

Distance Learning Coordinating Council
May 15, 2006
Maumelle

Attendance: Rodney Curry, Kathleen Branton, Belinda Kittrell, Karen Ghidotti, Sandra Hardage, Chris Robbins, Drew Mashburn (by audiobridge), Nancy Sparks, Carolyn Ashcraft,

Guest: Mike Lar, Shirley Pickle, Becky Jester, Harvey Nickols, Dionne Britton, Cathi Mullinax, Gordon Smith, Dennis Martin and Arthur Dunn

Minutes

April 27, 2006—motion by Kathleen Branton, 2nd by Chris Robbins - approved by acclamation

May 3, 2006—motion by Belinda Kittrell, 2nd by Nancy Sparks--approved by acclamation

Call to order at 9:05.

Cathi Mullinax presentation—

Cathi as the state Distance Learning Coordinator has the following duties:

- Coordinates the installation and implementation of new equipment
- Coordinate with cooperative distance learning coordinators for the improvement of instruction over CIV
- Coordination of summer professional development sessions for K12 teachers over CIV
- Meets with the Directors, DL Coordinators, and Tech Coordinators on a monthly basis to discuss standards rules and issues surrounding DL
- Maintains a current working knowledge of the state existing dl providers and network
- Provides information on grant funding
- Provides inter-coop scheduling support and issue resolution
- Evaluates K-12 distance learning activities across the state to determine if the activities are being fully utilized. DL coordinator has visited 62 schools in order to know what is going on. During these visits she is watching students to see how they respond to teachers. It is not to evaluate teachers. Watch students to see how they are responding. This information will be presented to providers' at their inservice for new DL teachers.
- Provides leadership in the vision for DL programs and courses including the development and marketing of DL programs
- Provides leadership in directing the evaluation of DL courses, curricula and programs
- Assists DL faculty with course development and refinement

Accomplishments of the DL coordinators:

- Relationships formed
- Facilitator and administrator trainings the same across the board; Cathi developed these materials for the coops based on her experience
- Sharing-partnerships
- Curriculum portal
- Common bell schedule/calendar
- Coordinated and participated in the course approval process as regulated by ADE
- K12 dl newsletter
- Successful facilitation of ADE's CIV sessions
- Technical training for coordinators
- Successful installation
- Site visits-will try to do this every year, it keeps you honest and in reality of what's being done
- Researching what's happening and what other states are doing

Currently working on:

- Coordinating the second round of ADE grant installations
- Coordinating a state-wide training model for Teachers
- Coordinating the ADE course approval process
- Researching and promoting virtual field trips
- Promoting distance learning
- Working with the non-participatory schools
- Developing state standards for facilitators, administrators, teachers and students in distance learning for AR
- Developing online training for facilitators and administrators
- Establishing ourselves with our schools
- Developing vision
- Still in the implementation phase

What we believe as a group, distance learning is:

- Growing
- Necessary
- Effective
- Efficient
- Equitable
- Accessible
- Fragile

Distance learning Needs:

- Consistency
- coordination

- Standards for coordination.
- Money
- Stability
- Promotion in state and out of state
- Teamwork

Please consider:

- Each piece of the dl family—see the whole picture
- Researching further
- Hearing from Administrators
- The current state of k12 distance learning
- Equity and access-the way its funded way its rolled out-that that doesn't change

Time to research

Time to Grow

Time to Build vision, relationships and build the initiative with coordination with ADE and the players in the game

Q&A:

How much money?

- The pot needs to be increased
- stable funding for dl coordinators
- stable funding for programs without putting it back on schools
- come up with funding recommendation that does not tax funding for schools

Do not change funding for schools, Ask for more money for distance learning and let schools stay the same with funding.

Coordination—always a place for coordination. DL coordinators need to be there in coops and someone to coordinate with all of them. Schools are happy and buying into it. There needs to be a coordinator to work with the dl coordinators to keep them all on the same page. Coop is service oriented and ADE is regulatory.

Behind close doors Mike, Shirley, Dee and Cathi talk about everything we are doing. They may not agree but when we come out we are on the same page. Without the coordinator of the coop person those conversation may not take place. The schools may not feel like they are represented in standards. That is a perceptual thing with schools but it's working right now.

Q: Chris Robbins: Is there a clear consensus on the part of your colleagues and the coop directors that perhaps that is the case?

A: Cathi Mullinax -I didn't speak to the coop directors we haven't met to discuss. I haven't put it out on the list serve to coop directors—they would be in a frenzy so I didn't do that. But next time we meet we are going to discuss that. I can speak for the coop directors today and tell you that they want and expect the coordination to stay at the coop level.

Any change right now that would adversely effect the schools would pull down everything we have tried to do over the last two years.

Have administrators to come for panel discussion. Cathi will send a list to Karen.

Q: Karen Ghidotti – heard that systems are in closet that are not being used.

A: Cathi Mullinax -of the 62 schools, no systems are in closet that she knows—

Belinda Kittrell: said a low percentage (10 systems) who didn't use equipment (H323 equipment on the new grant). Some people were grandfathered in that didn't receive new equipment.

Standardize teacher training—send people to be trained by CDLR at Texas A&M. and incorporate information by experienced teachers. Also standardize facilitator training and then make available the procedures necessary for different providers.

Rigor and quality—teacher training, teacher comfortableness, each teacher gets same resources and info.

Committee Reports:

The subcommittee on coordination: Some of committee had not seen the report discussed during the last meeting. Another committee meeting was held on May 9. Suggestions included: have one authority over all dl activities, establish rules and regulation and provide support at the coop level. To council for review or bring back to subcommittee.

Comments:

1. No where does it state the ADE should be that one authority.
2. Drew's comments: Wisconsin, Washington have one body over all distance learning. It is not necessarily state government. But there are benefits of one agency—and possible detriments to one agency authority. To know the impact on distance learning we need to know who's doing what now? And would any changes make it better or worse?
3. Review—the committee to go back and look at providers and districts that receive funding. Do they follow the rules? Also, look at the curriculum.
4. Issues—strike number 3 recommendation from the coordination committee and move it to the full council under funding for distance

- learning coordinators to make sure funding is addressed.—not recommending entity by which authority would reside.
5. Committee takes back issue #1 for further review.

Any recommendations should be emailed to the coordination committee. For the next meeting, requests were made to hear other comments by coop directors, Dee Cox and administrators. Dee Cox needs to be on the agenda.

Reports from other committees will be heard

Next council meeting:--June 1- ADHE
Have recommendations completed from subcommittees by June.

The council will make a list of recommendations at one time——Chris recommends that authors of bill be brought to discuss what they intended for funding
Email to Karen any suggestions

Motion to adjourn – by Carolyn Ashcraft and 2nd by Kathleen Branton.
Motion approved by acclamation.

Minutes approved on June 29 with a motion by Gail McClure and 2nd by Nancy Sparks.