

**EPAC Meeting
May 29, 2015
University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford CT
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Co-Chairs: Sarah Barzee and Elsa Nuñez

Participants: Michael Alfano, David Bosso, Carole Clifford, Jess House, Andrew Lachman, Greg Little, Gary Maynard, Joan Parris, Nathan Quesnel, Robert Rader, Linette Branham, David Scata, Larry Schaefer, Richard Schwab, Don Slater, Nate Snow, Allan Taylor, Dani Thibodeau, Robert Villanova, Jeffrey Villar.

CSDE and National Partners:

CSDE: Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner, Katie Toohey, Georgette Nemr, Nancy Pugliese, Maria Synodi

CEEDAR: Suzanne Robinson, Molly Siuty

CCSSO/NTEP: Saroja Barnes, Tim Dove

Time ***Activity***

9:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Sarah Barzee and Elsa Nunez welcomed participants. Members introduced themselves.

9:10 **Review of EPAC Principles & Beliefs**

Sarah Barzee reviewed the norms that EPAC has used to carry out their work. EPAC structure gives the subcommittees responsibility for making recommendations and presenting them to the full EPAC. The role of the full group is to provide critical feedback to the subcommittees. Consensus building process was revisited and discussed. Dr. Barzee reviewed EPAC beliefs and highlighted these as guiding concepts for the work of the day. She also reviewed how EPAC Principles align to the work that the CSDE and each subcommittee is doing. Dr. Barzee presented a graphic to describe the educator talent continuum and how this runs parallel to the PK-12 academic continuum.

9:50 **EPAC Program Approval System Model**

Dr. Katie Toohey, CSDE, presented the conceptual model for EPAC's Program Approval System. Fall 2017 is anticipated time for full implementation of the new qualitative review process. The Program Review subcommittee will be meeting to develop recommendations regarding how to implement the qualitative review.

Georgette Nemr, CSDE, reviewed the through lines that will be embedded in the regulations and procedures for program review and approval. These through lines will include, but not be limited to, the 6 EPAC principles, student standards, educator standards, and SRBI/Evidence-based practices.

The quantitative review component of the new program approval system will include data collection pertaining to program effectiveness and accountability. This accountability system will have weighted indicators to be used in program-level review. Data on low-performing programs will be reported to SBE and inform the need for focused monitoring through the qualitative review process. Ms. Nemr gave a demo of the UNC Teacher Quality Dashboard, which shows what data Connecticut could capture with the new

quantitative system.

Members posed questions about how to maintain the integrity of the data, including ensuring that all candidates are included.

10:15 Break

10:25 Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Nemr shared an update on the draft products recommended by the Assessment Subcommittee. A draft of the ***New Teacher and Employer Feedback Survey*** was included in participants' packets. This survey will be piloted in Fall 2015 with EPAC districts (Bloomfield, Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Plainfield, Stratford, Wallingford, Weston, and Windsor Locks). Other districts interested in piloting are welcome to contact CSDE. Approximately 334 Year 2 beginning teachers and their administrators will be surveyed via email. The pilot will expand in Spring 2016 to all other districts and the remaining Year 2 teachers and their administrators. In addition, the ***IHE/District Partnership Interview Protocol*** is being developed to evaluate the quality of partnerships between EPPs and districts. Recommendation is that protocol is implemented fully in 2016-2017. Finally, the committee recommended an exploratory pilot of ***edTPA*** with the four Connecticut State Universities to inform decisions about potential statewide adoption. Private funding will cover cost of vouchers and development team activities associated with the edTPA pilot.

10:50 Table Group Discussions & Debrief

Members were asked to work in table groups to discuss the information presented this morning and provide feedback regarding (1) the work plan for the program approval subcommittee, (2) the plan to pilot the New Teacher Feedback Survey and the IHE/District Partnership Protocol, and (3) the design of the data system dashboard. The floor was then opened for comments.

Pilot of edTPA:

- Schools close to New York, a state that requires edTPA for certification, would welcome this because it would attract people who want to teach in New York.
- Some deans do not believe edTPA will drastically improve the quality of their programs. One dean would prefer to have resources invested in expanding the pool of people who are trained to carry out teacher observations.
- In case the pilot of edTPA does not yield the desired results, should EPAC be trying to identify an alternative assessment in the meantime? What about piloting another instrument in parallel with edTPA? CSDE response: Current resources do not allow for piloting two instruments. The priority should be to get proficient observers and evaluators; the resources needed to accomplish this are significant.
- Should we consider seeking federal grants to carry out research and development of another instrument? This would mean that significant additional time would be needed to develop, pilot, and validate a new instrument.
- Need to be conscientious of the additional time that will be required to implement edTPA.

New Teacher Survey:

- Clinical supervisors should be mentioned as being part of the clinical experiences. CSDE response: The subcommittee was trying to prompt survey responses about experiences, rather than people.
- Preparation of administrators is widely varied regarding their capacity to evaluate teachers. This needs to be addressed when considering teacher evaluation and support. Professional learning for mentor teachers is also critical.
- How will results of New Teacher Survey pilot be reported? CSDE response: The data will be examined by the Data and the Assessment Subcommittees, which will then make recommendations and report to the full EPAC.

12:10

Closing Remarks

- Next two EPAC meetings are scheduled for September 25 (9-noon) and December 11 (9 to 11).

12:10

Adjourn