



# Competency-based Education Task Force

## Meeting Notes

**May 14, 2013**

**8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**School Administrators of Iowa, Clive**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**, Connie Buhr, Joan Corbin, Sandra Dop, Ron Fielder, Dirk Halupnik, Jeff Herzberg, Nancy Movall, Allan Nelson, Dana Schon, Andrea Stewart, Matt Townsley, Bridgette Wagoner, Susan Walkup

**Non Members Present:** Tori Cirks, Mark Crady, Lisa Fry, Tania Johnson, Tim Johnson, Mike McCormack, Duane Magee, Nancy McIntire, Dan Peterson, Kevin Range, Laura Sand, Lisa Shimmel, Kimberly Villotti, Andy Wermes, Rep. Cindy Winckler, Ryan Wise, Sara Wraight

### **AGENDA ITEM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Expected Outcome:	Lead	Follow Up
Open the meeting	Jeff Herzberg	

**Notes:** Jeff Herzberg opened the meeting at 8:30 and introduced guests: Rep. Cindy Winkler; Ryan Wise; Kevin Range; Laura Sand Health, Education, Workforce Outreach Liaison for Senator Harkin; Duane McGee from BOEE, and facilitators from Midwest Comprehensive Center: Tori Cirks, Lisa Shimmel, and Sara Wraight.

Sandra Dop explained an addition to the agenda (Goals for Higher Education work group) and introduced Mike McCormick, DE liaison to the legislature and asked him for updates in the session. He said we are still waiting but hopeful for progress soon.

Success with CBE- - Dop explained that Spirit Lake freshman were among the finalists in the Siemens 'We Can' Challenge and invited Kevin Range, principal of Spirit Lake High School, to explain. He said they were chosen for the invention of a desk with renewable energy to charge phone, which they hope to improve to charge a laptop. He explained this was a result of the CBE environment of collaborative, critical thinking and problem-solving and that he did not believe it would not have happened in traditional education.

**AGENDA ITEM: UPDATE NORMS**

Expected Outcome: Finalize changes to Task Force norms	Lead Dana Schon	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Dana Schon continued the discussion to revise group norms according to the input toward that work at the last meeting. It was decided to adopt the following norms:

- ❖ Engage fully in discussion and processing:
  - Support opinion with evidence;
  - Challenge ideas rather than individuals;
  - Pose a solution along with challenges/barriers you identify;
  - Use "how might we" language;
  - Ask good questions; and
  - Seek first to understand, then be understood (encourage all voices be heard).
- ❖ Assume positive intent at all times.
- ❖ Use systems thinking-- think statewide with individual districts in mind.
- ❖ Be fully present (reduce/eliminate electronic distraction).
- ❖ Create talking points at the end of each meeting.
- ❖ Start and end on time.
- ❖ Be results driven and action-oriented.

**AGENDA ITEM: UPDATE ON MAINE AND OTHER KEY LEARNING**

Expected Outcome: Group will understand what examples are like and the difference between what we see elsewhere and what we consider competency-based education.	Lead Sandra Dop	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Sandra Dop gave a brief update on her visits to classrooms in Maine where they have been working toward competency-based environments for several years. Maine can be a source of information for us; however, we continue to define competency-based education differently from most other places. The major difference is that we intend to write overarching competencies that tie standards together toward transfer of learning rather than focus on discrete standards. She reported that, although she has not visited classrooms in Alaska, that it is her understanding they have this model.

Survey Update: Dop also announced that our survey is being piloted this week with 10 superintendents across the state.

Legislature update: Dop thanked Rep. Winkler for her interest and for supporting us early with a bill to move the work of our Preliminary Report forward.

McCormick explained that there were six Task Forces in the 2012 legislation. He worked with five of them but had not been able to attend this one. He had heard nothing but good about the work of our group. Both House and Senate seem to be on board with this topic, and he expected positive momentum going forward. We are ahead of most states and we are going to have an exciting few years of positive educational changes.

Rep Winckler said that although there is a lot going on in the legislature right now, CBE is an exciting piece of the education bill.

Sands explained that she attended today because as the education representative for Senator Harkin, she wanted to know about this work to inform him because the reauthorization of ESEA is coming up.

**AGENDA ITEM:** UPDATE ON INNOVATION LAB NETWORK (ILN) PARTNERSHIP

Expected Outcome Group understanding of the current and expected work of the ILN.	Lead Mary Delagardelle	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Deleted as Mary Delagardelle was not able to attend.

**AGENDA ITEM:** PROCESSING COMMON READINGS AND DEFINITONS

Expected Outcome Common readings and processing will allow the group to give informed input toward the definition of a competency and the processing in the afternoon.	Lead Tori Cirks, Sara Wraight, Lisa Shimmel	Follow Up <u>The definition will be finalized.</u>
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**Notes:** Tori Cirks, Sarah Wraight, and Lisa Shimmel facilitated the reading and processing of the following common documents:

1. Iowa Department of Education State Guidelines for Competency-based Education.
2. Cracking the Code and The Art and Science of Designing Competencies (iNACOL)
3. A 'Disruptive' Look at Competency-Based Education (Louis Soare)
4. The Definition and Selection of Key Competencies: Executive Summary (OECD)

In pairs the group processed their learning from each article using the following questions to discuss extracted quotes from the articles:

1. Does this quote represent what you read in the article? Why or why not?
2. How does this quote or the article in general develop or reinforce your thinking about what a competency is.

Individuals gave written input toward the definition of a competency. An internal group will process the input from the Task Force to wordsmith the following definition/explanation and update the State Guideline.

**AGENDA ITEM:** PROCESSING OF TOOL KIT, LAB SCHOOLS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGER EDUCATION WORK GROUP, AND NEXT STEPS

<p>Expected Outcome: Group input on what should be accomplished in these areas before this Task Force sunsets in the fall with particular attention to the timeline before the July and September meetings.</p>	<p>Lead Sandra Dop</p>	<p>Follow Up <u>The input will be combined and use toward future planning.</u></p>
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**Notes:**

**Tool Kit:** The Task Force broke into small groups to process topics to include, who might help, what should be done before July 11 and September 19<sup>th</sup> meetings, and what to recommend as future work.

**CBE Network Schools:** The Task Force broke into small groups to process criteria to consider, suggested commitments of these schools, the state commitment to them, and possible support of these schools.

**Professional Development:** The Task Force broke into small groups to process what topics to include for all educators, administrators, teachers, parents, and community members.

**Higher Education:** The Task Force broke into small groups to process goals for a committee, ideas for those to invite at universities and colleges, and what research might we ask them to conduct.

This input was collected to be used toward planning for this work.

**AGENDA ITEM:** TALKING POINTS (added because this is now one of our norms)

Expected Outcome: Talking points	Lead Sandra Dop	Follow Up
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**Talking Points:**

- Reviewed information to enhance our understandings
- Developed common understanding as a group around key concepts and defining competency
- Provided feedback on the definition and plans for future work
- Identified major headings for the tool kit
- Even those of us who have been on the task force had our thinking stretched today: project management, student interest drives the work, economic and social success drives this as well as academic success

Thoughts on why it will work this time:

1. Technology makes it doable.
2. The world is demanding of it of us.
3. Our students are demanding it of us.

**AGENDA ITEM:** ADJOURN

Expected Outcome:	Lead Sandra Dop	Follow Up
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**Notes:**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Next Task Force meeting: July 11, 2013      9:00 AM to 3:30 PM