

**COP Minutes
June 23, 2020
Online via ZOOM**

The June 2020 meeting of the Nebraska Committee of Practitioners will be held, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-03, by a combination of videoconferencing and teleconferencing on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 9:00 am. Access to the meeting will be made available to the Committee members, members of the public and members of the media via Zoom.

Contact information below to connect:

Zoom address: <https://zoom.us/j/4024712452> **Meeting ID:** 402 471 2452
Or via **Telephone:** +1 346 248 7799 **Meeting ID:** 402 471 2452

Tina Forte', Committee Chair, called the Committee of Practitioners meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday June 23rd, 2020, via Zoom.

Members in Attendance	NDE Staff in Attendance	Not in Attendance
Cheryl Burrell	Adrian Bowen	Melody Hobson
Anne Caruso	Jacob Clark	Michele Hensley
Brent Cudly	Pat Frost	Deb Romanek
Andy DeFreece	Jan Handa	Deb Ross
Susan Evans via phone	Sue Henry	Kristin Schultz
Tina Forte	Dottie Heusman	
Bill Heimann	Jim Kent	
Linda Hix	Kim Larson	
Tara James	Joan Luebbbers	
Tracey Kovar	Cathy Mohnike	Guests
Ita Mendoza	Allyson Olson	Lindsey Luly
Ann Nickerson via phone	Ryan Ricenbaw	Rodrigo Mataloun
Kris Schneider	Kirk Russell	
Monica Shipman	Kim Snyder	
Bob Ziegler	Beth Wooster	
	Benjamin Zink	

Welcome & Introductions:

This COP meeting was held via Zoom on June 23rd, 2020 due to Covid19 outbreak. Tina Forte, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the Zoom session. Beth Wooster, ESEA Federal Programs Administrator, introduced new staff that have joined the team. Dottie Heusman and Jim Kent both started in June. Anne Hubbell will be joining the team in August. Tim Vanderheiden, Karen Kentfield have left and Adrian Bowen will be leaving on Friday. Kirk Russell has been promoted to the Assistant Administrator for the team. Tina then had everyone introduce themselves, their roles, and a COVID-19 experience.

Nebraska Open Meeting Acts (NOMA) Reminder:

Tina issued a general reminder about the NOMA. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available.

Open for public comments:

Tina asked if there was any public comment. None was requested.

Approval of Minutes for March 24th meeting:

Tara James made a motion to approve the March 24, 2020 minutes. Linda Hix seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Election of Committee of Practitioners Chairperson for 2020-2021:

Tina Forte Director of Title IA from Omaha Public Schools was re-elected unanimously as the Chairperson for the 2020-21 school year.

Teacher and Principal Performance Standards:

Kim Snyder, Director of Teacher and Principal Support, shared the newly revised Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards ([here](#)), with an enhanced focus on support and development. Districts are not required to use these standards, and her office is making a concerted effort to be collaborative statewide. Ryan Ricenbaw who has recently been hired to work with Kim Snyder shared the framework for supporting the educational systems in Nebraska through the Nebraska Leadership and Learning Network.

CARES Act:

Beth updated the committee on the 2019-20 CARES Act – [Web page](#) and went over the Accountability and Fiscal Waivers that Nebraska received. A description of both accountability and fiscal waiver guidance can be found on this site ([here](#)). She also updated the committee on the new CARES-ESSER Fund Grant that is in test stage with the plan of opening in July. The federal program team, grants management and MTW Solutions are working together on this. The flexibility of ESSER funds can be found on the NDE Cares Act website. Beth gave a brief demonstration of the grant.

Nonpublic:

Beth introduced Jim Kent, who will be taking over as the Nonpublic Ombudsman, but has only been at NDE for 1 day. She shared that the Consultations for both Title I and Within Boundaries are completed. The Consultation form for the CARES Act is posted both on the Nonpublic website and also the CARES Act website. Districts are starting to do these consultations now. There have been a lot of questions on the Nonpublic Equitable Shares with CARES as it does not follow other Title grant guidance. She also shared that there is a new sample lease agreement on the [Nonpublic website](#). Questions were answered about purchasing & labeling of

equipment, and pooling of funds. There was a reminder to LEA's not to write any checks for payments to the nonpublic building/district directly.

Consolidated Application:

The plan is for the Consolidated Application for 2020-21 to open September 1st, with a closing date of mid-October.

Support for Improvement Grant:

The Support for Improvement (SFI) Year three (3) Application for the twenty-seven (27) CSI Schools is open and will close by July 22, 2020. The 2019-20 SFI grant funds are also allowed to be extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are to be encumbered by Sept 30, 2021.

Family and Community Engagement:

Kim Larsen, NDE Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, shared information on a new project. CAFE (Community and Family Engagement) have virtual gatherings that are being scheduled. The Goal is to give families and community members a chance to learn from each other, share their experiences, and inform the work of NDE and schools. Once a flyer is created, Kim will share information with the committee so they can participate and help spread the word. This work will also inform the continued development of the School-Family-Community Engagement Framework.

Title I-A: Educationally Disadvantaged:

Beth reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regional PEER Schoolwide Plan reviews were cancelled. So, current Title I Consultants took on the task of performing the individual school buildings schoolwide plan reviews. There were a few "contingency approvals" based on some schools not getting an Annual Title I Parent Meeting done before September 30, 2020 due to the early closing of schools. The Title I consultants have been following up on the annual participation report that is located in the CDC of the Portal. Consultants are working with schools to update their numbers to correlate with FTE budgeted as Targeted Assistance, which would be any salaries other than Schoolwide. The correction window is open until June 30, 2020. Kirk Russell will be the Title I –A Director for the 2020-21 school year.

Title I-A School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Adrian Bowen reported that the end of year presentations were hosted on June 9, 2020 in a virtual environment and turned out to be very successful. This year while participating in the Zoom sessions each school was offered a running feedback form, so that those observing the presentation could submit feedback, ask clarifying questions, and give suggestions for next steps for each of the schools. Next year there will only be two SIG Schools; Walthill Elementary and Schuyler High School. Dottie Heusman will be taking over SIG for 2020-21.

Title I-C: Migrant:

Sue Henry, Migrant Director shared the potential projected revisions to the Migrant Education Program. There are currently five (5) regions and each have separate district projects. She plans to spend some time next year reviewing the regions to see if there are any region changes needed. They will also focus on families in the districts that should be included as part of the regional projects.

Title I-D: Neglected At-Risk Delinquent:

Pat Frost, Federal Programs Title I, Part D Specialist shared that Nebraska Part D grants are assigned to county detention centers and state agencies per the COP decision in 2000. There are four districts; LPS, OPS, Madison PS, and Papillion LaVista PS with detention centers that receive supplemental Part D funding. DHSS and the Department of Correctional Services are the two state agencies that receive Title I Part D supplemental funding. They provide a program of instruction with requirements of 20 hours (DHHS) and 15 hours (DOC). All recipients completed the required 1-D annual review. The 19-20 performance report is due October 3 on the CDC and includes the career and vocational outcomes and the 90 days after exit data. The Annual October collected caseload count is being developed from the HHS list of facilities. Districts having approved neglected or delinquent facilities within their district boundaries will complete this by December 15. During the Covid-19 virus these facilities continued to have teachers go into schools and group homes.

Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality:

No report was given. Jim Kent will be taking over Title II-A for the 2020-21 school year.

Title III: Language Acquisition:

Allyson Olson, Title III Director, shared important updates to ELPA21 Future Kindergartener Screener Enhancements Update. The ELPA21 screener, like the ELPA21 summative assessment, was designed to ensure that in addition to acquiring English, English Learners can also access rigorous academic content standards so it is challenging. There have been some concerns raised by member states regarding the high number of students who qualify for EL services at the K level (98%). Nebraska currently uses a Future K screener option for entering K students. They are screened in spring, summer and throughout the first semester. This option allows students who score a 3,4 or 5 on Reading and Writing domains and a 4 or 5 on the Speaking and Listening domains to be considered proficient. The rationale for this is that many Kindergarten students have not had formal instruction in reading and writing prior to Kindergarten. The research team at ELPA21 has examined several different options to allow more K students to be proficient on the screener and have presented two options to member states: 1. Allow K students who score a 3 in any domain to be proficient. States may determine the time of year this option would be available. 2. Add an additional category between "progressing" and "proficient" for K students who score 3s on any domain. States could determine whether or not monitoring for these students would be required. Member states will be asked mid-July for their recommendation and if there will be any enhancements, it will be one enhancement, consortium wide.

Title IV-A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE):

Kirk Russell, Title IVA Specialist, shared that NDE is planning to follow federal guidance for the 2020-2021 grant year and plan that schools receiving over \$30,000 must expend at least 20% of their funds in Well Rounded activities, 20% in Safe and Healthy activities, and a portion but not more than 15% for Effective Use of Technology. The Federal Programs Title IV-A Specialist will again be asking for Title IV-A spending data in a survey format next May/June 2021 in order to report the number of district expending Title IV-A funds and in what content area were funds expended. Dottie Heusman will be taking over as the Title IV-A Specialist for the 2020-21 school year.

Title IV-B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC):

Jan Handa shared that the 21st CCLC is a competitive program that awards 5-year grants for afterschool and summer programming for First-Time (sites never previously funded) and Continuation (sites having successfully completed 5 or more years of programming) grants. Continuation grants are funded at 50% of the original grant amount and must show an equal amount of partner/local fiscal support. The oldest cohort will be entering year 18 this upcoming school year. For over ten years Nebraska's 21st CCLC program has prioritized support for successful Continuation grants in order to leverage the 21st CCLC financial investment with the local community partner support. Nationally the 21st CCLC program has been level-funded or received only slight increases since inception, so it will be difficult to continue funding new sites unless Congress appropriates additional funding. After discussion with the 21st CCLC federal program officer the decision was made that the 2021 competition will be open only to eligible Continuation applicants. In response to challenges due to the pandemic, along with our conference partners we began hosting a weekly webinar series, Stay Connected, which provides resources and support for afterschool programs and families every Thursday at noon.

Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program:

Kirk reminded the committee that to be eligible for the SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program, school districts need to have a student ADA count of 600 or fewer students as reported in the previous academic school year and have a federal “rural” account coding as determined by US Census. The 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal year funding years also fall under the Fiscal waiver and schools may carry funds forward until September 30, 2021. RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program – The committee was also reminded of the RLIS funds that flow through NDE are usually less than \$80,000 per year and traditionally been awarded to 3-4 schools through a paper application process.

Title VII-B: Education of Homeless Children and Youth:

Cathy Mohnike, State Homeless Liaison, reported that the McKinney Vento Grant is due for completion on July 13th. Local Liaisons have been concerned about how many students currently could be falling into homelessness due to COVID-19. There is also a small increase in grant funding for 2020-21, yet funds are expected to be the same for schools.

Early Childhood:

Joan Luebbers, Head Start Early Childhood Systems Director, shared a ([handout](#)), the Head Start COVID-19 CARES Act Funds notice that was released in May 2020. The office of Head Start funding for Summer Programs due to COVID-19 provides guidance for programs beginning to operate starting in July 2020. Most summer programs will be in July for children with IEP's and those going to Kindergarten. There will be more guidance coming out on the Preschool Development Grant as soon as DHSS releases the latest funding cycle.

Other:

Beth shared with the committee the following three (3) dates for upcoming events for state/national level meetings: 1) 2020 Vision: Focus on Data Quality On-Demand Videos ([here](#)) 2) Administrators' Days – NDE Day – July 29th-31st ([Virtual Conference](#)); 3). 2021 National ESEA Conference in Boston, MA – February 8-11, 2021

Next Meetings:

The next COP meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 and Tuesday, March 23, 2021 both locations to be determined.