

Committee of Practitioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, Feb. 28, 2022

10-11 a.m. CST/11-12 a.m. EST

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Present

Vanessa Waters

Henry Lafollette

Michele Wilder (Kingsport-Homeless Liaison)

Catherine Knowles (MNPS- Homeless Liaison)

Amy Allan (Tipton-Homeless Liaison)

Annie Barger (Wilson-Family Resource Center Liaison)

Not in attendance

George Yarbro (Humboldt- Homeless Liaison)

Objective

To be able to accurately understand the following and provide feedback

- Welcome and Announcements
- ARP State Level Fundings
- Systems Navigator Mini-Grant
- Homeless Data Tool Pilot
- McKinney-Vento Subgrant
- Questions and comments

Minutes

- Meeting started by Vanessa Waters
- Introductions
- Agenda
- High level overview of all ARP Homeless Funding
- Who would qualify and what is required of a Systems Navigator
 - Funds will be available until 2024
 - One application
 - Blended with other ARP funds
 - Services provided must be like non-homeless students
 - Can the district sustain the program
 - Michele Wilder stated that the district used some of the ARP 1 funding to provide this type of role
 - Just had four families move into stable housing through working with partners to secure documents for housing.
 - Just have concerns about the sustainability based off funds

- Catherine Knowles asked about what the salary is for the current one they are hiring
 - The grant would be a max of 170,000.00 for the two years
 - Catherine shared her district structured theirs through 6 part-time positions
 - Housed in the district office with supervisor
 - Handle a lot of school of origin issues and providing that
- Other duties when they are not focused on Homeless work
- Should it be presented in an upcoming webinar to present to smaller more rural districts
 - The consensus was yes, to explain that this is a dedicated job
- They all agree this is a great position and will lead to better identification and services for homeless students
- A quick turn around on the money – structure it for the next school year
- Simple application process
- Award as soon as possible – due to hiring timelines
- Systems navigation and/or identifying systems for the district (two pathways)
- Can it be used through the family resource center (FRC)
- How many LEAs could possibly participate
- Homeless Data Tool Pilot
 - A central housing platform – able to be accessed by LEAs of incoming students
 - Quicker records transfer
 - Transportation information
 - Generate reports for monitoring
 - Participation would be voluntary
 - Information loaded by homeless liaison
 - Anne Barger feels it would be a deterrent to McKinney-Vento sub grant application to require it for that grant
 - Catherine Knowles stated that they would have to hire someone just to input the data and that would take money from the grant that would normally go to services to the students
 - Michele Wilder asked if only certain users would be able to access, or is the end game to do a national database
 - Concerned that if all districts don't buy into it, then it wouldn't be effective
- Other possible things that could benefit the district
 - If anything comes up, they will email Vanessa
- McKinney-Vento Subgrant
 - Anne Barger funds a position through the subgrant – may help with applying if it is presented what all they can do with grant
 - Afraid of the federal reporting – how much work will it add to my workload
 - They don't feel they have enough homeless students to apply
 - Anne Barger just doesn't feel staffing is adequate to oversee and use all the grant money and reporting
 - Would like guidance from the state for information on what all the staff could work on in conjunction of the grant – such as FRC
 - Amy Allen talked about being from a small district, never applied because it is worth the work involved for someone that small
 - Michele Wilder with the Tier levels is prohibitive from small districts applying
 - Catherine Knowles says it is important that if the district can meet its needs without it, they

- shouldn't apply – feels tier levels are helpful for her and her district
- State should request how the districts are meeting the needs without the grant
- Open in April – awards in June
- One application for all money in all grants for all homeless money

Next Steps

- Taking feedback to the whole ESSA team
- Schedule upcoming CoP