

ABE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 1/6/2000

Members Attending: B. Ash, H. Chernow, D. Branco, J. Koss-Cole, K. DeJesus, M. Forry, J. McCarthy, J. McGovern, S. Martin, K. Skinner, S. Waldron, P. Veysey

Members Absent: Susan Lane Riley

DOE Staff Attending: B. Bickerton co-chair, R. Derfler co-chair, M.J. Fay, S. Petruccelli

DOE Staff Absent: M. Gillon

SABES Staff Attending: C. Reid

Minutes Compiled by: M.J. Fay

Welcome to new members:

- 1) Dr. Kathleen Skinner, Director Massachusetts Teachers Association Center for Educational Quality and Professional Development. Dr. Skinner will be representing the MTA.
- 2) Susan Lane Riley, ABE Program Administrator, SCALE. Ms. Riley will be representing the Adult Education Advisory Committee.

Agenda Item #:

1) Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of 12/8/99 meeting were approved and will be posted on the DOE web site
- Regarding new members: John asked why new members were being added at this point in the process and requested that if they are added that they be non-voting members. (This issue was not resolved.)

2) Time Extension

- Ruth reported that she spoke with the Commissioner and he agreed to an extension until March 31
- John reported that Rep. Binienda will not agree to an extension. John reported that Rep. Binienda has not received any information from DOE regarding the certification. Bob and Mary Jayne confirmed that the Interim Report was sent to the Representative in October. Mary Jayne will call the Rep's office send another Report.
- Bob reported speaking with the Commissioner who asked that we proceed with all deliberate speed with an emphasis on the "deliberate" and "speed." The Commissioner understands it is unlikely our work will be completed this month.

3a) Reordering the Sequence of Topics

- Bob explained that we are reordering our sequence of topics because all subsequent decisions will be based on the list of competencies, which the advisory committee has not voted on.
- "Grandfathering" was discussed briefly and tabled until after the competencies are agreed upon.

3b) What's Covered Under the Legislation

- Ruth reported meeting with DOE legal counsel to determine whether we should be focusing on ABE teachers, counselors, and administrators or just on ABE teachers. Because the statute specifically uses the word "teacher" DOE legal counsel interpreted the law to mean just teachers and not educators, which would include counselors and administrators.
- The committee agreed to focus solely on teachers.
- Bob said that he would pursue additional legislation for certifying ABE counselors and administrators at a later date.

4) Revisit Competency List

- Since the legal interpretation is to develop certification for teachers only, the competency list need only reflect teacher competencies.
- Carey and Mary Jayne submitted a revised draft of the competencies which included a statement of guiding principles for the competencies, indicators of proficiency for each competency, and sample evidence (ways which the competencies might be demonstrated).

- Barbara and Joan proposed moving away from the K-12 competency categories and submitted a list of category titles that they felt were better suited to adult education. After much discussion and a review of the proposed K-12 categories, the group tentatively agreed to have the competency subgroup use the following categories titles:
 - I. Subject Matter/Knowledge
 - II. Understanding the Adult Learner
 - III. Instructional Design
 - IV. Teaching Methods
 - V. Adult Learning Environment
 - VI. Assessment and Evaluation
 - VII. Diversity and Equity
 - VIII. Professionalism/Continuing Education

- Issues which were identified regarding the competency list were:
 1. ways the competencies are broken into topics
 2. are we asking teachers to do too much?
 3. competencies need to be worded so that they are performance measurable competencies.

- There was much discussion about competency #3 under Subject Matter Knowledge and what the minimum knowledge and skills an ABE teacher in each area (math, ESOL, reading and writing, and ASE subject areas) would need to know in order to enter an ABE classroom. Bob reported that meta-nets (on-line discussion groups) have been put together to receive feedback from practitioners in the field across the state on the competencies for administrators, counselors, math, reading and writing, ESOL, ASE subject areas (e.g. science, social studies, history). Recommendations from the meta-nets will be incorporated into the next draft of competencies.

- A subgroup was formed to reorganize and revise Carey and Mary Jayne's draft of the competencies to be presented at the 1/24/00 meeting.

Subgroup members: Suzanne Martin
Barbara Ash
Carey Reid
Mary Jayne Fay

5) Title of Certification

Did not have time to discuss. Will discuss at next meeting

Next Meeting: 1/24/00 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Malden Public Library in the Maccorio room.