

AEL Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 1:30pm CST

Public Link to View: https://twc.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

Committee Members

Don Tracy (Presiding Officer), David Barron, Traci Berry, Diana Contreras, Paul Fletcher, Rita Hernandez, Samuel Keeler, Mignon Lawson, Brenda Schofield

TWC Welcome

- AEL State Director opening remarks from Mahalia Baldini
- Opening remarks from Commissioners
- Congratulations to Mignon Lawson on her retirement. This is her last meeting as an advisory committee member.

TWC AEL Updates

Legislative Updates

Overview of Legislation

- TWC Rider 46: A new Rider which requires digital inclusion in TWC programs.
- House Bill 1525, which maintains language in the Education Code passed in previous session, related to a high school equivalency subsidy program. Texas Education Agency will transfer funds to the TWC for this purpose.
- House Bill 1247, tri-agency work-based learning strategic framework by the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- Senate Bill 1615, relating to the adult high school charter school program and creates an advisory committee, to which TWC's Executive Director will appoint a member.
- Overview: the high school equivalency program will continue and there is a focus on work-based learning and digital skills building.

AEL Strategic Plan Update

Previous Advisory Committee Workgroups

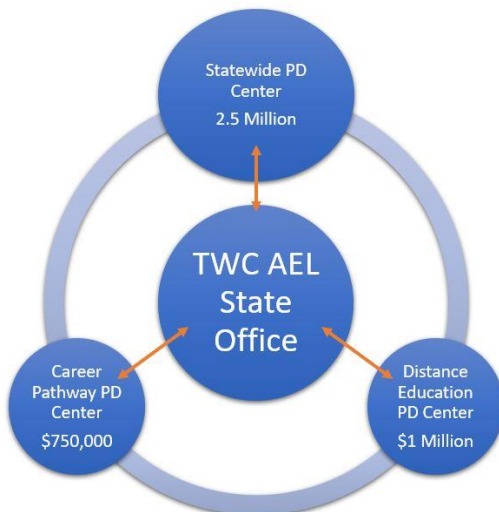
- The Advisory Committee held two workgroups earlier this year on recommendations: Engagement with Community Based Organizations; Connectivity/broadband access; Digital & Financial Literacy; Inter-Agency collaboration; and Serving justice-involved

New AEL Strategic Plan

- AEL staff is finalizing the plan for Commission consideration later this summer.
- The four strategies, now goals, will remain, with slight modifications to the goals and updated objectives:
 - Goal 1: Increase Outcomes
 - Goal 2: Address Demand/Access for AEL
 - Goal 3: Enhance Customer Experience/Increased Coordination
 - Goal 4: Improve Program Effectiveness

Statewide Special Initiatives

Texas AEL Professional Development System



- Statewide PD Center

- Provides overall support to AEL grantees for professional development requirements and enhancing services to meet goals of AEL in Texas
- Overall responsibility for required AEL Business and Conference events
- Arranges all logistics, rents space, and provides all technology support
- Contracts for PD Portal for use by all AEL staff and PD Centers
- Maintains website for AEL and hosts PD Center sites
- Maintains staff of 8 PD Specialists that work with all AEL Grantees
- Maintains listservs, statewide calendars, etc. etc.
- Distance Education PD Center
 - Focuses on providing PD for DE and Digital Literacy Instruction across the AEL Network of providers
- Career Pathway PD Center
 - Provides research-based PD to AEL Grantees and stakeholders for implementing quality career pathway services that align system services and enhance employment and postsecondary outcomes.
- Team Approach
 - 1 Technical assistance + 1 Contract Staff 'assigned' to each PDC to act as the voice for prioritizing content development and operational level implementation

Committee Discussion – Topic: Expanding Access to Services and Local Support Services

There will be time after each presentation for questions. Following all presentations – dedicated time for further discussion.

Presentation 1 – Integrated Education and Training: Trainers without Borders (Presented by Mignon Lawson)

IET Challenges for Rural Providers

- Having enough participants to create a class
- Getting the word out
- Finding trainers for the class
- Cost of trainers
- Trainings are cost prohibitive for small-programs IETs

Texas Workforce Trainings

- Texas AEL programs offer a great variety of IETs
- Provides opportunity to partner with other programs to better serve the student
- Following list from survey on IETs during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

Texas Workforce Trainings

- 10 slides show table of workforce trainings offered by AEL providers, as surveyed during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in summer 2020.

Why do we need to Cross Providers

- Provide more options to participants
- Cross-promotion/advertising
- Rural programs do not have the training opportunities that the urban programs can provide
- We are all trying to help upskill the TEXAS workforce
- Could share expenses on items such as equipment or individual tier 1 certificate fees or possibly costlier trainings
- This is about "serving the students"

Challenges and/or Needs

- A catalogue stating what is required for each workforce training
- Let Career Navigators for each grant recipient have a time to share what their program is providing (could use their monthly meeting)
- At the Fall Institute let the Career Navigators collaborate
- Other areas' great trainings not target occupation
- Not all trainings can be accomplished by virtual learning

Challenges and/or Needs

- The ability for grant recipients to collaborate and both grant recipients serve a participant at the same time
- Initial time investment to set up MOUs
- Funding oversight
- TEAMS – finances, funding, hours, credit for MSGs
- Logging/sharing IET and training hours

Accountability challenge

- How would TWC track the data of a participant being served by two different providers
- Have a dual enrollment category
- Suggestion: What if the two providers serving a participant each received ½ credit?
- This would keep the data from counting an IET twice
- The providers would need a way to pay for the training between programs

Lessons Learned

- COVID showed that TWC and the providers can meet a challenge very quickly when there is a need
- We all learned zoom very quickly in order to keep serving our participants during the shut-down of face-to-face classes

Lessons Learned

- Conferencing software provides us a way to serve a participant without being together
- Now we can take this expertise and use it to provide IETs (Integrated Education and Training) across programs

Winners

- Students
- Texas
- Texas Workforce – employers and employees
- The Texas data that is reported to the federal government
- The grant recipient data for each provider
- We can do this

Presentation: Expanding Access to Services and Local Support Networks: Serving Internationally Trained Professionals (Presented by Claudette Session)

Internationally-Trained Professionals

Photo of student cohort

Brain Waste/Gain

- Brain Waste: Unemployed, underemployed, low-wage jobs
- Brain Gain: incorporation, highly qualified, workforce

Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

- MPI and WES Global Talent Bridge

Advanced/Technical Vocabulary

- Functional Context Education (FCE)
- Instruction should be made as meaningful as possible to the adult learner by making use of the learner's prior content, workplace or professional knowledge.
- Direct use in the classroom is made of materials, tools, equipment and "things" ("realia") that the learner will actually use after training.

Functional Context Education

- Video clip of a student explaining in English about her specialization in water treatment. Explanation of a three-stage filtration system. Video about 1 minute and 30 seconds in length.



BICS and CALP

- Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)
- Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)

Bridge Academies

- Image of bridge academies available to Internationally-trained professionals, such as healthcare, business, IT, education and Construction and Manufacturing.

Center for Internationally Trained Professionals (CITPro)

- Center for Internationally Trained Professionals (CITPro)
- Lamar State College & Port Arthur (LSCPCA)

CITPro

- Advanced English Language Instruction
- Employer Engagement
- Professional Development
- Networking
- Civic Engagement Opportunities
- Meaningful Work Experience
- College Admissions Assistance
- Employability Skills Refreshment Training
- Career/Workforce Integration Guides

CITPro

- ESL Library
- Technology
- M&M Lounge
- (Mentor and Mingle Lounge)

Video Testimonial from Internationally-trained Professional Student

Video available online at <https://youtu.be/pTd076icmN8>

Translated from Spanish: My name is Circe Badillo. I am originally from Mexico. Currently, I live in Port Arthur, Texas. Four years ago when I arrived here, my level of English was very basic. It wasn't sufficient to continue with my professional career. Then, I had the fortune to start studying English with Region 5 and from knowing very little English, now, I am in an

advanced group, and I can communicate easily. Consistency has been a key factor in learning this language.

Region 5 has not only given me the opportunity to learn English, but also to pursue a career. Two years ago, I obtained a scholarship to study Process Technology in LSCPA where I recently graduated.

That's because the ESL program also offers scholarships to study careers such as education, accounting, business administration, nursing, phlebotomy, technology and other areas.

I recommend that you join the Region 5 ESL program because you will not only learn English, but you will also be able to study a career and in case you already have one, you will be able to give continuity to your professional life since having a degree or a credential from a school here makes it more likely that companies will notice your resume.

For me, Region 5 has been the best educational experience that I have had in this country because through its highly qualified teachers, I have learned English and it has also given me the opportunity to continue with my goal of becoming a professional in this country.

Region 5 Education Service Center

- Contact Claudette Session csession@esc5.net
- Videos will be posted on the Region 5 ESC website at <https://www.esc5.net/>
- End of presentation

Additional Comments before the conclusion of the AEL Advisory Committee Meeting

- Closing Remarks from Presiding Officer
- The next Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee meeting will be September 15, 2021 at 1:30 pm CST.