

Minutes from the Utah Regional Conference:

Nov. 7, 1999 – SDFSC Regional Meeting- Salt Lake City, Utah

Members present:

Janelle Krueger – Colorado SEA
Gus Dallas – Los Angeles County
Kay Beth Stavley – Texas SEA
Mary Vanderwall – Colorado SEA
Spencer Sartorius – Montana SEA
Claudia Hasselquist – Idaho SEA
Susie Roberts – Washington State - Gov
Denise Fitch, Secretary – Washington State SEA
Betty Denlinger – Arizona SEA
Julie Peterson – CHEF
Ward Green – Texas SEA
Verne Larson – Utah SEA
Marsha Irving – Washington State Gov
Judy Bendersky – Alaska Regional Ctr.
Paula Delion – New Mexico SEA
Cathleen Olson – Chair Arizona LEA
Joanne Sebastian – PREL
Mary Weaver – California SEA

Thanks to Susie, Spencer and Denise for setting up the SEA/Gov. Utah new coordinator training. This is more of an informational sharing training session. This is the first time that we have had this training. It is real positive that the department of Ed was involved in the training. There are still coordinators that may have been in the job for a period of time that still feel new. All coordinators are welcome.

Discussion was brought up about location of the January 23-24 National Network meeting in Washington DC. Choices are the Westin, or One Washington Circle. The vote of the group was to try to stay at the Westin, as that is the location of the meeting itself. Cathy will check on room rates and blocking rooms.

Coordinator's Meeting Debrief: What would you have like to have had? What could have been covered in depth?

EDGAR – regulations – FERPA, but more information on the laws and requirements are needed. The Special Education Laws brought new information and how these laws impact SDFSC. They had cut some of that out because they had gone over time-wise in Tampa. Project officers should identify those people who are new over the last 2 years and encourage them to attend the training. Personal contact also helps.

One positive impact was the collaboration between the USDE and the National Network. Gus recommended that there be a letter be sent to Bill with a "CC" to David thanking them for their participation. Spencer recommended that it be put on the list serve.

Betty shared that it was too overwhelming. Too much information was given. Perhaps a common framework with SEA's and the Gov.'s people presenting their common information simultaneously, and then look at the regulations.

There was also need to look at the possibility of having the training a full day. There is a lot of very valuable information that could be covered.

A suggestion to hook up the new coordinators with seasoned mentors may be valuable to new coordinators.

January – Discussion on the Quality Assurance Act –

National Network also recommended that SEA's and Gov. Reps from other states on consolidated reviews to the USDE. To date there has been no follow-up from USDE on this recommendation.

Utah uses peers to participate as part of the SEA review teams for LEA's. Volunteers from National Network that would like to participate in these reviews should contact Cathleen @ colson @ mcrsd.org or (602) 452-4711.

January network meeting – look at doing training with the integrated teams, if they are going to be included in the integrated reviews.

Spencer recommended that the training be informal, establishing a dialogue instead of making a formal presentation. This would be an opportunity to chat, and share information. Talking heads don't meet the needs relative to adult learning styles.

Look at a list of topics – advanced materials – let the new coordinators develop the agenda based on their needs.

Incorporate your notes into this information.

Cathy acknowledged the departure of Judy Airhart as vice chair, due to the fact that she took a new job. It was unanimously decided that the network would like to acknowledge her outstanding work as vice-chair by sending her flowers to show our appreciation.

Denise and Cathy will get together prior to the January meeting to determine the direction the network will take to fill the vice-chair position. Mary Vanderwall (former vice-chair) shared information about the importance of the vice-chair position. Mary talked about the committee work that was developed early on.

Cathy said that she has the nomination ballot for the chair position, as Cathy's position is up for re-election in January. The chair is the glue of the network, doing the paperwork for the meetings and setting those up as well as legislative issues. Cathy also shared that

the chair also served as the treasurer. She would like to separate those positions due to the fact that the network has been growing over the last few years. Currently all of the

officers are SEA people. It would be nice to have a Gov.'s rep as well as work on geographic location of the officers. She handed out nomination forms for both positions. The by-laws will have to be changed at the January meeting in order to make this change.

Using the list-serve may be an option with the completed ballots forwarded to Cathy Olson. Cathy also shared that if you nominate someone, be sure and tell them and have them send in a short bio.

Julie Peterson talked about appropriations level. State grants for FY2000 is 460 million dollars. What seems to be a big issue in HHS is class size and new teachers, etc. The bill will be presented to the president once again on Thursday, the projected last day of the session. November 19 is the last day that they want to stay in D.C. to look for a continuing resolution. Julie shared that in previous years when reauthorization has not passed, they do a continuing resolution and roll it into the next year. Julie shared that the briefing in June had a positive impact on reauthorization. Julie shared with the group that she and Denise and some LEA's have met with congressmen from our state who have taken a great interest in this program. We as coordinators need to keep in mind that we can best speak regarding program effectiveness and we need to share that information to key legislative staff and our state representatives.

Janelle recommended that we send a thank you note to Sue Thau for all of her help on reauthorization.

Gus shared that it should be the schools that share the information with their congressional staff. Gus has developed a list-serve to communicate with the coordinators in his county area. He sent the CADCA information to his coordinators. As a result, his coordinators contacted Feinstein and others in his state regarding their support of the reauthorization language.

Vern shared the information on the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant that was received by his state. His concern was that the district that received the grant was not the greatest need area of the state. There was also concern regarding the Middle School Coordinator Grant and the training that is coming up for those programs that received funding. There was agreement that this information needs to be shared once again with Bill Modzeleski and that these competitive grants are very counterproductive to the directions that states are going with their programs. The group also voiced concern regarding the timing and timeline for these federal grants. There was a significant level of frustration with the entire process and the fact that these concerns had been brought up to Bill before, to no avail. We would like to have the opportunity to share this information with Bill tomorrow as well as a follow-up letter with a "cc" to Secretary Reilly.

Betty brought up the fact that it might be a good idea to supply some input as far as process of grant review that worked well with the SIG grant in Arizona.

Question regarding the how many states is using the risk and protective factor framework. The information was collected. Cathy wanted to know where to go for information on the risk and protective factors. Denise recommended that they look at the western CAPT website or the DRP – Developmental Research Programs web site.

Question regarding the development of the crisis planning for states. These plans would be primarily for the states and their response. Oregon has a NOVA team. Montana's plan is on their website under safe schools.

There was discussion regarding the sponsorship by Philip Morris to states to provide the Botvin curriculum. Philip Morris will do the research. Concerns by the tobacco-free youth include the fact that PM will control the results and could skew them to show that these programs are not effective. Susie asked the question regarding whether PM was required through the tobacco settlement to provide tobacco prevention curriculum to school. The issue is that PM is being prescriptive regarding the specific curriculum.

Gus shared – Set of personal and social skills that they have been working on with since 1994. They have completed a longitudinal study and have found some interesting results. They have done this in partnership with the center, and have found that the classroom is not the only venue for prevention. They call it The Missing Link – how to navigate life. They came to the conclusion that they can't ask teachers to do one more thing. They shifted the emphasis in some grades by diminishing the responsibility for some teachers. They found that they needed to cut down on the responsibility of teachers. It is up to the school district to decide what they are going to cut down in order to implement this new information instead of adding more. They had controls and test groups – personal skills and control group. They did this in 10 middle schools – 5 control – 5 test. Findings at .95 confidence. They found that the use of marijuana and alcohol was significantly higher in the control group than in the test group. The increased prediction of tobacco use was also higher than the test group. Some of the other findings were at .90 and .85 confidence level. The research is not yet written up in published form, but the key findings are found in the brochure.

Jerry has done some checking to see if California can handle being the clearinghouse for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program information.

The Dewine bill has been introduced into the Senate with Senator Murray as co-sponsor. Please take some time to review the language to see if there is anything that you may want to change. Get that information to Denise Fitch by next Friday, November 15.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.