



<http://ntrp16.org/>

North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2020
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Members present: Patonia Bell, Sandra Benavidez, Telisa Brown, V. Barbara Bush, Danielle Davis, Denise Davis, Kristyn Edney, Tracey Fleniken, Tammy Galloway, Tiffany Gilmore, Wendy Gruver, Mary Harris, Lisa Harrison, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Karrabi Malin, Raul Martinez, Mike Mattingly, Anna Mays, Elizabeth Caudill McClain, Cornelia McCowan, Jeffrey Miller, Gwendolyn Moore, Bobby Morris, Theresa Paschall, Anita Perry, Quortina Phipps, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Richard Vela, Karen Walker, Rosalyn Walker, and Karen Zeske

Panelists: Natalie Applegate, Communities Foundation of Texas; Pam Boehm, Hill College; Cynthia Butler, DCCCD; Bobby Morris, Northwest ISD; Robyn Strickland, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Guests representing ISDs and IHEs in the Metroplex, ESC Region 11, and TX Reach Higher. A listing of guests and their agencies are attached.

A. Greetings

Jean Keller welcomed everyone and thanked Lisa Harrison, Wendy Gruver, Christine Hubbard, and Sandy Benavidez for coordinating and facilitating today's educational program. Jean shared that the Council's Values, Vision, Mission, and Goals statement will be posted on the website and discussed at the September meeting.

B. Regional Data

V. Barbara Bush

V. Barbara Bush prefaced the panel by presenting equity issues to be kept in mind as remote learning and distant education are discussed by the panelists.

Economically Disadvantaged Students - DISD District Summary 4/24/2020 – 85.6% K-12
<https://mydata.dallasisd.org/SL/SD/ENROLLMENT/Enrollment.jsp?SLN=1000>

Access to technology - Intercultural Development Research Association (2018)
<https://www.idra.org/services/ensuring-equity-in-online-learning-considerations-in-response-to-covid-19s-impact-on-schooling/>

- 15% of households with school-aged children have no high-speed internet connection at home.
- One in four teens whose annual family income is less than \$30,000 has no access to a home computer.
- 17% of teens are often or sometimes unable to do their homework because of no computer or internet.

College students face some of the same challenges. Not all college students have smartphones or iPads, especially if they are economically disadvantaged and their financial aid does not cover personal or learning technology.

Even students who are not economically disadvantaged may have limited access to computers and/or the internet due to multiple children in the home, other family members working remotely, and having to share technology. In addition, some families living in rural areas, may have no or inconsistent access to high-speed internet.

Homelessness – Some Pre-K-12 through college students are homeless, lacking access to technology for learning.

Unfavorable Home Situations – Home situations could be a factor for students not economically disadvantaged. Examples include college students whose residence halls are closed, or those who choose not to live in residence halls. Is there abuse in the homed? Is there space in the homes? Is the family having financial issues? Are there food insecurities?

Food insecurity is a concern for students. K-12 institutions have really tried to provide meals to students. What are colleges and university food pantries doing since these institutions are operating remotely?

Sandy Benavidez said K-12 schools are experiencing equity issues firsthand and working to deliver Chromebook, hotspots, and access to internet through parking space at restaurants or by school buses.

Anna Mays shared that before COVID-19 concerns, DCCCD participated in two surveys of students. The Hope Survey dealt with food insecurity and financial wellness. In preparation for institution of the Texas Pathways, DCCCD also participated in a survey funded through Trellis. They learned many DCCCD students were low income and food insecure, had taken out Pay-Day Loans, and had multiple family members depending on students for income. This explained why 70-75% of DCCCD students are part-time and must work. DCCCD instituted loans up to \$500 for students with emergency aid needs, particularly after the tornado. They are supported by Equity, a non-profit organization based in Boston. They can assess need and provide funding to students within 48 hours. The district also had to modify some requirements for proctored testing, because many students do not have devices that permit visual proctoring.

C. Panel: Sharing & Supporting During Challenging Time - Moderated by Christine Hubbard

Christine, President of the North Texas Community College Consortium, introduced the panelists:

Natalie Applegate, Deputy Director for Programs, Educate Texas. Communities Foundation of Texas

Pam Boehm, President, Hill College

Cynthia Butler, Executive District Director of Financial Aid, DCCCD

Bobby Morris, Director of College and Career Readiness, Northwest ISD

Robyn Strickland, Senior Policy Director, Behavioral Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services

The panelists shared information in response to questions posed by Christine.

1. Regionally are all K-12 local education agencies handling grading the same, and what has the TEA recommended?

- Most districts around Northwest ISD, are doing the same things as far as grades are concerned. In many cases, they stopped GPA calculation at the end of the 3rd quarter and numerical grades for the rest of the year.
- Most are offering pass/fail grades. A few will convert these to letter grades later. They see themselves as offering not distance education, but triage education that addresses the learning standards not yet covered and keeping students engaged.
- A few districts, for example Lewisville, Garland and Colleyville, were set up for distance learning with good plans and practices in place for some groups of students. Lewisville ISD has a distance learning system with TXVSN. Grapevine Colleyville ISD has an online high school.
- We have more questions than answers. Every school has pretty much done its own thing. The TX College Access Team has been collecting some of these common questions for districts to consider related to college readiness through the Dallas County Promise.
- TEA has not given much guidance and allowed schools to have more discretion. TEA is collecting records of actions and considerations. TEA may contract with Proctorview to address some of the problems with access to high stakes test results.

2. How will modifications in high school grading practices affect current seniors and future high school graduates now in grades 9-11?

- Seniors already accepted to college are running into TSI issues. They still need to take the TSIA, and our ability to administer it is limited. TSIA is being given via Zoom; however, there are limitations due to lack of access and proctoring.
- Northwest ISD has signed up with Examany, which provides a great service but is currently overwhelmed. Students signing up today are getting test dates in June.

- Some colleges are waiving TSIA prior to first semester as long as it is taken during the first semester in college. Some colleges are waiving PSAT and SAT requirements. Students enrolled in dual credit are also affected by not being able to take the TSIA.

3. At the community college and university levels, how have grading system changes been implemented, and what is the expected effect on second-admission programs such as nursing and on maintaining scholarship grade point averages?

- Hill College faculty decided not to extend the semester nor to implement pass/fail grading due to the issues it would cause for dual credit students. Hill is offering online courses and final exams as usual and continuing to issue regular grades. There is some flexibility for second-admission programs. For example, students are required to take the prerequisites for allied health programs that normally require a B or better. They are being flexible on that. They are looking at other factors such as counselor recommendation, GPA, and test scores for high school students wanting to enter a specialized program but coming in without a grade. They offer tests for nursing and allied health and have extended the admissions deadline. They are working with high school counselors to see where the students were academically before COVID-19 to try to accommodate them.
- Instruction for Career and Technical Education courses has been a challenge. For example, the Texas governing body for the Police Academy program will not permit the program to be offered online. The 10 students in the program are halfway through and have had to remain on campus. Faculty in the cosmetology program have worked with the students to rotate onto campus to pick up supplies while learning online. Welding students “drive by” to pick up supplies and are performing their welding demonstrations via Zoom.
- DCCCD and most community colleges did not shift to a pass/fail grading because of concern about the transferability of courses to universities, given the uncertainty of fields of study, for example. They want to be sure students have the option of passing the course with an A-C grade and having transferable courses, including dual credit. DCCCD now has a very liberal withdrawal policy, with refunds up to the last day of the semester for any student who withdraws March 16 thru May 14. Students who cannot survive in the online environment or did not have the technology, receive a full refund with a grade of W, which will not count against the six course drop rule. TSIA requirements have been waived, and students may use Examany. DCCCD has adopted holistic advising. A Dual Credit Council has established alternative criteria for consideration by high school counselors at in conjunction with DCCCD staff. The college has temporarily waived the Meningitis requirement with documentation is not due until in person classes have resumed in the fall. DCCCD is trying to remove as many barriers to enrollment as possible.

4. How are the colleges planning to handle current seniors who have not met all TSI requirements before fall 2020 semester registration?

- Hill College meets with TEA and THECB representatives twice weekly to determine steps. They delayed TSIA testing, and students could enroll without scores, as long as they completed the tests before the end of their first semester. This was helpful for students in rural areas who did not have reliable internet and/or computer equipment. The college is also approved for remote TSIA testing. They have rotated their testing staff to their testing center and are proctoring the TSIA exam. This applies to any student, dual credit, early college high school, or regular college students.
- Hill has approached the College Board about allowing remote testing.
- Colleges now allow students, on a case by case basis, to take co-requisite credit bearing courses while participating in remedial courses, which provides some flexibility.
- Districts have allowed students to borrow laptops to take the TSIA remotely. They have also provided mobile hotspots for students and for administrators who live in rural areas.
- In many cases, colleges are accepting STAAR and PSAT scores as a temporary substitute for the TSIA.
- School districts have often provided Chromebooks for student use, but these do not stand up to the demands of the TSIA. A district has also provided 2000 hotspots after determining that other methods for connectivity were more expensive. Northwest has 25 laptops available for checkout. District personnel have developed protocols for students in various situations and telephoned 25,000 families to address personal needs and questions.

5. Can you summarize changes of which high school staff, specifically counselors, should be aware as they assist students? Please include known timeline or due date changes and information about financial aid, as well.

- Counselors can assist students entering college by getting their final transcripts as quickly as possible and encouraging students to complete the FAFSA to be eligible for federal financial aid.
- DCCCD has changed their award year to start in summer. This keeps students from having to complete two FAFSA's, one in the current year and a new one in the next year. Counselors must keep in mind not all colleges start the new award year before the summer semester.
- The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is being provided as grants. Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid, states students must meet Title IV eligibility requirements in order to receive HEERF emergency grants. DCCCD has been approved for HEERF funding and will determine the best way to disburse it. DCCCD also has two emergency grant funds for students, the DCCCD Foundation, and the Emergency TPEG through the

Financial Aid Department. Based on approval of an application and funding availability, students can have these funds available within 48 hours.

- DCCCD will begin its third cohort with the Dallas County Promise in the fall 2020, providing scholarships to students.

6. Please share extraordinary efforts in both K-12 and post-secondary education.

- IT departments have quickly provided call centers and employees with the ability to have voiceover IP. It was important for current and potential students to be able to quickly reach departments/employees by telephone while campuses are closed. A setback was lack of ability to provide voiceover with most laptops, requiring home installation of technology.
- Collaboration in the region and among schools/institutions in implementing innovations was impressive. IHEs made heroic efforts to stay in contact with students to make sure they had everything they needed to get through this situation successfully.
- DCCCD, TWU, Dallas ISD, and some other school districts are working with Greenlight Credentials, a technology solution that gives students the ability to access and request their official transcripts at any time and from anywhere with internet connection. They are currently developing a feature that will allow students to request emergency needs such as food, clothing or shelter that are connected to North Texas Resources. Foundations and nonprofit providers are linking with schools to connect student needs with community resources available.
- A San Antonio group is looking at ways to move work-based learning like internships, CTE, and technical classes online. They are trying online simulations and ways to keep students on their summer internship plans while expanding the number of seats currently available in virtual simulations for health care and auto tech, for example.
- University students graduating from educator preparation programs, teachers, and current seniors graduating and seeking certification, will receive extended time for the probationary one-year option to allow first-year teachers to seek employment.
- Extraordinary assistance has been provided to international students who were not able to return to their home countries. Keeping dormitories and food services open required outstanding supports from staff.

7. What are behavioral health services and Texas Health and Human Services (TX HHS) doing to support the immediate mental health needs of students and families?

- TX HHS Disaster Behavioral Health Team created a provider committee that meets regularly. They have set up a COVID-19 share point website for providers to share resources, information, training, grant opportunities, and all broadcast information as well as a weekly FAQ sent by the State. They collaborated with the Harris Center in setting up a mental health support line March 31. They have

- expanded telehealth and telemedicine services using telehealth, Skype, FaceTime, or any means available. They have relaxed contract requirements and measures to relieve some of the stress for providers and have relaxed the matching requirements for some contracts. They are working with TEA to relieve some of the school related issues. They are working with the governor's office to get certain rules waived or emergency rules instituted to ease provider anxieties. They hope some of the technology solutions they have learned can be used further.
8. Share changes you anticipate in the needs of students and families for mental health, given the levels of anxiety now and as reopening is considered.
- TX HHS partners with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in providing technical and training resources, and they are developing curriculum. They will be expanding their local provider base and network of community providers for help with generalized anxiety disorders or depression that does not need intensive treatment.
 - Their centralized training infrastructure and behavioral health awareness module are available to teachers and counselors in K-12 and higher education. However, at this point there is not joint training.
9. How are community organizations stepping up to help students and communities?
- Community organizations are shifting their missions to respond to the immediate needs of the students and communities by providing food, childcare, and the most immediately pressing needs. There has been a 200 to 300 percent increase in demand for food.
 - Resources are being provided to communities by medical schools and behavior health sciences and services programs.
 - Communities Foundation of Texas provides emergency aid support and different types of grants.
 - North Texas Community Response Fund, donations from individuals and corporations to support community needs in response to COVID-19
 - North Texas Cares, for nonprofits
 - Get Shift Done, for service workers and nonprofits
 - Dallas County COVID-19 Response Fund, for food assistance and frontline responders
 - North Texas Giving Tuesday, for non-profit organizations
10. What are the results of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) Statewide Survey to identify needs of students in dual credit and regular college courses as a result of COVID-19? Survey questions addressed food insecurity, housing insecurity, access to money, and technology. Students were also asked if they will continue their educations this summer and fall, and if they plan to work or have lost their jobs.
- Preliminary results indicate Black and Hispanic students are at greater risk.

- A large portion have lost their jobs, or their hours have been reduced; and/or parents have lost their jobs or hours been reduced, which affects students' finances.
- A large percentage have poor access to health care, i.e. one or two people in the household have health care, but others they live with do not. They struggle to pay rent and utilities.
- Questions about modifications and special accommodations for students with disabilities indicated the colleges were doing their best to work with the students. However, depending on the type of disability, some students could not adapt to an online learning format.
- Top barriers to focusing on their education faced by students were taking care of children and/or elderly parents in the household and not having time and/or a quiet place to study.
- Most common technology issues faced by students arose from trying to do homework/assignments on their smart phones through apps that provide limited visibility.
- TACC will provide the aggregated data to each of the 50 community colleges, which will help in identifying/providing educational support and mental health services for their students.

D. Discussion, Reflections and Actions Christine Hubbard NTRP-16 Council Meeting lead the discussion. The following were shared.

1. There was a request for organizers to summarize solutions from this discussion and the related chat feature of Zoom into one-page references for use by LEAs and IHEs.
2. Christine offered to follow up with a survey of current practices and needs based on items of interest to this group.
3. Bobby said that Northwest ISD and others are currently hiring.
4. He reported that student enrolled in OnRamps at UT-Austin may choose letter or pass/fail grades, but UT will not accept pass/fail graded courses for admission and wondered about other colleges.
5. Also, at UT, a grade of CR (credit) is recorded as a D, and counselors should be aware of this.
6. Barbara Bush drew attention to the need of most graduate, and especially doctoral students for personalized instruction and contact. These students are likely to be the heads of their families, dealing with complex personal issues.
7. Patsy Robles-Goodwin drew attention to the threat of not knowing what will come next as students look forward to Fall 2020 semester.
8. Lisa Harrison wondered whether blended instruction will become the new norm and how this will affect what we do.
9. Rosalyn Walker reflected on the role of the P-16 Council as a resource for K-12 and higher education as we continue our work with holistic advising, remote testing that calls for proctoring, the need of all students for human contact with

10. faculty and advisors, and helping faculty appreciate the obstacles to learning faced by students.
11. TCC bought webcams for students, highlighting the role of personalization and fun in learning. Microsoft teams, club meetings, and tutoring online have potential to personalize learning.
12. Christine asked if all had access to emergency funds. Most IHE have created these types of funding and are doing all they can to keep student employees on payroll.
13. Christine invited everyone to participate in Lunch and Learn on Mondays 11a.m. Topics and access information are on North Texas Community College Consortium website.

E. 2020-2021 Council Meetings and Topics

Jean Keller

Please review dates for conflicts and offer topics for which you would like to facilitate.

Please mark your calendar!

2020-2021 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
September 22, 2020	Texas Woman’s University – Dallas Campus	Barbara Lerner	Legislative Updates	Anna Mays
December 1, 2020	ESC Region 11	Lisa Harrison	Pathways to Completion: Alignment of PTech & ECHS with Four-year IHE	Tiffany Gilmore & Lisa Harrison
February 16, 2021	Collin College – Frisco Campus Conference Center	Raul Martinez		
April 20, 2021	Tarrant County College – Trinity River Campus	Rosalyn Walker		

F. Updates and Information Sharing

1. Communications, Networking & Social Media – Jeffrey Miller & Rosalyn Walker
 - Thoughts/Suggestions on staying connected?
 - Videotaping, posting on P-16 website/Facebook, email/Twitter and LinkedIn
2. 60x30TX – Regional Update – Christine Hubbard & Barbara Lerner
 - The Military Initiative is currently on hold.
 - Our region is focusing specifically on equity minded leadership support. Specifically, on equity strength-based language and applying an equity lens to our data gathering and dissemination.
3. GenTX Update – Tonni Grant for Anita Perry
 - May 1, 2020 Virtual Decision Day
 - There is a Decision Day Guide on their website
 - ADVi is Texas' Virtual College Adviser <https://www.askadvi.org/>
4. May 14, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am Virtual Forum Transitioning Students into Higher Education, hosted by the Division for College Readiness and Success.
5. ESC Service Centers want to share with everyone, especially K-12 counselors, the importance of encouraging graduating students to check each college and university website for important information. Every institution is making decisions specific to their own institution.
6. THECB and TEA websites are updated daily with all important information and FAQ.

G. Here is the video link to the April 28 meeting and password:

Share recording with viewers:

<https://esc11.zoom.us/rec/share/5s4qHZLJ0mhJSY3I6lrndoscArX-eaa8hCdKrqYEnSliKTyyCoR50On4pQFc5K4> Password: 0Q!\$!52J

Here is what was shared in the chat that we promised to share out on NTRP-16

- Sharing the TX COVID ed resources roundup from the TXCAN page: <https://www.edtx.org/txcan/covid-19-resources>
- You may send inquiries about Behavioral Health Services to BehavioralHealth_COVID-19@hhsc.state.tx.us
- CFT COVID-19 Funds: <https://www.cftexas.org/covid19>
- The COVID-19 Provider Resources Site contains information and links for: General updates and information, Resources, Online Trainings, Broadcast Messages, FAQs. You will need to send an email to the COVID-19 mailbox listed above to gain access to the SharePoint: Additionally, you may find the FAQ document on the HHSC website here

- <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information>
- COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line. Individuals may call 1-833-986-1919.
- Resource: The TPT website at texaspreventiontraining.org has good resources to inform the community on prevention and other behavioral health-related information and trainings. TPT has posted several web-based training opportunities that are of importance at this time, including Psychological First Aid, the LivingWorks Start suicide prevention training and others on the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.
- In addition to the CARES federal funding, THECB and foundations are offering colleges a chance to apply for additional emergency aid funding. More info is here: <https://txhigheredfoundation.org/eaprogram/>
- If you know of any students who need additional scholarships our LULAC scholarships are still available until April 30th applications are available at: www.LNESC.org/LNSF
- Dallas County residents should submit to the following email: LULAC272Scholarships@gmail.com
- GenTX: www.gentx.org; Hashtags: #GENTX; #DECISIONDAY2020; #FWISDDECISION2020; tonni.grant@fwisd.org
- TSIA testing is available (virtually) thru the TWU academic testing center: TWU.edu/testing/

H. Adjourn