



Technical Support Team Meeting
Clearwater, FL
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

In attendance: Emily Hoffman (MA), Bruce Wright (SC), Sonja Williams (NC), Lupe Ledesma (WA), Kelsey Williams (ID), Barbie Patch (NH), Kiowa Rogers (NE), Mary Ann Losh (NE), Brenda Pessin (IL), Cindy Bartelsmeyer (KS), Ernesto Vela (CA), Tim Thornton (KS), John Farrell (KS), Claude Christian (KY), Danielle Anderson-Thomas (NJ), Jorge Echegaray (FL), Ray Melecio (FL), TJ Sparling (NY), Bob Lynch (NPC), Erin Shea (VT), Jessica Castaneda (TN), Kathleen Bibus (MN), Margarita Colindres (CO), Lysandra Lopez-Medina (PA), Kitty Johnson (KS).

Tracie Kalic opened the meeting with a review of the agenda, expectations of the Technical Support Team work, and outline of the day.

<p style="text-align: center;">Day One Agenda Welcome and Overview of the Agenda, and Opening Activity Update on SOSY Activities Curriculum Material Review Agricultural Trends Newsletter/Hot Topics Briefs Educational Outcomes Table State Data Document Work Group Recaps/ Design and Redesign of Work Groups Work Time Wrap Up and Adjourn for the Day</p>

Update on SST (State Steering Support Team) --Tracie reported on the SSST meeting in November at the OME Conference. The SST helps influence consortium's direction. Consortium representatives presented the 2nd exec summary (available online). Each member also got summaries of state profile data. There were six OME representatives including Dr. Lisa Vamirez. OME was very impressed. Michelle Moreno and Dr. Ramirez said this consortium is a model for other consortiums. They were especially impressed with curriculum materials, data, and state collaboration.

SOSY Quarterly Newsletter/Agricultural Trends/Hot Topics-- OME is reading the Quarterly Newsletter and the Agricultural Trends Newsletter is also well received. At the last meeting, the group decided a Literature Review is not the best way to disseminate information because these reports are too long. Instead Hot Topic Briefs are going to be developed and disseminated throughout the year.

SOSY Trainings/Presentations--Tracie's been conducting many trainings, technical support and presentations. States can request support for conferences and other meetings. Please contact Tracie for more information.

National Conference Proposals--There are three proposals submitted for the National Conference in Portland. Tracie will let the team know if our proposals are approved.

Consortium Incentive Grant--By the end of tomorrow, we want to focus on refining our work because we're gearing up to apply for another Consortium Incentive Grant. Tracie, Susan Duron and the lead state are working on the proposal. Information was presented at the SST meeting in November. The TST will be updated tomorrow morning.

SOSY State Comparison Data Profile-- Tracie presented a draft document that pulled together all the states' OSY profile data into one document. It also provided information regarding consortium averages. Tracie asked the group to brainstorm what types of questions we need to focus on when analyzing the data. Look at this across the states: how can states use it and how should it be disseminated.

Data Questions and Discussion

The TST responded with the following questions and/or suggestions for revisions:

Are these graphs snapshots? Or are they more accurate? Compile national averages into one graph.

Are some questions misleading in their terminology? For instance, one question asks if OSY are in a crew, yet there aren't as many crews defined like those in the past with crew leaders and formal contracts, etc. Tracie commented that the bigger question concerns how we change definitions on the Profile.

Kathleen Bibus said MN's information is skewed because she didn't get profiles from all OSY, just about half.

Barbie Patch (NH) asked how many OSY are classified as homeless. Not all OSY are defined as homeless. TJ Sparling (NY) noted you could probably fit OSY into the category of substandard housing.

Suggestions for Revision

Tracie will put a date on the graphs with the range date from the first year of the consortium. It was suggested to include a statement that tells of different stages in the process.

It would also help to have a disclaimer about the fact that each state is in a different position for setting up their systems. It would be good to say whether each graph is a snapshot or an aggregate.

Bob Lynch (NY) expressed his appreciation for the data as the consortium hasn't had data to this extent before.

Erin Shea (VT) suggested that there be a definition of “permanent” on page 5. This should be a question of service delivery, not as a legal question tied to COEs. It would be helpful to clarify that this question was asked for purposes of instructional planning.

TJ Sparling (NY) noted there are different ways to ask about how long the OSY are staying. For example, they could ask if the OSY is planning to be here three months or less. The idea behind this question is to know which students have to be served ASAP.

Tracie noted in the next go round we will redo definitions and consider whether these are the right questions, and what changes should be made.

Kelsey Williams (ID) raised the issue of OSY working multiple crops or seasons within state and moving around Idaho but counted as permanent to Idaho, or Idaho may be home base but still count as permanent.

Sonja Williams (NC) commented on the value of knowing how long the OSY is going to be there in providing services. Need to have a little introduction on why this information is important.

Erin Shea (VT) suggested including information from the OSY Profile Instructions into this document.

Tim Thornton (KS) stated that some information is just necessary within the state and there’s no real purpose for sharing this with the national consortium if we’re not comparing the same thing

Mary Ann Losh (NE) said the actual question is on page three and concerns how long the OSY plans to be in the area. She suggested the chart title could be changed because the chart concerns the actual time spent in the location.

Erin asked if we are thinking of changing the Profile for the next round, and Tracie said the group will refine it.

John Farrell (KS) asked that we consider what will happen for the OSY. Tracie agreed and added that we need to ask ourselves how we will use this information. Sometimes education is data-rich but information poor because this data is not used to provide services.

Erin said people get all of this information but some don’t provide services. We, as a consortium, can do that because we have this data. We have the “why” needed to drive service.

Margarita Colindres (CO) said the data shows educators and service providers that there’s actually a lot of potential in this OSY population.

Tim Thornton (KS) raised the issue of standardized data collection. Although each state’s different, at consortium-level services, we need a consortium-wide product regarding services and data collection.

Brenda Pessin (IL) discussed the issue of this data as compared to what is reported for the CSPR. This consortium could do a lot to help standardize data elements, at least to a degree of what we report, like who is out of school, and who is not.

Tracie noted that we need to explore standardization more deeply. Making changes to documents is only the first step with how to handle the data. We've been discussing minor tweaks the bigger issue is how do we collect apples to apples to apples. Several people volunteered and Tracie will follow up on this.

SOSY Hot Topic Briefs—Jessica Castaneda

Jessica presented an outline of topics and ideas for SOSY Hot Topics Briefs. The briefs will be disseminated and posted on the website. Each month, we will explore different topics and look at issues in more depth. Some of the proposed topics include:

1. Pesticides and Herbicides
2. Genetically Modified Food Vs. Hybrid Vs. Heirloom
3. US food consumption trends and how this has changed
4. Reliance on corn and how that has changed the face of agriculture
5. How the farm bill and farm policy affects the MEP
6. Organic farming trends
7. Immigration updates

Kathleen Bibus (MN) expressed concern with the fact that Brazil and China are using pesticides the US outlawed. She said research on advocacy efforts and lobbied legislation would be helpful because no one knows what is on these crops. It would be helpful to know more about FDA regulations. Margarita also requested information on fertilizer. She said that the information available now for MEP workers is either too technical or too under the level of MEP workers. Tracie said she has a contact that can speak on fertilizers and perhaps she should be invited to present at the Dissemination Event.

Emily Hoffman (MA) mentioned the new movement on food deserts. Kelsey complimented Jessica on providing good information in a concise format.

Bob Lynch (NY) sent some of these to area growers and the newsletters were well received.

Barbie Patch (NH) suggested a one paragraph summary on the website to go along with the newsletters.

TJ thanked Jessica for the great, very concise information. He suggested that she tighten citations. Tracie and Jessica will work on consistent formatting and language and how to include hyperlinks and documents for further research.

Erin Shea (VT) discussed how states themselves could be involved in reviewing information for the briefs and/or newsletters.

Tracie said that when we revisit this topic an email will go out requesting information be sent to Tracie with appropriate citations. She said she and Jessica will work on a timeline and send that out to all.

Tracie said they will have a better explanation of briefs on the website and a standard format so you'll know you're looking at a Hot Topic Brief. They will have a Timeline, Additional Topics, and a heads-up so you can submit what you want on your state.

OSY Educational Outcomes Table—Erin Shea

The Technical Assistance work group has revised the Educational Outcome Table (originally titled the OSY Service Matrix). Erin presented both the table and the introduction. She noted the introduction needs some revisions. She walked the TST through the 4 categories listed on the table. The group had some questions and suggestions.

TJ said each stage is important in the long process of gathering great information. He also suggested that some other diagrams were very beneficial and requested that they still be available on the website for use as professional development tools.

Sonja Williams (NC) suggested changing the term academic proficiency.

Jorge Echagaray (FL) suggested juxtaposing both graphics because he liked the outcomes graph better.

Kiowa Rogers (NE) suggested we refine English proficiency definitions because recruiters don't have experience determining this. She suggested that higher English proficiency be defined as being able to hold a conversation in English but illiterate.

Website Redesign

Tracie walked the group through the newly designed website.

Barbie suggested that we link to the other consortiums, a suggestion. Please send additional suggestions to Tracie

Curriculum and Materials Review

Bob Lynch (NY), Brenda Pessin (IL), Kelsey William (ID), Lupe Ledesma (WA), Dee Condon (NE), and Danielle Anderson-Thomas (NJ) presented an updated curriculum report to the TST.

Legal Rights Lessons: 1) Right to be Paid, 2) Basic Rights, 3) Housing, 4) Field Rights, and 5) Important Documents

Bob presented the first lesson to the group. The Spanish translation is done. Brenda is working with an Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance on the legal curricula.

Parent Lessons: 1) So You Think You're Pregnant, 2) Labor and Delivery, 3) Nutrition, 4) Child Safety Seats —

"So You Think You're Pregnant" has been edited by the committee and reading levels have been adjusted.

Danielle Anderson-Thomas (NJ) gave a brief introduction to the "Labor and Delivery" lesson.

Dee Condon's working on "Nutrition." Dee and Kelsey are also working on a lesson about "Child Safety Seats/Bringing Baby Home." They discussed state regulations on mass-transit childcare seats and these differences.

Margarita said that CO youth are interested in how to maintain healthy relationships as many have suffered verbal or psychological abuse and lack those skills.

Jorge appreciates the new lesson plans. He noticed that these mini-lessons are very female-specific. He would like to see them incorporate more male-specific information.

Bob said the "Career/Looking for a Job" is finalized. It's not a lesson plan but information service providers can go through with a student for job hunting. It's available on the website for download. Bob made note that the TST Review Panel assisted in enhancing the content of the lesson.

Bob reported on the progress of "Reading on the Move." Three lessons are in pretty good shape, and there will be basically 30 of these stand-alone lessons.

The Curriculum Work Group has an August deadline so all materials will be available for the Dissemination Event.

It was noted that the TST Review Panel will review one or two of the ROTM lessons.

Tracie did comment on the TST Review Panel process. The Review Panel process was designed to provide opportunity for feedback in a short time period to help improve the quality of the lessons. It is each person's responsibility to participate as assigned. Barbie suggested writing "Please Respond" in the email subject line asking for review.

Bob discussed the PASS course Kansas has asked be designed. The course would be used with OSY to get them back into the academic setting with rigor and at a level to give them a credit or something and to entice them to a more traditional academic setting

Bob also asked for input on a potential series of lessons on "A Healthy House." Topics would be personal hygiene, food preparation where they discuss temperatures at which food can spoil.

Sonja and Erin discussed how they use Extension and other sources for this information in their states.

Bob suggested we keep topics that are really OSY focused. He noted it's sometimes difficult to get other people to use these various resources out there. Teachers need a good, packaged topic.

Tracie said the workgroup has a lot to talk about now. We need to figure out where to go next. This involves resource analysis. We need to connect the pieces but also to analyze what we're doing and where we're going in a more systematic and explicit way.

Brenda informed the group that the Educational Resources Rubric was recently updated with more recent website additions. They passed it out at the State Director's Meeting in November. The website reorganization is now consistent with this so it is easier to locate materials. It is broken into basic areas, language assessment, mini lessons, English for Living and Working, etc.

OSY Definitions and Data Discussion

The TST discussed the need to revise our definitions for Out-of-School Youth (recovery/here-to-work). TST members discussed the rationale for the change to denote a stronger focus on re-engagement. Tracie will convene a work group to begin the process of addressing these changes.

The work groups were convened with specific tasks. Tracie asked the work groups to focus on their assigned topics for the afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.



Technical Support Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Day Two Agenda
Check in with work groups
TOT Module Review
Dissemination Event Planning Group Report
CIG Competition
Other questions/issues
Next conference call: March 13 from 2- 3 pm CST
Next meeting: April 11-12, 2012 in Denver, CO

The day began with a working breakfast meeting of the Dissemination Event Planning Committee. The planning committee suggested names for keynote speakers and agreed to the conference planning outline. Tracie will convene the group in late February or early March to determine potential presentation topics and presenters. A brief report was presented to the TST.

The TST meeting was convened at 8:30 am.

Training of Trainers (TOT) Review Panels

The TST was divided into groups to review the Training of Trainer modules. Each person was assigned two modules to review using a rubric. Each review team was facilitated by a member of the Training Work Group. Tracie will edit/revise each module and send to the Training Work Group for further discussion/revision.

ID&R Strategies and Tracking Recovery Youth

The ID&R work group reported on their discussion from the previous day regarding OSY definitions and tracking data. The group suggested working with MSIX to denote OSY with the last grade attended/completed.

CIG Competition Update

Tracie presented information that was shared with the SSST at its meeting in November. She discussed the process of applying for the next Consortium Incentive Grant application. She also discussed what the initial focus would be and explained the intensity of services

that we would like to have represented in the application. The TST discussed the process, states' involvement, expectations, and allocations.

The TST discussed lessons learned from past consortia and how many states potentially could be involved. Tracie noted that MOUs would be utilized and that she is making the expectations exceedingly clear to states that are expressing interest in joining.

Future Meetings

Conference Call: March 13 from 2:00- 3:00 CST

TST Meeting: April 11-12, 2012 in Denver. Tracie is trying to arrange for the

Dissemination Event Planning Committee (Members: Margarita, Kiowa, Jorge, Bob, John, Sonja, Kelsey, Tim, Cindy, Brenda, Ray, Ernesto) will meet during this time as well. Tracie will notify the group.

**Please note the meeting will be 2 full days (per the request of the TST).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EST.