

Texas Association of Certification Officers
Summer Meeting
Monday, June 7, 2010
St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas
Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Campus Center

President Connie Sabo-Risley called the meeting to order at 9:09 and thanked all for coming in this age of limited travel.

TEA Update:

Dr. Karen Loonam, Deputy Associate Commissioner, TEA
Dr. Janice Lopez, Director, Educator Standards, TEA
Tabita Gutierrez, Acting Director, Credentialing, TEA

Dr. Loonam: Big Picture/National Trends

1. National emphasis/theme is teacher effectiveness. Although no one can define it, everyone knows what it isn't.
2. More accountability, more transparency. With SB 174's consumer information website, there will be more information available to the public.
3. Link between teacher preparation and teacher effectiveness through PDAS or another measure yet to be determined.
4. Alignment between professional development and teacher effectiveness through the discussions regarding certification renewal, which includes both auditing the 150 hours and tying 95% of the hours to the teaching field.
5. College readiness skills, which will be the focus of the July 26-28 Focus Forward conference
6. Data collection. Programs need a reliable person with a good electronic system.
7. Rules review. The last four years have resulted in all rules being reviewed for the first time in 10 years. The next series of rules review will start in January, 2011.
8. The availability of Languages Other Than English certification has increased from 4 to 13 languages with the ACTFL exams.
9. Unfortunately, there continues to be an increase on educational sanctions of individuals with the number of cases doubling since SB 9 over the last two years. TEA is considering how to be more proactive, considering an online ethics course as well as increased test security in the new testing contract. Karen suggested that EPPs help by having our candidates read the Registration Bulletin.

Question: Is the Code of Ethics changing? A: Revision of Chapter 247 will go to the SBEC Board June 18th. One suggestion was to include teacher certification candidates as well as teachers in the statements, "the educator or candidate shall.... "

Janice Lopez: Educator Standards

1. Communication, which started with a series of webinars last week, will continue with regularly scheduled webinars as the new ASAP system is implemented. The June 29th ASAP/website training, although full, will be followed up with an additional training date.
2. 2010-2011 is the final year of the testing contract. An RFP is being developed with review of testing in other states and with input from the advisory committee, which recommended additional reports with disaggregation of data. The RFP will go out in August.
3. Test security: please convey need for security to candidates. ETS has been cancelling test scores each week for cheating (i.e., writing questions on admission ticket; identity fraud).
4. Program visits: TEA conducted 75 program visits and (36 5-year visits, 19 desk audits, and 11 technical visits) in 2009-2010. Half of the technical visits were voluntary, by invitation.

5. The June 29th ASEP training will include morning ASEP training and afternoon review/input on the in-development online system, which will integrate three systems ... Including Certification and ASEP. The new system will be operational 2011. IT will be facilitating the discussion/input on the online system. Q: In the new system, will we be able access service records and experience? A: TEA will check into that.
6. Test changes: For the new Speech 7-12, a curriculum matrix is not required if the program has the Speech 8-12, only a letter of request written on official letterhead address to Janice Lopez.
7. The new ASEP will launch July 2010, beginning with fees for program visits and new certification fields.
8. Comparability studies: In August there will be a comparability study for ESL and Praxis.
9. Program changes: the university-based ACP will be separated from the university initial Programs by September 1st
10. Superintendent exam: the new one-part 5 hour exam will emphasize leadership that addresses national and state standards. No matrix is required. The new test will start April 16, 2011 and the old test will discontinue summer 2013.
11. The "blue screen" on the SBEC website will disappear in 30 days, being replaced by pages on the TEA website. Seventeen reports have been updated by Mike Ramsey.

Question: Is a matrix required for the revised principal exam? A: no

Question: How is TEA handling the principal survey that might have been completed on an out-of-field teacher? A: That is a concern with which TEA is struggling ... Considering cross-referencing against the certification fields; data will be disaggregated and Programs will not be responsible.

Question: Please clarify the collecting, reporting and submission of observation data of student teachers.

A: Observation data needs to be collected for both student teachers and interns. However, only the data for interns must be submitted to TEA. Student observation data must be retained by the program and available for audits. Observation data/forms must be submitted to the principal for both student teachers and interns.

Question: Concern expressed over principal use of intern observation form for cumulative data on beginning teachers. A: TEA hopes principals will perform their own observation of beginning teachers. the appropriate use of the observation form needs to become part of the discussion.

Tabita Gutierrez: Acting Director of Credentialing

1. Effective Sept. 1, candidates will be able to download a printable certificate. The electronic certificate remains the "official" certificate. As of Sept. 1, copies of the certificate will not be mailed.
2. The live chat was launched March 22. Response has been positive. Over 2000 chats have been conducted.
3. Adoption of TAC 231.1 on June 8th includes the assignment chart, providing guidance for school district placement; however, it does not provide guidance on HQ status ... Districts still need to contact NCLB personnel. Questions over the TEKS and career/technical areas have caused concerns.

Additional: The SBEC "blue page" will be going away in 30 days, moving to the TEA website (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us>). The 17 reports on this site have been updated by Mike Ramsey.

"Troops to Teachers" by Meryl Kettler, Coordinator

1.
 - a. See brochures for contact information – a three-person office in Austin
 - b. A program that begun in 1994 to transitioning soldiers into teaching (moved from Department of Defense to Dept of Education with passage of NCLB).

- i. Purpose – to recruit quality teachers to serve low-income schools; to relieve shortages (math, science, sped) working for k-12 public schools
- ii. Available for guard, reserve, and retiring military (have educational requirements and teaching commitment)
- c. Benefits are to provide financial assistance to become a teacher, not to recommend particular certification programs or actually certify (just to be a resource)
- d. Programs should refer veterans and military personnel to Troops for Teachers (they can also provide feedback on post-9/11 GI Bill).

Q&A: Spousal support – “Spouses to Teachers” (provide reimbursement for tests; program temporarily cancelled), but reviving back up to provide \$6,000 of support.

TACO Business Meeting

1. Introduction of 2010-2011 officers
 President, Carole Preston, University of Texas, San Antonio
 President-Elect, Lisa Jasinski, Trinity University
 Secretary, Pam Tipton, Texas Tech University
 Treasurer, J. Frank Smith, St. Edward's University

Carole presented a appreciation gift to Connie for her excellent service of two years. Carole then conducted the rest of the meeting.

2. Recognition of past presidents: 4 past presidents were recognized for their service and leadership to the organization
3. Recognition of new members: 7 new members were present
4. Recognition of retiring members: Ann Schoffield, UTD, and Donna Tavener, TAMU-Commerce, were recognized.
5. Approval of minutes: the minutes of the October 19th meeting, previously emailed, were approved as written.
6. Membership roster: Frank has collected dues from 95 members as of May 31, 2010 with 55 institutions represented. Members were asked to update the roster with correct information.
7. Treasurer's Report: Frank reported a balance of \$12,408.11 as of May 31, 2010 with income of \$2315 (dues) and expenses of \$735.11. Our IRS fiscal year is 5/31 to 6/1.
8. New business: The October 10-12, 2010, CSOTTE meeting will be at the Houston Westin Galleria. Please note the deadline for proposals (student proposals and “nuts and bolts” presentations for certification officers are encouraged). Two Westins are in the Galleria – make sure to locate the appropriate hotel when parking and checking in. The registration is online.
9. Donna Tavener moved, and it was seconded, to support a travel stipend to attend the CSOTTE conference. Donna accepted a friendly amendment that TACO pay the registration fee for all board members to attend the CSOTTE conference in Fall 2010. The motion was seconded and passed with 1 opposition and 1 abstention.
10. Lisa Hill, President-Elect of TCTCT, initiated a discussion on the possibility of moving the summer TACO meeting to better align with the TDFE meeting on Thursday night, Friday morning, the TCTCT meeting Friday afternoon, and the TxATE meeting on Saturday. Several points discussed:
 - Perhaps TEA could make a joint presentation to TCTCT and TACO
 - Stay over the weekend could be eliminated
 - St. Edwards would not be available on Thursday or Friday, due to campus orientation

- Changing the date would impact the cost of hosting a meeting, dues, lunch, etc.
- TxATE has contracted for the Radisson for the next two years for \$85/room.
- Parking may be an issue if the conference is moved.
- Folks coming only for the TACO meeting would have to miss more work if the meeting were held on a Thursday or Friday.
- A straw pole on which participants attended which conferences revealed that the largest number of TACO attendees attend only the TACO meeting on Monday.
- Connie Sabo-Risley moved to form a committee which would consider the options for dates for the future. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Sam Garcia, TAMU-SA, won the door prize, a CSOTTE Fall Conference registration.

Carole adjourned the meeting at 11:50 for lunch.

Afternoon Session: Panel discussion, Questions, Answers and Strategies facilitated by Sue Owens, Coordinator for Certification, Testing, and Program Accountability, Tarleton State University, with Lisa Jasinski, Trinity University, and Pam Tipton, Texas Tech University.

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Tipton