

STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Performance and Reporting Subcommittee

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

TELECONFERENCE ONLY
1-669-900-6833 | Meeting ID 872 7503 6234

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: William “Bill” Stanley, Ann Silver, Nancy Olsen, Steve Fisher, Craig von Collenberg, Jennifer Keiser, Stacey Bostwick,

Absent: Erik Jimenez, Hugh Anderson, William “Larry” Fagerhaug

Also present: Andres Feijoo, (OWINN), Joan Finlay, (OWINN),

1. **OPENING REMARKS** William “Bill” Stanley, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. he explained that under normal circumstances, the Board would not be permitted to conduct business via teleconference. However, due to COVID-19, the Governor issued Emergency Directive 006, which permits public bodies to conduct proceedings via teleconference.
2. **ROLL CALL - CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM AND VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING**
Per direction from Chair Bill Stanley, Andres Feijoo took roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
3. **VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING**
Andres Feijoo affirmed that the agenda and notice of the GWDB Performance and Reporting Subcommittee meeting on November 18, 2020, was posted pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.
4. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT(S) NOTICE**
Chair Stanley read the notice into the record as follows: “Members of the public are invited to comment at this time; however, no action may be taken on any matters during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. At my discretion, in the interest of time, public comments will be limited to three minutes per person.”

There were no comments.

5. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Approval of November 4, 2020 Minutes**

Chair Stanley called for a the November 4, 2020 draft meeting minutes of the GWDB Performance and Reporting Subcommittee to be tabled to the next meeting.

6. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY – Overview of the Title II Program

Nancy Olsen explained the difference between the Adult High School Diploma Program and the Title II program. The Adult High School Diploma program, operated by school districts, gives students the option of completing an adult standard high school diploma. There are 14 school districts that operate community-based programs; 8 school districts operate programs within correctional facilities. The Adult High School Diploma Program receives approximately \$18 million in state funding. Students in the program can earn a high school equivalency certificate through one of three state approved national vendors including GED, TASK, and HISET. Students that earn a high school equivalency may be able to waive credits towards the adult standard high school diploma if they score high enough on the high school equivalency.

The Title II program is funded by the US Department of Education Office of Career Technical and Adult Education. It is funded on formula and based on census data for people 18 or older without a high school diploma or equivalency and for those who speak English less than well. Nevada has received an increase in federal funding for the last three years; Title II gets approximately \$7 million. Of that, 82.5% has to go to the local programs for basic funds or approximately \$5 million. There is also \$800,000 for integrated English literacy and civics education for English-language learners. Title II receives approximately \$400,000 in state funds but it has struggled in recent years in meeting the required match for federal funds because state funds have not increased in many years. To date the match has been met by the local programs but it has put a strain on them to meet that match.

Title II serves individuals 16 and over that are not subject to compulsory attendance in public schools and who need a secondary diploma or equivalency or have an academic skills deficit or need help in the English language. Title II has primarily served English as a second language because most individuals in the Adult High School Diploma Program are not English as a second language students too. About 70% of students in the Title II program are English as a second language students also.

Title II has the same performance measures as the other title programs; the one most relevant to Title II are measurable skill gains which includes pre and post-testing on standardized assessments to determine educational gains. Title II has met its targets for the measurable skill gains; the target this year is 42%, next year is 43%. This year the actual performance was 42.6% which means 42.6% of students obtained an educational functioning level gain which is the equivalent of approximately 2 grade levels in any subject area or a high school equivalency will count as a measurable skills gain as well. Other targets include employment targets (employed 2nd quarter after exit, 4th quarter after exit, medium earnings in 2nd quarter after exit and credential obtainment rate). Employment measures cannot be reported in real time; instead, measures are reported about a year behind. Targets for the employment measures have been set for this year. Targets have been met so far but the impact of COVID on targets is not known now.

7. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY – Subcommittee Questions for Title II Program

Steve Fisher talked about a 27-year-old individual he knows that does not have a high school diploma or GED. He asked how this individual would access Title II and what the eligibility requirements for the program are.

Nancy Olsen said there are no income requirements for Title II. Title II has less eligibility requirements than the other title programs. All four community colleges in Nevada, the Clark County library system, and two community-based organizations receive Title II funding. Nevadaadulteducation.org has contact information for Title II related programs. Title II marketing has been a struggle because Title II cannot spend money on marketing.

Ann Silver asked if the 42% in educational gain is a positive number.

Nancy Olsen responded by saying it is not a satisfactory level but given that an educational gain for an individual is the equivalent of two grade levels and the number was 37% in 2017 and is now 42.6%, Nevada is moving in the right direction.

Ann Silver asked how many people, on average, does Title II serve every year.

Nancy Olsen said the year before COVID, Title II served 6,056 individuals. With COVID, Title II has served 4,500 individuals.

Ann Silver asked that if Title II data lags by a year, and if earnings measurements are reported by quarter (ie. Medium earnings by second quarter after exit) how can there be a year's lag in reporting other metrics?

Nancy Olsen explain that if an individual leaves a program in April, their medium earnings by the second quarter after exit are not reported until six months later.

Ann Silver asked if Title II receives their funding on a year to year basis, how does Title II know how much funding to request if their data lags by a year.

Nancy Olsen said Title II does not request funds. Funds are received through a formula from the US Department of Education.

Ann Silver asked if the US Department of Education bases their funding allocations on Title II's metrics.

Nancy Olsen said no; funding is based on census data each year.

Stacey Bostwick said there is the school district program and the adult education program. The matrix showed where they intersected so she wanted to know where there are opportunities and challenges for that partnership. She also wanted to know if there was a reason why there were Title II funds and a separate pot of state funds going to the school districts.

Nancy Olsen described a document when she first started in Nevada called the "divorce" which described how the two programs were separate. About eight years ago, the school districts, which had funding that was not from AEFLA for the program, had no desire to have the level of accountability and reporting that federal funds require so if there is a combination between the two programs, then all programs would have the same level of accountability and reporting. The state funding is only for school districts because only school districts can issue diplomas.

Jennifer Keiser said she was not familiar with that situation.

Stacey Bostwick asked if there was opportunity for intersection between the two programs to possibly help with match funding

Nancy Olsen said there is a possibility for some funds to be used as match; there are activities that the adult high school diploma program pay for that are not allowable under Title II but some activities are allowable to count as match. She referred to a school district (Carson City) that decided that instead of providing English as a second language in their program, they were going to work with Title II to expand services. Churchill school district took a similar approach.

Stacey Bostwick asked what areas the Northern Nevada Literacy Council (NNLC) serves.

Nancy Olsen said their service territory is basically Reno and they have been co-located at the one-stop. The majority of their students come from a low-income area and they work with other community organizations to provide wrap around services for students and are one of the grantees for Title I youth funds. In Reno, Truckee Meadows Community College adult education and the northern Nevada literacy council provide services. In Carson City Western Nevada College is the Title II provider. Great Basin Colleges provides services in rural areas. College of Southern Nevada had 20 locations in the Las Vegas areas. The Las Vegas library system has 11 locations.

Stacey Bostwick asked about integrated education and training and the potential to wrap in digital literacy skills and training and asked if there are policies to move funded partners to support those ideas and if there are federal trends are moving in that direction.

Nancy Olsen said there are not only policies but laws. In integrated education and training, programs that get funding from integrated English literacy and civics education provide occupational training through partnerships with community colleges, private sources or they can build their own training. Great Basin College is not providing this.

Workforce preparation skills including digital literacy are required. All programs are looking to integrate digital literacy skills into the instruction they are delivering. Some programs are better than others.

Ann Silver asked if other providers of high school certifications like NNLC, is Title II competing with them for clients?

Nancy Olsen said ideally an individual is referred to the best program available.

Ann Silver asked how a client would receive direction on which program to go to?

Nancy Olsen said NNLC and the Community Colleges receive Title II funding; the school districts provide adult education through state funding. The staff at Title II locations and at school districts provide students with guidance.

Ann Silver asked if NNLC handles clients who need high school certification, who is counting them as clients served?

Nancy Olsen answered that for NNLC, they are Title II funded. Title II counts those students under Title II only. The only program in the state that partners with the adult high school diploma program where students are counted in both locations is the Western Nevada College program because the school district is offering additional funding.

Steve Fisher asked how subgrantees are chosen and how often are they re-selected?

Nancy Olsen said there is a competitive process such as request for proposals. The law requires multi-year grants on a three-year rotation. An outside committee that reviews proposals to make sure they meet criteria for the grant.

Craig von Collenberg asked if the yearlong lag in data is consistent across all states or just in Nevada?

Nancy Olsen said that is consistent across all states.

Craig von Collenberg asked about the low number of individuals who earned a high school equivalency.

Nancy Olsen said it was low because the testing sites closed in March and also because 70% of students had English as a second language so those students will typically not take the high school equivalency. Also many students start off with low basic skill levels.

Craig von Collenberg asked if demographics are tracked for students.

Nancy Olsen said yes – age, ethnicity, gender, last grade completed, home country etc.

Craig von Collenberg asked if there are greater outcomes from the integrated programs.

Nancy Olsen said there are greater outcomes for the most part but it depends on how the program is structured. The team teaching approach is preferred but costs more.

Chair Stanley asked why three counties were missing from the adult high school diploma data.

Nancy Olsen said those counties have chosen not to apply to provide those services.

Chair Stanley asked if a literacy deficit can be an obstacle to employment.

Nancy Olsen said it is one of the federally defined barriers to employment.

Chair Stanley asked that if an individual has identified barriers to employment, can that person receive services.

Nancy Olsen said yes. In Title II it is the academic deficit that drives that. In the I-BEST type programs, in a career technical education classroom and everyone has a high school diploma or equivalency and their basic skills are assessed, 80% or greater have a deficit in basic skills.

Chair Stanley said in apprenticeship, there is a deficit in math so individuals often can remedial math training. He asked if a person with barrier to employment like that would qualify for training.

Nancy Olsen said yes.

Chair Stanley asked if individuals in the prison system that have a barrier to employment like a basic skills deficit would qualify for Title II funding.

Nancy Olsen said yes. If there were Title II programs in the prison system, they could serve those individuals. In Nevada, there are over 320,000 individuals without a high school diploma or equivalency so funding for that needs to be considered. Therefore, for Title II to go into the prison system, there needs to be more funding.

Chair Stanley asked that is we had more matching funds, could more federal funds be drawn down?

Nancy Olsen said no. Title II match is all or nothing; either there is a match and Nevada gets full federal funding or they do not if they fail to meet match.

Chair Stanley said there were currently no Title II programs in the prison system and asked if that was correct.

Nancy Olsen said that is correct. That is partly because there is insufficient funding to match but also because the school system are in the prison system already. Title II has a cap on corrections funding.

Chair Stanley asked if released prisoners who have an identified barrier to employment qualify for funding from a school district reimbursed through Title II.

Nancy Olsen said no, not reimbursed through Title II. They can be served through Title II though.

Chair Stanley asked **Craig von Collenberg** if it is tuition that is paid for individuals from reentry going through Truckee Meadows Community College.

Craig von Collenberg said he believed yes.

Nancy Olsen said with integrated education and training and integrated English literacy and civic education, it is desirable to have tuition covered from other sources since Title II funding is limited but Title II funds can pay for tuition if necessary.

Stacey Bostwick said the cost per participant in the Title II program is lower than the other programs but is high for adult education. She asked if **Nancy Olsen** had an explanation for that.

Nancy Olsen said the cost for instructors in the school district is higher because they have to be licensed teachers; for Title II they do not have to be licensed teachers.

Stacey Bostwick said there is a different relationship between the school district and where the facilities are in terms of who pays for what. Youth in the detention center in Caliente are Clark County students but Lincoln County school district bears the cost of educating them.

Nancy Olsen said which school districts are in which facility started before her time. The way the adult high school diploma programs are funded is based on enrollment and outcomes for that school district. It is not a per pupil funding formula; it is based on a three year rolling average on enrollment and outcomes.

Chair Stanley said adult education comes out of its own line item within the general fund.

Jennifer Keiser said the students in Caliente are now Clark County School District students taught by CCSD licensed teachers.

Nancy Olsen said the youth detention facilities are not funded by the adult high school diploma program.

Jennifer Keiser said students 16 or older that come to Clark County through parole work on high school equivalency or diploma.

Chair Stanley asked **Nancy Olsen** to provide any additional documentation if she wishes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOTICE (SECOND)

Chair Stanley read the statement into the record: “Members of the public are invited to comment at this time; however no action may be taken on any matters during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. In my discretion, in the interest of time, public comment will be limited to three minutes per person.” She invited comments from Carson City, Las Vegas, or on the telephone.

There were no comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT – The November 18, 2020 meeting was adjourned.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third day prior to the meeting on the Internet at:

OWINN’s Public Meetings website - <http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/Performance and Reporting Subcommittee Meetings/> and Nevada’s Public Notice website at <https://notice.nv.gov/>, as required by NRS 232.2175.

Supporting public material provided to Committee members for this meeting is posted on OWINN’s Web site at <http://owinn.nv.gov/GWDB/ Performance and Reporting Subcommittee Meeting> and may be requested from the Executive Director’s Office at 555 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada or call (702) 486-8080