the questions that legislators have.

Melissa Clements (MGT of America/CCLD) inquired as to what the legislators are expecting in terms of a state-wide evaluation because from a state-wide perspective RTA would need a common assessment across schools. Otherwise, there is currently not another measure in place for K-2 that would allow an evaluator to look at student performance. The question was asked: could a sample of schools using the same assessment be used for evaluation? Melissa Clements stated that she looked at schools using the same progress monitoring measure but it was a small subsample and would not be representative of the state. Melissa stated that the current common assessment was an imperfect measure but it is better than no measure.

Susan Cantrell stated that CCLD is charged with conducting the research of the effectiveness of RTA. Susan stated that there is one persistent issue with the current common assessment data but agreed that a common assessment is essential for evaluation and reporting to the legislators. Susan stated that having a nationally normed assessment is important and there have been some issues with the common assessment and CCLD will not be able to use the national norm data this year in their evaluation—they will be using raw scores from the test. Susan wondered if the decision was made to keep the assessment if KDE would be working with testing vendor on the norming process so the national norms would be useful for their evaluation. Susan Cantrell also mentioned that the cost savings of not administering a common assessment would be eaten up by the higher cost to do the evaluation.

Kim Willhoite stated that the reason for the testing window being later this year was due to the schools moving to a new student information system. Kim stated that the testing window was planned for early September for FY11. It would be possible to have a testing window even earlier. Kim stated CIA will be developing a progress monitoring tool for the 10-11 school year at the request of KDE staff.

Lindy discussed the possibility of starting a new RFA process next year for schools that are not using one of the top identified programs. Susan Cantrell explained how the research team identified the top programs. Susan Cantrell stated that it would be impossible to complete the current research agenda absent a common assessment. Susan Cantrell stated that the raw scores from the T-PRO could be used for the evaluation report. Susan Cantrell stated the report would be available in October where they would answer the question: which intervention programs are the most effective. Susan Ronca stated that the funding would be \$52,700 with the current common assessment or \$57,500 without the assessment.

George Patmor made a motion to recommend to the KDE that the funding level per school be \$52,700 for FY11 so that we may continue with the current common assessment. Motion was seconded by Michael Miller. Michael Miller stated KDE will not have any additional funds to use toward research. Roll call vote on this motion: George-Yes, Greta-Yes, Jacqueline-No, Diane-Yes, Sharla-No, Tonya-No, Nancy-No, Lindy-No, Vikki-No, Michael-Yes, John-Yes.

Diane Hatfield made a motion to provide schools with \$57,500 and suspend the use of the common assessment for FY 11. Michael Miller seconded the motion. Roll call: Vikki-Yes, George-No, Greta-Yes, Jacqueline-Yes, Michael Miller-Yes, Diane-Yes, Sharla-Yes, Tonya-Yes, Nancy-Yes, Lindy-Yes, John-Yes.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jacqueline Austin and seconded by George Patmor. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.