

Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) Program Director Council

Minutes

March 24, 2010

Members Present: Judith Branham, Pat Burchell, Jennifer Griffith, Eva Henderson, Susan Jackson, Martha Karlage, Jennifer Leedy, Kristin Tiedeman, Darlene Urban and Diana Waddle.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Reecie Stagnolia welcomed members. He reported that Kentucky is the first state to adopt the common core standards developed by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers at a joint meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Board of Education and the Educational Professional Standards Board. He noted the adult education challenge is how to align these standards with an approved NRS assessment tool and NRS functional levels. It is anticipated the next GED Tests series will be aligned to the common core standards.

Content Standards and Standards-in-Action

KYAE is embracing the reform efforts of Senate Bill 1 (2009) and will be looking at the common core standards, which are by grade level, and aligning them to NRS levels.

Once the final version of the common core standards has been released, KYAE will work on English language arts standards which include reading and writing standards. Once that work is complete, KYAE will focus on the math standards.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) recently selected Kentucky, along with Vermont, Nevada, Georgia, Arkansas, Kansas and Montana, to participate in the National Diffusion of the Standards-in-Action (SIA) Innovations. This two-year project began January 2010. The purpose is to enable participating states to deliver professional development to help adult education instructors implement standards-based instruction in their local programs. The SIA Innovations address four priority areas of standards-based reform: 1) Building adult education instructors' understanding of the standards taught; 2) Translating the standards into curriculum; 3) Aligning adult education student assignments to standards; and 4) Assessing the extent to which adult education instructors are teaching to the standards and using effective instruction.

Program directors and staff of Daviess, Hopkins and McCracken counties are participating with KYAE staff in this project.

New AERIN Reports

Terry Tackett previewed three AERIN reports under development and got feedback from members on ways to improve these reports.

The Program Summary report contains charts of trend data from 2007-2010 including an enrollment summary (12 or more hours), academic gains summary, GED summary and NRS transition to postsecondary education summary. For prior years, it reflects year-end data, but for 2010, it reflects year-to-date data. We do not yet have a way to compare a selected date from one year to the next, other than year-end. The GED summary and transition to postsecondary education charts reflects those individuals who set these items as goals.

The Attendance by Date report displays for a selected month, the learning center hours per day. If you click onto the month and year link within the report, it will drill down to attendance hours per day per student. It only reflects attendance for students who have attended 12 or more hours.

The GED Status and Scores report displays contact information, test date, pass/fail status, and GED scores.

He reported that KYAE staff are also working to incorporate professional development information into AERIN.

Performance Data

Marilyn Lyons reported when comparing enrollment numbers month-to-month for fiscal year 2008-09 and the current fiscal year, we have seen an increase in enrollment during each month. However, we have seen a decrease in level completions for each month of this fiscal year as compared to each month of last fiscal year. The managed program counties are seeing more significant enrollment growth than non-pilot counties. Managed program counties had the highest percentage decrease in level completions in October, November and March. The non-managed program counties had the largest percentage decrease in level completions in December, January and February.

Ms. Lyons reported on proposed changes to the KYAE funding formula. Since the 2010 Census forms do not capture education data, KYAE is considering a move from use of decennial census data to use of American Community Survey data by fiscal year 2011-12. In addition, KYAE is considering a change of age group from the 18 and older category to the 18-64 age category. This will allow KYAE to access updated data on a more frequent basis and it better aligns with Office of Vocational and Adult Education methodology and with the age range of the majority of the customers who avail themselves of KYAE services.

Managed Program Update

Diana Waddle, Martha Karlage and Jennifer Griffith shared their programs' experiences in the managed program pilot. All agreed results were positive.

GED Update

B.J. Helton shared statistics reflecting the continuing decline of GED numbers across the Commonwealth. She also shared national statistics. She reported 32 of 51 jurisdictions showed a decrease in credentials issued with 19 showing an increase. When comparing statistics on number tested, number completed and number passing, 18 jurisdictions were down in all categories and 17 jurisdictions showed an increase in all categories. KYAE staff will be contacting states to see if there are lessons we can learn from them to help increase GED production in Kentucky.

Performance and Accountability Model

Terry Pruitt presented proposed changes to the Performance and Accountability Model to provide more incentives for GED attainment to help KYAE address the continuing decline in GED production. Members provided feedback which will be taken into consideration by KYAE staff before Performance and Accountability Model is officially amended.

Budget Update

Reecie Stagnolia gave a brief budget update. House Bill 290 proposed a three percent cut over the biennium for adult education. The Senate budget restored some of that money. He reminded members that KYAE has been exempted from a couple of cuts over the past year and that all states and other state agencies are dealing with budget cuts that impact services and resources. He advised KYAE is continuing to request consideration of further exemptions of adult education from budget cuts. He noted the process is far from over.

He reiterated the importance of continuing to focus on efficiencies, such as moving to a managed program model. He noted California has recently mandated a 40-to-1 student to teacher ratio for adult education classes.

It was acknowledged there is a need to develop strategies on how to deal with those who walk in and need services but who cannot meet a managed program model requirements.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Joyce Bullock discussed the process for fiscal year 2010-11 professional development registrations.

Reecie Stagnolia distributed an updated KYAE Profile.

Members were asked to sign expense vouchers and the meeting adjourned.