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Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council

Monday, October 17, 2022
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Claiborne Building
Iowa Room, 1st Floor
1201 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers called the meeting of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to order at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 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
Amy Deaville	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Gerald "Mitch" Dillon	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Whitney Higginbotham Greene (Proxy)	Special School District
Dr. Jeannine Kahn	UL System
Johnny Manela	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Willie Smith	LCTCS
Brittany Soden	House Committee on Education
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dr. Dan Bureau	LSU System
Dr. Caroline Jurisich	Senate Committee on Education
Dennis Shields	Southern University System

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2022 meeting. On motion of Dr. Jeannine Kahn, seconded by Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed, the minutes were approved.

SURVEY PRELIMINARY DATA DISCUSSION

Dr. Reed reviewed the summary of the surveys sent to institutions to gauge interest in creating an Inclusive Education Program as well as to gather information on existing programs in the state. She noted that the Council was able to get a good sense of interest from institutions, including those in North Louisiana and HBCUs.

Dr. Beckers added that there may need to be some follow-up to the response from LSU, which discussed but did not define administrative support provided. She noted that LSU had reached out to her to meet on Friday to get additional information.

Ms. Bambi Polotzola asked about the institutions that showed interest in creating an Inclusive Education program, as not all the institutions were listed on the PowerPoint slide. Dr. Reed provided the names of the institutions that replied to the survey.

Dr. Kahn added that she will check with Grambling on its lack of response to the survey. Ms. Langlois noted that the survey is still open, and said she would send an additional reminder to encourage participation.

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

Dr. Beckers then presented to the Council draft applications for LaPIE. She advised that the applications were modeled on Florida's but noted that Florida has a different approach as well as a center to manage application processes and funds distribution. She added that the language in the application should reflect Act 682, including using the term "enhancement" in place of "continuing", and that some language from the Louisiana Cybersecurity Act application could be added to this document. She suggested that the focus group reconvene, combine the two documents, and then submit to the Advisory Council for feedback.

Dr. Beckers informed the Council that the language and responsibilities of Act 682 should be used in the application. She added that Act 682 states that a program must have Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) status and that Louisiana Rehabilitation Services cannot fund programs that do not have CTP status. She considered it critical, moving forward, that applicants provide evidence that they have submitted for CTP status to ensure that programs do not receive funding and never submit for CTP status.

Dr. Reed followed up by asking how established a program needs to be to apply for CTP status. Dr. Beckers replied that Nicholls submitted prior to starting its program and Southeastern's program submitted its application during the first semester.

Ms. Corhonda Corley, a parent advocate, asked if HBCUs will be afforded the same opportunities if they are interested in creating programs. Dr. Beckers replied that she has been in contact with

Southern University and that other institutions have shown interest. Ms. Corley inquired about Xavier and Dillard Universities and Dr. Beckers replied that the funding provided by Act 682 is only available for public universities.

The Council members continued their discussion of CTP. Dr. Mary Breaux added that when Nicholls began its program, startup funds had to be identified to hire staff and complete the CTP application during the planning and recruiting processes. She added that the CTP status allows for Pell Grant and LRS funding, which would allow students to enroll in the program at costs that are manageable for families. Dr. Reed commented that the CTP status would expand affordability and Dr. Beckers noted that it would also provide a structure for accountability, progress, and curriculum.

Dr. Reed asked what information is requested in the application process. Dr. Breaud responded that institutions must identify the populations they will serve, and the curriculum and courses offered, as well as certify that the courses are a minimum of 50% in person. Applicants must also show how they will measure success and job readiness of completers.

Dr. Beckers then discussed the application review and scoring process, as well as a rubric to be used during this process. She also inquired about allowable program matching funds. It was suggested that the definition of allowable matching funds should be defined in the application.

Dr. Reed then led a discussion of how to allocate the available funds and suggested three pots of money: LAPIE, new programs, and existing programs. She also noted that at this point there is one-time funding only. The Council discussed how many programs could be funded, how to define what qualifies as a new program, and whether grant amounts for new and existing programs should be at the same level. Dr. Breaud asked if this process could be updated on an annual basis based on the amount of funds available and number of programs applying. Dr. Reed replied that it could.

The Council discussed LAPIE funding. Dr. Beckers replied that the current LAPIE budget is \$40,000 and Ms. Amy Deaville added that there is no guarantee of funds after September 30, 2022. Dr. Breaud suggested increasing the amount to \$100,000 for two years.

Next, Dr. Reed suggested splitting the funds between new and existing programs, with a maximum of \$80,000 for new programs and \$50,000 for existing programs.

The Council then discussed the implementation timeline. Dr. Kahn asked how recruitment and implementation processes for new programs could play into the timeline. Dr. Beckers replied that she did not think this would be an issue. However, Ms. Brittany Soden commented that she had issues with recruiting, since people did not know about the programs. Dr. Kahn asked if an institution could launch during an academic year if they are ready. Dr. Reed replied that programs will need time to recruit, hire faculty, and organize. Dr. Beckers added that if programs have a year, then there is no reason why the CTP application should not be submitted. Dr. Denley suggested that programs launch in Fall 2024, with institutions able to match dollars within that timeframe.

Dr. Beckers asked how the CTP requirement would affect the distribution of funds. Dr. Reed replied that the Board of Regents' staff attorney can review the law to clarify what the Council is able to do or whether changes to the legislation are needed.

Ms. Corley asked if there is a roadmap for creating a program and applying for CTP status. Dr. Beckers replied that she shared with the Council the CTP application, which clearly outlines the requirements as well as the accreditation standards.

Ms. Corley also asked about meeting accessibility. Dr. Reed replied that, as this is a public meeting, meeting notices are posted, and all are welcome. In addition, individuals are able to email comments in advance.

The Council then discussed the timeline, since the 2023 Legislative Session begins in March. Dr. Reed suggested that the application could have a submission deadline of January 12, which would allow two months for institutions to apply if the Council is able to get the application format completed by mid-November. Further, she suggested that an informational webinar be hosted for campuses interested in learning more about Inclusive Education programs as well as for existing programs to share their experiences. She offered that the webinar could be scheduled for November 14th, with the application distributed on November 16th. The Council agreed.

The Council then discussed the process for collecting applications and the structure for the informational Zoom webinar. Dr. Reed asked that the Council come prepared to approve the application and rubric as well as discuss recommendations for reviewers at its November 1st meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Corley asked the Council how the meeting recordings are distributed. Dr. Reed replied that staff will discuss how to livestream the next meeting to improve access.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Beckers announced that the next scheduled meeting will be held on November 1, 2022.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.