

# Minutes of the Meeting - January 13-15, 2002

National Network for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (NNSDFSC)  
Westin Grand Hotel, Washington, D.C.

## **Day One, Sunday Morning, January 13:**

### **New Coordinator Orientation**

**Members present:** Forty-six individuals, including 14 representatives from Governor's Offices, 18 representatives from State Education Agencies, four from regional comprehensive assistance centers, five from Local Education Agencies, one from the Central Center for the Application of Prevention Technology (CAPT), and four partners were present. See sign-in sheet on file with the NNSDFSC Secretary for individual names.

**Orientation:** NNSDFSC Chairman, Ian Neuhard, US Department of Education Project Officer, David Quinlan, and Cynthia Timmons of the Reg. VII Comprehensive Assistance Center led a discussion that covered accountability, Title IV, and General Provisions. A couple of gleanings from the discussion include:

- Robert Alexander supervises the SDFS program staff at the US Department of Education.
- Carryover from the "High Need" school districts must be returned to those same districts. The High Need set-aside has been eliminated in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

## **Sunday Noon, Awards Luncheon (Co-sponsored by CAPTs):**

A special awards luncheon opened the Network meeting to celebrate the passage of the *No Child Left Behind* law and to recognize those members and partners who were instrumental in bridging the Network to the reauthorization process. Etched glass (upright on a platform-style) awards were presented to Greg Williams, Susie Roberts, Julie Peterson, and Denise Fitch. Framed certificates were presented to Larry Clark, CEO of C.H.E.F., and Jack Pollard and Pat Aaby of the Channing L. Bete Co. (both formerly of Developmental Research Programs, Inc.).

## **Sunday Afternoon, Network Business Meeting**

**Members Present:** 13 representatives from Governor's offices, 25 from SEAs, two from LEAs, four from Regional CACs, one from the Central CAPT, and five partners signed in to reflect a total of 50. See sign-in sheet on file with the NNSDFSC Secretary for individual names.

**Opening:** Ian Neuhard opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with a welcome, a review of the agenda, and a round of self-introductions.

**Minutes/Directory/Correspondence:** Secretary, Janelle Krueger, confirmed that almost everyone had received the Minutes of the June '01 meeting via e-mail. (Anyone having difficulty opening an attachment should try saving it to the desktop instead of opening them via e-mail.) The minutes were approved. The membership directory was circulated for revisions and the sign-in sheets were explained. Correspondence was read from Sue Mahoney, wishing us well upon her retirement from the Vermont Department of Education.

**Treasurer's Report:** Penny Deavers reported the following from a handout – Income carried over from Dec. 13, 2000 = \$6,166.30, plus \$8,870 received in registration fees for January and June meetings in 2001, plus \$10,100 in total contributions from United Learning, C.H.E.F., Southwest CAPT, Leadership Technology, and Syndistar = \$25,136.30 in credits. Network expenses totaled \$13,906.81, leaving us a balance-on-hand of \$11,229.49.

The report does not include the registration fees or expenses for this January 2002 meeting.

**Task List/Committee Reports:** Items were reviewed from the task list, including updated information as follows:

- 1) The Web Site: Updates are on hold. The webmaster from Florida has left the position.
- 2) Coca-Cola Grant/Funds for Exec. Director – The grant was not funded. Ian proposes to work with sponsors to work up a proposal development team and seek out sources for continued operation and expansion of the Network. Ian will work on approaching folks.

Committee: C.H.E.F. networks with other national networks. It was suggested to look at these networks as well as other like networks such as Title I, NASADAD, CADCA, the NPN, etc. The committee to look into this remains to be Gus Dalis and Cathleen Olson. Janelle Krueger resigned from the committee. Added to the committee are: Lynn Widdowson (MD), Chris Gilmore (Reg. XIV CC), Molly Baumgardner (OH), and Brenda Rowe (GA).

- 3) Legislative Committee: Committee members remain: Cathleen Olson (lead), Julie Peterson (C.H.E.F.), Susie Roberts (WA), Denise Fitch (WA), and Tracie Kalic (KS).
- 4) School Nat'l Recognition: Paul Samoukil, (WY) reported that efforts are on the back burner. He will continue to serve the Network as a liaison. Ann Clark, Houston ISD, will join him on this committee since the company holding the contract with the US Department of Education is located in Houston.
- 5) IASA Regionals: Karyn Gukieson (TX) reported that 7-8 Network members joined together for dinner the night before the December IASA Regional Conference in San Antonio. Only five or six gathered for dinner in Reno but they had a great discussion. Representatives were from California and Washington.

Future regional meetings: It was recommended that we keep trying to assemble for informal dinners if the US Department of Education continues to have regional fall conferences. A Network member from the State where the conference is held is expected to be the lead organizer for the dinners. They can e-mail Network members for help in identifying agenda items to be discussed. Ian will contact the state reps. in those states to see if they can make arrangements.

- 6) New Task! Prevention Research-based Strategies/Paper: It was proposed that volunteer leaders draft some type of a position paper to link school prevention efforts with academic achievement. Denise Fitch and Julie Peterson will serve as co-leaders. Others who can help include: Phil Gapinski (Reg. CC), Arlene Sheffield (NY), Molly Baumgardner (OH) who did a paper about this already, Joe Altschul who will ask Jim McColl (United Learning), Gus Dalis, (Reg. CC), Pat Aaby (Channing L. Bete Co.), Kim Williams (FL), and Lynn Widdowson (MD) who had Howard Adelman present in Maryland about connecting our work to close the achievement gap.

Known work, suggestions, or other places to look include –

- 1) CDC Division of Adolescent Health's studies on school achievement
- 2) States should better coordinate their own local data.
- 3) Oregon – Juvenile Justice and Dept. of Human Services had a CDC grant
- 4) Arkansas and New York found that healthier kids learn better.

This data could inform the US Department of Education and it was recommended to get organized right away to choose a format for the information.

### **Afternoon Break Sponsor (Mendez Foundation – Florida non-profit)**

Cindy Coney, Executive Director, spoke about the Foundation and gave a brief overview of their programs. "Too Good for Drugs" is a CSAP Model Program. "A Peaceable Place" will now be called "Too Good for Violence". They recently signed a dissemination agreement with CSAP. The program includes a teacher training component and 14 lessons for high schools.

**Annual Election for Vice Chair:** Election procedures were explained by Cathleen Olson and ballots were distributed. Per the bylaws, each SEA, LEA, Governor's Office, and Regional CAC are allowed one vote each. Candidates for Vice Chair included Denise Fitch (WA, SEA) and Molly Baumgardner (OH GOV).

Forty-four ballots were cast and counted by Cathleen and witnessed by Arlene Sheffield (NY). One was thrown out for lacking an identification name. Denise Fitch was elected, filling the expired term held by Cathleen Olson. It was moved and seconded to destroy the ballots.

**Questions and Answers for Monday morning visit with US Department of Education:** The group brainstormed 29 questions to ask the visitors from the SDFS office. Most centered around the new *No Child Left Behind* law.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

## **Day Two, Monday, January 14**

**Members Present:** 14 representatives from Governor's Offices, 30 from SEAs, seven from LEAs, one from the Central CAPT, four from Regional CACs, and eleven partners signed in for a total of 67. See sign-in sheet on file with the NNSDFSC Secretary for individual names.

### **Continental Breakfast Sponsor and National Prevention Leadership Conference (United Learning)**

Joel Altschul introduced Connie Rechner, Vice President of the Prevention Division. He then gave an update about the conference to be held July 24-26 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Featured presenters are David Hawkins (DRP), Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor from Howard's office (UCLA).

The group discussed other possibilities, such as: 1) Attract more young people to the field, 2) Add a motivational speaker, 3) Get others to buy in to incorporating prevention principles into their work, 4) Invite Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio, and Cathleen Kennedy Townsend, Lt. Governor of Maryland, 5) Invite superintendents to see Howard's work that connects prevention to academic achievement.

### **Presentation and Discussion with Staff of the US Department of Education – Reauthorization and Federal Program Updates**

Bill Modzeleski presented (PowerPoint) a broad overview of the *No Child Left Behind* law and the interconnectedness of all the federal programs. (PowerPoint was later made available via David Quinlan's listserv.)

### **Morning Break and Executive Committee Travel Sponsor – Channing L. Bete Co.**

Mike Bete announced that Mrs. Rich (PA) has joined the company fulltime to work on the Communities that Care model. Rick Parker from the company was also introduced.

### **Federal Programs, continued:**

Debbie Rudy and Robert Alexander presented (PowerPoint) an overview of the new Title IV, Part A, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. (PowerPoint was later made available via David Quinlan's listserv.)

### **Lunch – On your own.**

### **Technical Assistance with SDFSC Project Officers**

Small breakout sessions were held between project officers and representatives from the states to address more specific questions in the NCLB law

Tuesday afternoon, continued.

### **Afternoon Break Sponsor (PRIDE Surveys)**

Thomas Gleaton presented information about their work with student surveys and data. More information can be found at [www.pridesurveys.com](http://www.pridesurveys.com).

**D.A.R.E. and Robert Woods Johnson Evaluation:** Sue Thau (CADCA) introduced Zili Sloboda (formerly with NIDA) from the University of Akron, Richard (Dick) Hawthorne of RWJ, and Bill Alden, Deputy Director of D.A.R.E. America.

Background of National Evaluation on Revised Curriculum: The evaluation was a result of a meeting on June 18, 1999 at Princeton University. Two months ago a meeting was held with Bill Modzeleski, Deputy Secretary Hanson, an assistant to Secretary Paige (who served on the D.A.R.E. Houston Board), and Judge Eric Endell.

Other gleanings: D.A.R.E. has an advantage of having a national diffusion system set up which typically doesn't exist in prevention services. The focus on the new curriculum will be the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade combined effects. The national evaluation will gauge the impact of the program on substance abuse through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Mary Ann Pence, University of Southern California, determined that the highest fidelity of replicating programs had the highest outcomes. D.A.R.E. officers in Ohio and New Orleans are being trained.

Timeline: They are at least a year and a half away from the first release of 8<sup>th</sup> grade results for substance abuse outcomes. The baseline data comes from this first 7<sup>th</sup> grade sample in the pilot sites.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

### **Day Three, Tuesday Morning, January 15**

**Members present:** 13 representatives from Governor's Offices, 24 from SEAs, five from LEAs, one from the Central CAPT, none from Regional CACs, and ten partners signed in for a total of 53. See sign-in sheet on file with the NNSDFSC Secretary for individual names.

### **Continental Breakfast Sponsored by SERA Learning**

Ian Neuhard presented some information about SERA Learning and expressed appreciation for their support of our meeting.

### **Congressional Reauthorization – Past, Present, and Future**

Sue Thau, Julie Peterson, Greg Williamson (former aide to Senator Patty Murray), and Bethany Little (Current Education Aide to Senator Patty Murray) gave a panel presentation about discussions that happened during the course of the NCLB Act moving through Congressional committees. Points made along the way were:

- The intent of UMIRS was to establish a minimum data set. We need to be sure that the US Department of Education gives strong guidance on this to hold everyone to it.
- Risk and protective factors, community mobilization, and the National Advisory Committee were big issues.
- Researchers who latch on to specific models can be very influential (i.e. Reed Lyon's study of reading from the National Institutes of Health is now promoted by many to be the best way to teach reading.)
- Waivers will most likely be accepted for innovative programs that can show a great likelihood of success.

- There was very active discussion to not narrow the list of approved programs, like the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (CSRSD) program because the providers don't have the capacity to serve the whole country.
- School Resource Officers: 1) Flexibility is best at the local level to decide if hiring more SROs is a good thing or not versus 2) "We want more SROs so let's find more money to get more hired." Questions were raised about the effectiveness of SROs. Howard Adelman thinks it's a bad idea because it's a resource issue. "There are other things that kids need." SRO expenditures were capped at 40% instead of a proposed 100% by Congresswomen Dunn who is a big fan of SROs.

Advice for future efforts:

- Be available – things happen fast and without warning. He or she who cares the most, wins. Elected officials are willing to go to the mat for what they believe in. They live to fight for causes important to them.
- Be networked with people who can be mobilized in a hurry. The only tool Congress has is information. It's everyone's best weapon, i.e., the backup for the Principles of Effectiveness.
- Congress needs the results of what this reauthorization brings about to inform the next reauthorization process.
- When people try to bad mouth the program, we need information to counter it. It was lacking and that's why you see things like trying to roll the program into Twenty-First Century and transferability.
- The only way education aides get the information is for them to have the contacts.
- The worse thing a staffer can do is set their Rep or Senator up for an embarrassing moment. They must always have information that backs up what the Rep/Senator says publicly.

Following a break -----

**Program discussion/data:** An open large group discussion was held for any other issues. The need for better data collection and reporting was a topic of interest for several members. Matt Myers (VT) recommended there be a core set of questions for a core set of data. Brenda Rowe (GA) believes it's crucial to work on a data set. She has experience with Foundation support (funds) for helping the Network carry out committee work around this issue. Lynn Widdowson (MD) also expressed an interest in serving on a committee to further explore options.

Future "hot topics": Recommended topics by the group for the January meeting agenda included data sets and issues coming out of the new legislation.

**Breakout Session for Small Groups:** The group was reseated for discussions by the new data committee, by SEAs, and by Governor's program representatives to finish out the morning.

**Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at noon by members handing in written comments to evaluate the meeting and for Secretary Janelle Krueger to summarize.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Krueger  
 Secretary, NNSDFSC  
 (Colorado Department of Education)