



**OSY Technical Support Team (TST)
Conference Call
January 21, 2010**

TST Participants: *Jessica Casteñeda, Gloria DeBella, Omar Lopez, Tomás Mejía, Ray Melecio, Barbie Patch, Brenda Pessin, Erin Shea, TJ Sparling, Sonja Williams, Tomás Yañez, and Patricia Meyertholen*

Time of Conference Call: 9 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST), 10 a.m. Eastern Time
Telephone Number: 1-913-856-2091

Agenda items:

1. February 22-23 OSY TST Meeting in McAllen, Texas.
2. 2/22 – 23/10 – Agenda items.
3. Oral language assessments
4. OSY Handbook by Erin Shea, Vermont MEP.

Pat welcomed the TST members who were participating in the January OSY TST conference call. She reminded the participants that all calls are planned for the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. CST (10 a.m. Eastern Time). She thanked those that were able to participate. Two new members were added to the group: Tomás Mejía and TJ Sparling.

February 22-23 TST Meeting

Pat reviewed with the group that the next TST meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Texas Migrant Interstate Program's (TMIP's) Secondary Credit Accrual Workshop to be held on Monday, February 22 in McAllen, Texas. She asked Tomás Yañez to address the group about the workshop. He explained that this is an annual event in which MEP staff from across the nation convenes to talk about issues related to secondary-aged migrant youth. This year the emphasis will be on credit recovery programs. It is a great opportunity for the TST members to network and to actually experience first-hand credit recovery programs that districts are implementing in the Texas Rio Grande Valley region. He also offered the group the option of visiting school districts that operate model programs. Since the group will be very busy, anyone interested in this option, would have to spend an extra day in the Valley to visit schools on Wednesday. If anyone is interested in this arrangement, please call him at 956-702-6047.

Pat explained that there are actually 2 hotels associated with the TMIP Workshop/TST Meeting. The Homewood Suites by Hilton (956-630-0500) and the Springhill Suites by Marriott ((956-682-6336) are both offering an \$89.00 group rate under "Texas Migrant Education". Both hotels offer shuttle service to and from the McAllen airport and convention center. Although Tuesday's meeting will take place at the Homewood Suites, this hotel only has a limited number of \$89.00 rooms. Should anyone call the Homewood Suites and be quoted a higher rate, he/she should call the Springhill Suites next door and book a room for \$89.00. The hotels are next to each other; only separated by a parking lot. Pat also explained that since the hotel is not full service, she thought that the group should break for lunch, instead of catering lunch. This would give everyone an opportunity for a little down time. Also, the hotel offers shuttle service to nearby restaurants. The group agreed that this lunch arrangement was fine.

(Both the agendas for the workshop and the TST meeting were attached with the TST conference call announcement.)

Collaboration with the TMIP Workshop on February 22

Pat said that the TMIP agenda calls for the TST to conduct an OSY feedback session with workshop participants regarding credit recovery for OSY. This occurs for 45 minutes at the beginning of the day. Pat

asked that she be able to work with Bob Lynch on the format of the feedback session and will send out a document for the group's review before finalizing. The group agreed. Pat will work with Bob and get something out to the group via email as soon as possible.

TST Presentation

The TST group then presents for one hour during the workshop. Pat asked the group to give some thought to what they, as TST members, would like to present during that 1 p.m. time slot. She thought that TST members could each take about 10-15 minutes to highlight different areas or instructional strategies related to working with OSY. For example, Omar could talk about using iPods with recovery youth. Pat would then collect Powerpoint slides from those who want to present and make a PowerPoint presentation for the TST. Volunteers to participate in the presentation were: Erin, Sonja, Omar and Jessica. Pat will work with them and anyone else to put together a presentation for the workshop. Barbie suggested serving lunch to the TST members so that there would be time to talk about the presentation. Pat will look into the cost of that and let them know if it can be done.

TST Meeting – Monday afternoon

The agenda for Monday afternoon (after the TMIP Workshop) focuses on the production of an 8 minute OSY video which will be used at the OSY Dissemination Event and afterwards in the consortium states. The group will outline the storyboard of the video production. To get the group thinking about structuring the video, Pat explained that Brenda attended a dropout summit that showcased students in a video. The video addressed several factors that research has shown must be in place in order to be successful in working with this population. Pat hopes that the content of our OSY video also can be wrapped around those themes, or modified versions of the themes, and be told/narrated from the perspective of OSY.

The group will convene formally at 3:15 p.m. in a room in the McAllen Convention Center. The meeting will last until 5 p.m. There is a chance that the group would meet with the videographer at that time. If that is the case, members should be thinking about being videotaped, and if so, what they would talk about. Pat will send them the link to the ERIC Digest article about the eight factors that recur in research about effective alternative programs for OSY. The group should read the article and think about how the video can be structured in terms of these factors. The group should begin thinking about what should go into the storyboard for the video.

TST Meeting - Tuesday

Pat commented that the agenda on Tuesday is quite full. Jessica will be prepared to talk about the Literature Review. Barbie, Bob and Brenda will give updates on collaboration with the other OME consortia – MAS and LEARN. Omar will give an update on the Plazas Comunitarias in terms of consortium-wide usage of the Georgia MEP portal. HEP and CAMP collaboration will be discussed. Bob Lynch will provide updates on the Living in America audio enhancement and the *For Your Health/Para tu salud* health educational materials. And hopefully, the group can begin working with a career exploration component for the OSY grant. Bob Lynch has offered the group the use of career materials developed in the past by the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center entitled *Looking for Work Step by Step/Buscando Trabajo Paso a Paso*.

The greater part of Tuesday's agenda will concentrate on the OSY Dissemination Event. The TST will be the group responsible for putting together this Trainer of Trainers event for all the consortium states. Barbie mentioned that the number of participants was limited. Pat explained that the event would be set for no more than one hundred participants – including consortium and non-consortium states. Brenda commented that it would be appropriate for participants to have a hands-on in-depth experience in how to work with the OSY products, strategies and instructional materials with this population. The OSY *Toolkit* can be whatever the group decides; for example, an actual toolkit, a jumpdrive containing materials or a combination of both. It will be something that the TST will put together from the beginning to the end. It will be a challenge, but very rewarding. Meals, general sessions, breakout sessions and speakers are all to be decided upon by this group.

Pat asked the group to block out the week of September 13th. The actual event will be 1 ½ days but until the hotel contract has been signed, it is best to keep that whole week free. Ray spoke to his efforts to

date in looking at hotels in the Clearwater area. There are 4 possibilities in terms of hotels. Two hotels offer the state rate. Ray will follow up with Pat and Brenda (all assigned by the OSY Leadership Team) on the hotel selection. The hotel should be chosen by February's meeting.

Several members mentioned a famous astronaut who was a migrant student as a possible guest speaker. He now lives in the Houston area. Jessica heard him speak at a conference in Pennsylvania. She said he was fantastic; very motivational. She will send Pat the link to a website so that she can follow up. Ray said that on his website, there is an 8 week timeframe in terms of contracting with the man to speak. Pat asked that the group continue thinking about possible candidates as speakers. It will be very exciting to put this event together with this group, because everyone contributes so much and has great ideas!

English Language Assessments

In following up on the consortium request for English Language Assessments for OSY, the group had limited success. There are only two language assessments that consortium states are using. They were created by New York and Vermont. The SOLOM (Student Oral Language Observation Matrix) was also recommended by Susan Durón. Pat sent all three out for the group's review. Although the SOLOM was suggested, it was not known if it was currently being used. The instrument was developed by the California MEP for in-school youth. At a recent CA MEP OSY Coordinators Forum, Pat asked this group what they were using for language assessment for OSY for the CA MEP. She was told that this population was not being assessed. So as far as the TST is aware, the SOLOM is not being used anywhere with OSY. The group had previously reviewed the instrument and made modifications for OSY. Pat explained that these 3 instruments were shared with the OSY Leadership Team. The group suggested that the instruments should be shared on the OSY website along with explanations outlining the circumstances in which the instruments were used. The TST members agreed. Sonja added that we need to mention that the assessment have not been tested for validity, but have been found useful in camp settings. Brenda said to mention if training was needed to administer the assessments, and if there were fees associated with using them. Both Sonja and Brenda agreed to work with Pat to post the materials on the web with the appropriate explanations.

Vermont OSY Handbook

Pat explained to the group that one of the OSY products is "a state capacity building model for working with OSY." It can be whatever the group envisions - a flowchart or an action plan. Since Erin is working on an OSY Handbook, she and Pat spoke about trying to use this book as a template or model that states could use to design and develop their OSY programs. Erin will bring the handbook with her to the meeting in February so the group can review it to see how it can serve as a framework for the "state capacity building model for working with OSY" product.

Adjournment

The conference call lasted approximately one hour. Agenda items were covered. Pat thanked everyone for their participation and ended the call. The next call for the TST is scheduled for February 18 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. The same conferencing dial-in number will be used.