

NSWG Call Summary

NEXT STEPS WORK GROUP

Office of Vocational and Adult Education
Division of Academic and Technical Education
Accountability and Performance Branch
Perkins Collaborative Resource
Network (PCRN) | <http://cte.ed.gov>

January 6, 2011

2010–11 NSWG Planning Team

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NSWG Call Host

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The January 6 meeting convened at 2:00 PM EST with a welcome from the host and an overview of the agenda.

OVAE Updates | OVAE Staff

OVAE staff thanked states for submitting their Perkins CAR before the end of the year. The CAR website is still open for states that need to modify their information. Following CAR review, Regional Accountability Specialists plan to finalize performance negotiations with states by mid-February. The state plan website will be open through March 21. The plans will be reviewed by OVAE in time to send July 1 Perkins award notification letters.

The IPEDS group has convened once and plans to continue convening to discuss relevant postsecondary accountability issues.

This year's virtual data quality institute (DQI) will take place in June. MPR and KAI are working to produce prerecorded courses as well as schedule live webcast and webinar sessions for the June DQI. The general theme for the 2011 DQI is state longitudinal data systems (SLDS). The prerecorded DQI courses will be posted on PCRN prior to the June DQI live sessions. The prerecorded DQI courses will be background information relevant to Perkins accountability, CTE data, and SLDS.

NSWG Updates | Jim Schoelkopf

OVAE received the NSWG recommendation on data sharing access with interest and wants to move forward in the process of removing barriers between federal agencies.

NSWG members should be alert to work around common education data standards. Additional information about Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) and a recent webinar on the initia-

tive are available at:

<http://www.commoneddatastandards.org/>.

Although this work is voluntary, it has some momentum in the SLDS conversation and has generated specific conversations around CTE data uniformity and standards.

Sharon Enright, Ohio, provided additional comments on CEDS. After reviewing the CEDS List Version 1.0, she found them to be a good start, but had some observations and comments.

(<http://www.commondatastandards.org/elements.html>)

The term "vocational" should be consistently updated to CTE. She was pleased to see a CTE concentrator element, but the highly specific definition may not match state definitions. There is an opportunity to work together and develop a common CTE concentrator definition. Additionally, the list of options in the secondary subject area element does not consistently match the career clusters. Consequently, it may be difficult for CTE to follow this. One of the elements, CTE completer, is a performance indicator in Perkins IV, rather than a student group. A future version of CEDS may not need the CTE completer element.

John Haigh said that OVAE occasionally receives information on the CEDS work. He is interested in exploring whether NSWG members would like to continue the group or would rather merge with a larger group, such as the forum under IES. Being part of the forum provides an opportunity to collaborate with peers, as well as data staff at IES and the National Center. John H. and Jim S. will discuss this further and bring ideas back to the larger group. NSWG members may want to consider how to proceed.

Accountability Data Access and Guidance on Student Privacy | Steve DeWitt, ACTE and Nancy Conneely, NASDCTEc

Jim S. contacted staff at the General Accountability Office (GAO) about presenting on their recent *GAO Highlights* on college graduate employment data and related privacy issues. The GAO has expressed interest in presenting more on this report, but was unable to join the January call. They are scheduled to join the February 3 call. The report has sparked some policy discussions around access to data within the NSWG Planning Team. To further the discussion, ACTE and NASDCTEc were invited to update NSWG participants on student privacy discussions with legislative policy-makers.

Steve DeWitt from ACTE and Nancy Conneely from NASDCTEc provided information on their data access policy efforts to date. Congressional committee-level members and staffers are interested in alleviating barriers to data collection. ACTE and NASDCTEc have issued joint recommendations on WIA reauthorization, available at http://www.careertech.org/uploaded_files/NASDCTEc_and_ACTE_recommendations_for_WIA.pdf. The document calls for strengthened connections and common measures between education and workforce development systems. This conversation is also taking place at the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration meetings on industry sector strategies, which focus on industry clusters and how agencies can increase their collaborative work.

The U.S. Department of Education was slated to issue regulations on FERPA in December. There is no updated timeline for the regulations. Hopefully, they will provide more clarification on how student records can or cannot be used. ACTE and NASDCTEc want to hear from NSWG members on specific issues the organizations could take to Capitol Hill to be targeted in legislation. There are many resources available from CEDS consortium members, yet it is difficult to know the extent to

which each of the groups has been made aware of state data needs, including the reporting system that will be created by SLDS. Not all states have the support to reach a high level of quality.

Participants provided the following information, suggestions, and comments during the discussion:

The departments of education and labor have different needs. The department of labor needs people quickly employed, while education wants longer-term training. Business wants both: well-prepared workers who are trained quickly.

At the postsecondary level, community colleges are interested in workforce outcomes, retention, placement, wage gains, and cross-state data through WRIS and WRIS2.

There is an administrative burden on secondary administrators, workforce administrators, and post-secondary institutional research staff in the collection and reporting of data.

For some states, an ongoing challenge at the secondary level is a lack of access to student social security numbers, particularly for accessing employment data. A possible takeaway for ACTE and NASDCTEc might be the challenges presented by sector disconnects. There are challenges in creating a longitudinal dataset without a way to identify individuals progressing through the system.

Additionally, there are limitations on redisclosure of collected data. For example, if a WRIS2 agreement was signed, information could not be disclosed again to the federal government.

ACTE and NASDCTEc are happy to receive further input from NSWG members through e-mail. Steve can be reached at sdewitt@acteonline.org and Nancy at nconneely@careertech.org.

Meeting Wrap-up

At the February 3 meeting, representatives from the GAO will discuss their report on graduate follow-up data. There will also be a topic on the future of the NSWG as its members confront and work with other data systems.

NEXT CALL:

Feb. 3, 2011

2:00 3:00 PM EST

Call Number:

888 751 0624

Access Code: 442772