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Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Claiborne Building, 6th Floor
Board of Regents Conference Room, Room 6-242
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers called the meeting of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to order at 10:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2022 MINUTES

Ms. Kim Langlois called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Courtney Ryland (Proxy)	LA Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Gerlinde Beckers	Office of the Governor
Dr. Mary Breaud	Office of the Governor
Dr. Dan Bureau	LSU System
Ebony Haven (Proxy)	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Gerald "Mitch" Dillon	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Jeannine Kahn	UL System
Dr. Willie Smith	LCTCS
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dr. Caroline Jurisich	Senate Committee on Education
Katherine Granier	Special School District
Johnny Manela	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Dennis Shields	Southern University System
Brittany Soden	House Committee on Education

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting. On motion of Dr. Willie Smith, seconded by Dr. Mary Breaud, the minutes were approved.

SURVEY RESPONSES UPDATES

Dr. Beckers reviewed the updated responses to the surveys provided to institutions to gauge interest in creating an Inclusive Education Program as well as to gather information on existing programs in the state offered by McNeese State University, River Parishes Community College, and Northshore Technical Community College.

Dr. Smith noted that the program at Northshore Technical Community College focuses on workforce, but that the institution is committed to working to create a fully inclusive program.

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed commented that she appreciated the level of interest across the state and was happy that the surveys have yielded actionable information that the Council can use as the work moves forward.

Dr. Tristan Denley added that when the RFA is published, the competition will be open to everyone, so it is possible to receive more responses.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FUNDING ALLOCATION AND TIMELINE

Dr. Beckers then asked the Council to consider the funding allocation and timeline for the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund. She reminded the Council that at the October meeting, it was discussed that LaPIE would receive \$100,000, new programs a maximum of \$80,000, and existing programs a maximum of \$50,000. She also advised the Council that the application deadline was changed to January 17, 2023, as the previously discussed date of January 15, 2023 is a Sunday and January 16, 2023 is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. Reed commented that the funding allocation and timeline were both in line with Council discussions and that she wanted to be sure Council was on record with the allocation.

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the proposed funding allocation. On motion of Dr. Breaud, seconded by Dr. Reed, the funding allocation was approved.

Dr. Beckers also asked the Council to approve the proposed application and funding timeline. On motion of Dr. Dan Bureau, seconded by Dr. Smith, the application and funding timeline was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Dr. Denley presented to the Council the application for existing programs and asked for Council members to let him know if there were any edits to be made.

Dr. Beckers asked if the bill requires CTP status. Dr. Denley replied that the bill requires that an institution, at a minimum, be in the act of building the program.

Dr. Breaud inquired if a program must have a restricted account. Dr. Reed replied that this can be done as part of the contract as all campuses have the ability to roll over funds and asked Dr. Jeannine Kahn and Dr. Smith to provide additional comments. Dr. Kahn stated that it is an internal process that is common. Dr. Smith added that for due diligence it can be added to the application but expressed concern about restrictions that might hinder campuses in adding funds to that account. Dr. Reed suggested that this can be added to the application guidelines document, but also noted that, based on Dr. Kahn and Dr. Smith's comments, when a campus receives funding for a specific purpose, it is standard to use the funds for that purpose.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Breaud asked a series of questions about sources of matching funds, corporeal property, and use of space as overhead, which were addressed.

Dr. Denley reviewed the new program application and advised it is largely similar to the application for existing programs. Edits were suggested, including from Ms. Kathy Dillon, that the language be people first and that "non-disabled" be used to make consistent the language used to refer to students without disabilities.

Dr. Bureau asked whether there a way to avoid the risk of writing style interfering with the review process, such as adding word or page limits to keep things clear and concise. Dr. Denley replied that limits can be added.

Dr. Beckers asked what will happen if a new program is awarded funding but does receive CTP status. Dr. Reed replied that the bill requires that the systems certify that an institution will pursue CTP status, but systems cannot control whether they will receive CTP status. Dr. Beckers added that institutions receive feedback during the process on what needs to be more detailed. Dr. Reed asked Dr. Kahn to provide her thoughts on system certification. Dr. Kahn commented that the systems do not have the discretion to certify or not certify but would be comfortable with insuring that an institution would pursue CTP status.

Dr. Beckers asked if the model standards for CTP could be added to the guidelines document. Dr. Reed replied that the link to the model standards will be added.

Dr. Bureau asked if the RFA specifies that the funding is for one year only. Dr. Denley responded that a 2025 termination date is specified to allow programs 18 months to get started and it is clear that the funds are a one-time allocation. Dr. Reed asked if the information had been included in both RFAs. Dr. Denley responded that it was.

Ms. Ebony Haven advised the Council that the Office of Disability Affairs is advocating for more funds in the next legislative session. Dr. Beckers added that the data from the surveys could be used to indicate the need.

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the RFAs with the discussed edits. On motion of Dr. Bureau, seconded by Dr. Kahn, the application documents, with discussed edits to be incorporated, were approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Dr. Beckers then led the Council in a discussion of the application review process. They began by talking through the proposed reviewers, to include the system Chief Academic Officers, Dr. Denley, and Ms. Bambi Polotzola with the Office of Disability Affairs. Dr. Beckers commented that the reviewers should be outside experts to allow for transparency. Dr. Kahn asked if Dr. Denley would be the chair of the review committee and not vote, to which Dr. Denley replied that he would participate in the scoring but not vote.

Ms. Courtney Ryland asked if there is a plan should they receive more applications than can be funded with the allocation. Dr. Denley responded that the group will create a scoring breakdown and apply that to applications. Dr. Reed noted that the strength of an application is judged based on the rubric and added that more applications supports the case for more funds. Dr. Denley commented that applicants are asked to identify the level of funding sought, so all applications may not request the upper limit.

Ms. Ryland asked if the rubric used in Florida was forwarded to the Council members; Dr. Beckers responded that the Florida rubric does not align well to Louisiana's program as the Council has a different focus. Dr. Reed added that it can be provided if the Council would like to see it.

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the application review committee. On motion of Dr. Reed, seconded by Dr. Smith, the application review committee was approved.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2023-24 BUDGET REQUEST

The Council then discussed the budget request for FY 2023-24. Ms. Haven advised the Council that the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council met in October and voted to advocate for \$3 million for the Fund. Dr. Beckers added that she is reaching out to sister institutions for data to support the request. Ms. Haven noted that the survey responses will be helpful in the request and that fact sheets are being developed.

Dr. Reed asked if the Developmental Disabilities Council spearheaded the first request for funds, and Ms. Haven responded that it had done so through the Alliance.

Dr. Reed commented that when members receive the informational documents, they should share them with the campuses so they are able to use them at delegation meetings to reinforce the request. Dr. Beckers announced that LAPIE is in the process of reworking its promotional video.

DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Denley discussed the process for the developing the annual report, which is due February 1, 2023. He advised that the Board of Regents meets in January and he plans to present the report at that meeting. He noted that Academic Affairs can be responsible for creating the draft report as the legislation is clear on what is to be included. He suggested that the application information be

added to the report and that the report note that an addendum will be submitted once the funding has been distributed. Dr. Reed stated that by April 10, 2023, the addendum with the number of applicants and awardees can be produced. Dr. Denley recommended a clear draft be produced and forwarded to the Council for edits.

UPDATES

Dr. Beckers reminded the Council of the informational webinar to be held on November 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Beckers announced the next scheduled meeting on March 1, 2022.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.