

# OVAE *Next Steps Work Group*

Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
Division of Academic and Technical Education  
Accountability and Performance Branch

## NEXT STEPS WORK GROUP CALL

June 4, 2009 | 2:00 – 3:00 P.M. (ET)

### CALL SUMMARY

The June meeting convened at 2:00 PM EST with a welcome from the host and a brief overview of the agenda.

### OVAE UPDATES

**Data Quality Institute (DQI); December 2009**—Marie Buker, OVAE [[marie.buker@ed.gov](mailto:marie.buker@ed.gov)] reported on the planning underway for the December 2009 Data Quality Institute (DQI). The dates are **December 7-8-9, 2009**. The DQI will be in Washington DC with the exact hotel location to be announced soon after June 15. The December 2009 DQI schedule will be consistent with previous DQIs with a 1/2 day-full day-1/2 day schedule.

There are plans for pre-institute workshops on the morning of the Institute's first day. Pre-institute topics will include:

- Orientation for staff new to Perkins accountability
- Tech Prep accountability
- Next Steps Work Group face-to-face
- Non-Trad crosswalks

The Institute itself will be a single strand and contain topics such as: data and reporting consistency, National Student Clearinghouse, and the Data Quality Campaign.

OVAE will support DQI participation with travel and lodging for one (1) individual from each state. States are encouraged to send additional representatives at the state's expense. Once the logistical arrangements are finalized, states will be asked to notify the DQI logistics contractor how many individuals will be attending from each state. Logistics contractor contact information will be sent with a DQI Agenda when logistics plans are firm.

**Performance Negotiations**—John Haigh reported OVAE staff are busy with finalizing negotiations with states so follow-up letters to states can be sent. Letters will be reviewed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary with an interest in evidence of continuous improvement, submission of disaggregated data, and reasonable adjustments to performance levels. States will be notified in this letter if their July 2009 Perkins allocations will be released with conditions or released with no conditions.

**Programs of Study Expert Panel Meeting**—John H. also shared there would be a June 11 meeting of programs of study (POS) technical assistance stakeholders to discuss the status of POS implementation.

### PERKINS CAR-EDEN ALIGNMENT SUB-GROUP STATUS UPDATE

Based on the increasing level of interest by some NSWG participants in the alignment of data specifications between reporting secondary Perkins data and the data submitted by state departments of education through the Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN), a Sub-Group has been formed to address the issues and offer recommendations to the NSWG and OVAE.

#### **2008-2009 NSWG Co-Chairs**

Secondary:

**Sharon Enright**, Ohio Department of Education  
[sharon.enright@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:sharon.enright@ode.state.oh.us) | 614-644-6814

Postsecondary:

**Kathy Wilkins**, Montana University System  
[kwilkins@montana.edu](mailto:kwilkins@montana.edu) | 406-444-0313

Tech Prep:

**Dennis Fiscus**, Arizona Department of Education  
[dennis.fiscus@azed.gov](mailto:dennis.fiscus@azed.gov) | 602-542-5356

OVAE Contact:

**John Haigh**, Office of Vocational & Adult Education  
[John.haigh@ed.gov](mailto:John.haigh@ed.gov) | 202-245-7735

Penny Legge, Arizona [[penny.legge@azed.gov](mailto:penny.legge@azed.gov)], reported on the Sub-group's May 27 conference call meeting. The organizational meeting clarified the scope of comparison between the Perkins CAR and EDEN data specifications. Discussion focused on the EDEN data fields of:

- N082-Concentrators who left school;
- N083-Concentrator graduates;
- N142 CTE Concentrators Academic Attainment; and
- N149-CTE Concentrator Non-Traditional.

Sub-group members agreed to share the EDEN data field comparison and report back at a June 18 conference call meeting. Ohio and Washington DC will address N142, Michigan and Minnesota will address N083, and Arizona and New Jersey will address N082. N149 is being deferred right now, but will be addressed. Some general EDEN questions surfaced and Jim S. agreed to confer with OVAE staff for responses to these questions.

## **SUB-INDICATOR DATA REPORTING**

Some states have expressed interest in a NSWG discussing the issues related to the Perkins performance measure sub-indicators; those reporting sub-categories defined in some individual core indicator definitions. Sharon Enright, Ohio, prepared a listing of issues that Ohio has confronted with the implementation of their Perkins IV data collection and reporting processes. In preparation for the NSWG discussion, Jim S. distributed copies of Perkins CAR screen images showing the sub-indicator reporting format and a document comparing core indicator language from Section 113 of the Perkins Act to the sub-indicator definitions provided on the Perkins CAR website.

Specific core indicators that were addressed during the call included:

- **3S1 (High School Completion)—There are 3 sub indicators: (1) Diploma, (2) General Education Development (GED), and (3) Certificate**

Discussion began by seeking clarity on whether there is an OVAE expectation to calculate performance for each sub-indicator or report the number of concentrators within each sub-indicator. Some call participants expressed difficulty in accessing data for each sub-indicator, specifically GED.

John H. suggested the NSWG offer recommendations to modify the Perkins CAR reporting format that better aligns with reporting population rather than performance. John H. explained that modifications to CAR reporting would require approval by OGC—*Office of General Counsel* and OMB—*Office of Management and Budget*. The approval process may take some time.

- **5S1 (Placement) – There are 4 sub indicators: (1) Advanced Training, (2) Employment, (3) Military, and (4) Postsecondary Education**

Discussion continued by achieving clarity on OVAE's expectation to report the number of concentrators (population) within each sub-indicator understanding there may be duplicated counts with concentrators identified as being in more than one sub-indicator. John H. endorsed the understanding that a number/population of concentrators is expected, including duplicate counts, and be reported on the CAR. This position was supported by the explanation given by Kim Green, NASDCTEc, on Congressional intent for the sub-indicators. There is an expressed interest by Congress to have data on where concentrators are placed.

Preliminary analysis conducted by Sharon Enright, Ohio questioned the inclusion of Advanced Training **and** Postsecondary Education since this separation is not consistent with Section 113 language which places them as a single placement sub-indicator. It was suggested the sub-indicators of Advanced Training and Postsecondary Education be listed as a single sub-indicator on the CAR reporting form. This will be included in the set of recommendations submitted to OVAE.

During the discussion of the 5S1 sub-indicators, questions surfaced regarding the Perkins CAR definitions of the sub-indicators. Discussion resulted in asking for a small volunteer group of interested NSWG participants serve as

a “review panel” for an updated set of sub-indicator definitions. An alternative set of definitions will be offered for consideration at the July NSWG conference call.

▪ **3P1 and 3A1 (Student Retention or Transfer) – There are 2 sub indicators: (1) Retention, (2) Transfer**

The CAR definitions are not consistent with Section 113 language which seeks retention or transfer rates in education. The CAR definition brings in retention for employment and military which is beyond the scope of retention or transfer in education. Discussion suggested this indicator is about student persistence and should reflect aggregated performance and not have sub-indicators. A recommendation will be made to reflect the NSWG discussion.

▪ **4P1 and 4A1 (Student Placement) – There are 4 sub indicators: (1) Apprenticeship, (2) Employment, (3) Military, and (4) Retention**

The sub-indicator of retention is not consistent with Section 113 language. There appears to be three options, not four – “placement or retention in employment” has been interpreted as one option, not two.

Also mentioned is the concern surrounding collection of apprenticeship data. It is very difficult to obtain data on apprenticeship placement. It is not uncommon for a student to be dual-enrolled in both postsecondary education and apprenticeship. Some students complete apprenticeship at the same time they obtain a degree, so placement would not apply in this situation. There appears to be enough variation among states on how apprenticeship is organized to establish a data collection solution that seems reasonable for each state.

## **CLOSING NOTE**

Jim S. asked NSWG participants to give thought and suggest relevant topics for next year’s conference calls. Please consider topics that have relevance to advancing Perkins data quality and accountability. Also, consider relevance to secondary and postsecondary participants when thinking of topics. Feel free to submit suggested topics to Jim at [jschoelkopf@mprinc.com](mailto:jschoelkopf@mprinc.com).

## **NEXT CALL**

**July 9, 2009; 2:00-3:00 PM ET**

Call Number: 866-390-5250

Call ID: 5707853

Topic: Draft recommendations for sub-indicator reporting

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*The Next Steps Work Group (NSWG) is a voluntary information-sharing network comprised primarily of state and Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) staff to dialog topics of common interest related to Carl D. Perkins Act compliance and data reporting. NSWG summaries attempt to capture many of the questions and comments, and are not intended to be the definitive source for specific OVAE policy.*

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Submitted by:  
Jim Schoelkopf, MPR Associates  
[jschoelkopf@mprinc.com](mailto:jschoelkopf@mprinc.com)  
503-963-3759