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

**February 16, 2016**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Region 10 Education Service Center

904 Abrams Road

Richardson, TX 75081

**Members Present: Michelle Bobadilla, Stacey Burrell, Elizabeth Caudill, Paula Cavender, Denise Davis, Dani Day, Ray de los Santos, Dexter Freeman, II, Sarah Jensen, Jean Keller, Jann Miles, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Juanita Reyes, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Kyle Seipp, and Kathy Wright-Chapman**

**Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**

* Jean Keller thanked Kristin Hebert and Kathy Wright-Chapman for coordinating our panel and Region 10 ESC for hosting the meeting

1. **Approval of the December 1, 2015 Minutes**
	* The minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting were approved.
2. **Updates and Announcements from Council Members**
* Ray de los Santos thanked the council for a letter of support for a grant proposal submitted by LULAC National Educational Center.
* Ray de los Santos also reported that the LULAC National Education Center received a small grant to help permanent residents who want to become citizens. Catholic Charities is providing the attorneys.
* Denise Davis reminded all that FAFSA workshops are in process. She said May 1st is Decision Day and April 26th is National College Signing Day. She recommended everyone review [www.reachhigher.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjs0901%5CDesktop%5Cwww.reachhigher.gov)
* The Fort Worth Independent School District just finished their College and Career Workshops and financial aid nights.
* Jean Keller said THECB will have a P-16 Symposium on May 28th. This is an all-day event.
* Sarah Jensen, Commit, asked that all send her dates of their FAFSA events. She reported that in Dallas County 43% of students completed a FAFSA, but many needy students did not. She said that $30,000,000.00 was left on the table because not enough students applied for financial aid.
* Elizabeth Caudill, Dallas Regional Chamber, announced an event April 22nd that brings together the A&M System, UT System, and UNT System to discuss talent attraction – keeping talent in Dallas. Jean said that because of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 60/30TX strategic plan, we will be hearing more about this, and she encouraged the Council members to be good advocates about what our Council is doing to support development of an educated workforce that remains in the state and region.
1. **Updates on AVATAR and GENTX**
* Jean Keller reminded everyone that the AVATAR grant ends on August 31st. She reported that there are 12 regions in full implementation of College Prep Courses, and they have data. There are 7 regions in development of these courses, and 9 regions are working on endorsements with local 2- year partners, especially in health care. A comprehensive report will be given in May.
1. **Gap Analysis Report and Accountability Measures**
* Barbara Bush said that after 13 years of data gathering and analyses, she likes to find nuggets or pieces of data related to our Council meeting presentations. She indicated she would share a bit of information on homeless students PK-12 and those going to college. She said colleges are not mandated to collect data on homeless students but campuses like UNT have food pantries, and data is kept related to their use.
* Barbara made a presentation about students in postsecondary education. The data showed that economically disadvantaged student enrollment in higher education has gone up more than enrollment of non-economically disadvantaged students.
* Barbara Lerner reported that students in the PELL program have a lower 6- year graduation rate. However, data show that if we help these students during the first 2 years, they do as well as non-disadvantaged students.
1. ***Students and Their Challenges: Panel Discussion***

David Ray of ESC Region 10 gave a presentation about homeless students in Texas, as he set the tone for the panelist to follow. He stated that in 1987 Ronald Reagan signed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, designed to address the problems that homeless children have in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, states must ensure that each homeless child has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as other children. This act was reauthorized by President Obama and provides the legal definition of “homeless” children. It is different and broader than the HUD definition. Using the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, there are about 1.2 million homeless children in the US schools, and over 111,000 of these homeless students were enrolled in Texas public schools.

The following panelists then shared with Council members.

* Dani Day, Collin College, said that Hungry to Learn shows that about one half of community college students struggle with food or housing. There are no state or federal mandates to help them. She gave an example of one community college in Texas that hired a social worker to meet with these students and inform them of the resources available and how to get them connected to support. Identifying the student is a huge task.
* Karen Click, Southern Methodist University, said there is a lot of homelessness in the LBGT community. This could be due to being sent out by parents, no funds for rent, bills, etc., pride of independence, and denial.
* Anita Perry, Fort Worth ISD, said that the Fort Worth Independent School District has a program called Open Doors that employs 3 counselors to work with homeless students. They help in many areas including, transportation, tutoring, after school, different programs in the schools, additional counseling, eye glasses, medicines, cap and gown, prom dresses, uniforms, etc.

A rich discussion followed with exchanges between panelist and Council members.

* Jann Miles said that in Workforce Development they look at jobs so homeless students will have an income, first certificate, and a pathway.
* When a student is financially challenged in a 2- year college and the college knows about it, is there a connection to a 4- year institution? The student would have to choose to share that information with the 4- year institution.
* We have an emergency management system called Caring Concern Connection where faculty members are trained to respond.
* There is a real need to support students such as those who were in foster care as they may not have homes to go during holidays.
* We should make a list of resources and people at institutions that could be called on to report a need.
* What about veteran’s? Veterans are a marginalized group. Support groups are sometimes available.
* How do we destigmatize homelessness?
* There is a new women’s shelter for affluent women who have been abused. These women are not street smart and do not fit the picture we have of homeless people. But these women and their children can’t make it without help.
* When the housing market fell there were people living in community centers and church centers or on the street. There was no support for the new homeless.
* Pamphlets are placed around building in the FWISD to show how to get help and where to go for resources.
* There may be a cross connection between college and workforce because some companies will pay for education.

The panel and David Ray were thanked for an excellent and needed discussion.

1. **Committee Reports**

Don Perry and Ray de los Santos reported for the **Funding & Sustainability Committee**. Don said they had a conference call on January 28th. Major points of the meeting include:

* Dues might be cash or in kind and substantial enough that merely attending meetings is not sufficient
* The organization providing the executive leadership could be expected to provide certain related services for a fixed period of time.
* It must be clear what services are provided by the Council. These services may be free to members, and non-members may receive the services for a fee.
* There must be an annual report to the members that includes accounting for dues, whether cash or in kind.
* A dues structure does not preclude seeking 501c3 status.

Jan Miles reported for the **Communications & Networking & Social Media Committee**. She said we need to analyze how many times our website, Twitter account, etc. has been viewed. She said the committee had met with Fred Schmidt about hiring Tarrant County College students to do the infographics for our website. She also said more Council members need to upload items on Twitter. She asked that members send complete information about events.

Barbara Bush reported that the **Research and Accountability Committee** had determined a way to include more workforce and marketable skills data related to60 x 30TX.

Kathy Wright Chapman and Barbara Lerner reported for the **Professional Development Committee**. Kathy said the Executive Committee had asked if they could put together a list of counselor events in Regions 10 and 11. She put a draft together and will send it out for changes and additions. Then she will put it on the website to show opportunities for professional development.

1. **Adjournment**

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| *Date* | *Place* | *Host* | *Possible Topic\** | *Program Leader* |
| *May 3, 2016* | *Educate Texas*  | *Denise Devora & Denise Davis* |  *THECB 60x30 Strategic Plan – Marketability Skills*  | *Barbara Lerner & Dani Day* |