MCCDEC
Michigan Community College Data and Evaluation Committee

Minutes
Friday, June 15, 2007
Henry Center, Lansing, MI

Attendees: Jay Anderson, Beverly Andrews, Bill Barber, Linda Blakey, Steve Cannell, Marcella Daws, Susan DeCamillis, Stephen Eaton, Ginger Gulick, Gail Ives, Leslie Kellogg, Doris Lewis, Kathy Marsh, Robert Marsh, Chuck Parker, Jim Ross, Denise Sigworth, Bernadette Spencer, Judy Stark, Maria Suchowski, Gerald Svendor, George Xia, Bruce Yuille
Ex-officio: Patty Cantu, James Folkening, Rhonda Burke, Dan Woodward

Meeting called to order at 9:05am by Chair, Linda Blakey. Introductions were made around the table. Presented today's agenda.
Motion by Steve Cannell to accept agenda. Second by Leslie Kellogg. Motion passed.

Review of minutes from March 23, 2007 meeting. Motion by Ginger Gulick to accept minute. Second by Jerry Svendor. Motion passed.

State and Federal Updates – Rhonda Burke and Jim Folkening. Ron Harkness not able to attend meeting today because he is doing a site visit. Department has escaped most budget cuts; did have to cut some departmental operating money. Travel is very limited; on a case by case basis. Positions are also frozen from filling. Governor and legislature have now come up with agreement on some revenue sources. That should help in the development of next year's budget.

Review of New Legislation – Rhonda provided handouts from national workshops that have occurred recently. Possibility of Perkins being increased by $50 million. Patty Cantu encouraged people to contact their legislators to support this legislation.

Budget
Linda provided budget update. Currently $31,042 left in the budget prior to today's activities.

2007-08 Meeting Dates
Discussion of 2007-08 meeting dates: Fridays, September 14, 2007; January 25, 2008; March 14, 2008; and June 13, 2008.

It is the intent of MCCDEC to have the March date aligned with the Dean's in-service dates.

New Core Indicators
Discussion of state sanctioned skill assessment specified in the new core indicators. Rhonda referred to DQI document and the 'gold', 'silver', and 'bronze' levels of measurement.

Patty Cantu discussed the web cast they recently conducted with secondary and community college faculty on current skill assessments being used by these groups. They plan to be developing these measurement tools over the life of the Perkins legislature. Cost is a prohibitive factor in the implementation of this specification.

Jim spoke to the difficulty that the state has had in getting results in the past for nursing where a state test is required by all students in this area. The data has not been made available to measure success rates. Not clear if student is repeating exam or exactly the numbers who are taking and passing.

A workgroup of secondary and postsecondary combined has been established to develop some methodology to address this indicator.

Steve discussed the problem with the data being at the unit record level yet we have been told that we can't access the data at the unit record level. We seem to continue to go around in circles with these issues. The technical skill assessment is only one of the areas that have this problem; it also applies to other indicators as well.

Michigan is not the only state that has concern for this area. Many states do not have the financial resources to develop and implement state level assessments.

Jerry talked about using NOCTI tests for West Shore graduates for a number of years. They have used the tests to improve the curriculum because it provides specific feedback on the areas that the student is lacking knowledge. They do not use NOCTI for nursing and the criminal justice programs. Problems with other tests are that they only provide a single score as opposed to specific feedback on areas where student lacks knowledge.

Leslie attended conference prior to the DQI workshop and she found that even at the national level there is recognition that there is a lack of assessments available to measure skill assessments.

Gail pointed out the problem with NOCTI tests in that they don't provide a pass/fail level – they provide specific missing skills. Institutions would need to set what they consider to be a 'passing' score; perhaps based on standard deviations above the national averages, etc.

Group asked Gerry specific questions on how West Shore implemented the NOCTI tests institutionally. Students form study groups to prepare for the tests. They have used the test for program assessment and as part of their AQIP specifications. The tests are scheduled outside of regular class time and are required before a degree is posted.

Gail talked about problem with putting another hurdle in front of students to get their degree.

Jay Anderson (visitor from Delta College) did a presentation on discussion from previous MODAC meeting. A spreadsheet has been developed to collect data on licensures, assessments, and certifications being used for programs across the state. This information will be helpful for the workgroups later in the day.

Jim also mentioned that we need to expand our definition of certifications. It goes beyond a board approved certificate. Some of our short-credit programs do not result in a board approved certificate but do result in certification at the state or national level. Goal is to evaluate potential for developing state wide lists for 'outside agency' skill assessment tools for occupational programs. Goal for this list is for MODAC to potentially evaluate which assessment works best for each program. Some of the assessments may be more appropriate for within the program versus post program.

Information being collected includes if accrediting bodies accept the assessment; is the assessment a graduation requirement; is the assessment being used by hiring bodies; does the school have access to student level information on the results of the tests? Gail and Leslie noted that this data must be provided at the student level to be useful for using in core indicator calculations.

Leslie asks if it would be possible to report on the skill assessment data at the CIP code level versus at the student level. This would remove the possibility of tying the information back to special pops or non-traditional reports.

Concern rose about some of these assessments measure specific skills, i.e., brakes, electrical vs. the entire program. Most of the nursing assessments measure the 'whole' program. We will need to have conversation on the usability of the specific/discreet skill tests. Grand Rapids has 4 ASE certifications for their non-credit automotive program; the student then may get an additional 4 ASE certifications through the Associate degree program. If there are 8 certifications, does the student need to pass all 8 to be considered successful or should a fewer number of certifications be considered a success?

Jim raised concern about collection information on costs of the assessments and who is paying for the assessment. Jay mentioned that the information being collected so far parallels the information from the Iowa presentation. Jim would like to have a state level inventory of the assessments. Denise reiterated the issue of it doesn't matter how many assessments we have if we can't get access to the data at the individual student level. Also keep in mind that we also need certification data for NCA/HCL and we don't want to have to maintain multiple data systems for Perkins, HCL, institutional assessment, etc.

Jerry passed around a list of the 88 NOCTI tests that are available for assessment. Jay presented information on similar data that has been collected by the state of Iowa.

Jim mentioned that we should focus on the ‘silver’ level of implementation and wait to receive feedback from the feds. Jerry and Gail raised concern about that approach because the variability in the data will take years to measure the validity and reliability values. Leslie summarized what was discussed at the first core indicator work group meeting and there were no specifics on the 1P1 indicator.

Silver approach – Teacher/instructor developed assessment of state/industry/ postsecondary agreed upon standards (clusters/pathways) meeting state established validity and reliability guidelines. Jim mentioned that we may already be at the ‘gold’ level for some programs and will have ‘silver’ for other programs.

Patty Cantu mentioned that at the secondary level they have established a state standard assessment for each of the cluster areas. State established the standard with input from school personnel. This became an issue with the establishment of the new high school curriculum. Now are working on how the get the agreed upon assessment completed.

Meeting attendees broke into work groups for the afternoon.

Meeting adjourned 3:10 pm.