



Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, January 16, 2015
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Iowa Association of Business & Industry, 400 East Court
Suite 100, Des Moines Iowa 50309

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Bontranger; Dave Bunting (via conference call); Josh Byrnes; George Carizey (for Karrie Abbott); Greg Dufoe; Christopher Duree; Murray Fenn; Rachel Geilenfeld; Jerry Kearns; Pradeep Kotamraju; D.T. Magee; Randy Mead; Kathy Nacos-Burd; Julie Rosin; Vicky Rossander; Elliot Smith; Lisa Stange; Ed Wallace; and Jeffrey Weld

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dave Palmer, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Steve Ovel, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Julie Ntem, Iowa College Student Aid Commission; Eric St Clair, Department of Education; and Amy Vybiral, Department of Education

AGENDA ITEM: Introduction and Plan for the Day

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
	Pradeep Kotamraju	

Notes: Kotamraju indicated that there were to be five meetings in 2015, with the task force wrapping up its work in November 2015. A final set of recommendations will be firmed up by the September meeting and will be in final draft form.

AGENDA ITEM: Iowa's National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Make task force members more familiar with the Iowa NGA Policy Academy.	Chancellor Christopher Duree	Members Kotval, Duree, Varner, and Kotamraju will provide updates from the NGA Policy Academy as these individuals serve as members on both initiatives.

Notes: Chancellor Duree explained the genesis of the academy, stating that the interest in developing such an academy first came from involvement the Governor’s Office regarding NGA’s call for improving the talent pipeline, which then resulted in submitting a proposal to NGA. Iowa was only a handful of states that received funding for developing a full-blown policy academy. Duree then summarized the structure, operation, and anticipated deliverables as part of the Iowa policy academy. The main point Duree emphasized was the overlap between the work of the Secondary CTE Task Force and that of the Iowa NGA policy academy, and the two needed to be aligned so that growing the talent pipeline becomes a priority for both groups.

AGENDA ITEM: Moving Towards Recommendations—Finalizing Career Academy Definition

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Gain knowledge about how CTE works in a centralized setting.	Eric St Clair	Revisit the updated definition after other recommendations are developed.

Notes: A final draft recommendation was presented to task force members that was not substantially different from the one presented at the December 2014 meeting. Task force members on the Career Academy/Regional Center Work Team summarized the work so far, noting that there was discussion about specific wording within the recommendation (i.e., postsecondary), the language essentially was left untouched. Discussion among task force members ensued about wording and language, and while there were still minor differences between various members, the task force members essentially agreed with what was decided within the work team and the updated definition was generally acceptable. The recommendation on an updated definition of a career academy could be revisited after other recommendations were developed.

AGENDA ITEM: Moving Towards Recommendations—What Should a Support System Look Like for Career Guidance and Planning?

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Actively engage members in building upon the career guidance work team on laying out a strategy for implementing a systemic and sustainable statewide career guidance system in Iowa.	Pradeep Kotamraju and Amy Vybiral	Task force charges the Career Guidance Work Team to develop a single recommendation for presentation at next meeting

Notes: Continuing the discussion on Iowa’s current career guidance and planning landscape, Amy Vybiral, Department of Education, summarized the discussion the Career Guidance Work Group was having. Iowa Code mandates that school districts implement a career information system. Kotamraju and Vybiral began discussing Iowa Code 279.61, both what it currently contains, and what might be some proposed language, highlighting the major differences between current and proposed. A key part of the discussion focused on: (a) software systems; (b) required components; (c) data elements; and (d) outputs and outcomes under the current and proposed career guidance system, and on which should there be more

emphasis and weight. Moving forward, the task force asked for a single recommendation that whatever system is to be mandated and funded, it addressed the above four items. They also asked if information about the views of counselors / teachers in these four areas could be surveyed.

AGENDA ITEM: A Framework for Presenting Recommendations

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Gaining knowledge regarding a common framework for developing recommendations.	Pradeep Kotamraju	Task force members were asked to develop three recommendations for the next meeting.

Notes: Kotamraju discussed a framework for developing recommendations that center around school issues at one level and student issues at another level. If the recommendation was set at the school level, then the following areas could be seen as the focus: (a) structure; (b) curriculum; and (c) funding. If the recommendation was set at the student level, then the following areas could be seen as the focus: (a) learning; (b) support; and (c) transition.

The recommendations were placed within the broader framework that connects policy and practice in education, workforce development, and economic development. The task force members were asked to submit recommendations using the framework. They were asked to think boldly and creatively given that such an opportunity may not be on the horizon in the future.

AGENDA ITEM: Coming to Consensus on Defining High-Quality CTE

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Task force comes to agreement on a common definition for high-quality CTE.	Task Force Members	The High-Quality CTE Work Team will refine the definition, taking into consideration input task force members provided.

Notes: Kotamraju presented some statewide trend data on CTE participation as a preamble for discussing the initial definition for high-quality CTE that was presented to the group. Suggestions for refinement were made to the definition. A preliminary amended definition of high-quality CTE was agreed upon, which would be discussed at the next High-Quality CTE Work Team meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Rewriting Iowa Code with Regard to CTE Policy and Practice—Some Initial Considerations

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Provide an understanding to Task Force Members for Iowa Code language around CTE.	Task Force Members	To be continued at next task force meeting.

Notes: Task force members were provided a preliminary introduction to the Iowa Code language around CTE. A key point to note was that the Code talks about careers, technical education, and education, but not all together. Chapter 258 talks about vocational education. There was open-ended discussion about the Code language that referred to service areas, taking courses within a service area in sequential units, and regional boards. One additional topic that was discussed extensively was about having a separate endorsement for CTE as part of high school graduation, including the underlying coursework and teacher preparation and licensure related to that endorsement.

AGENDA ITEM: Summarizing the Work of the Task Force Thus Far

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Actively engage members in determining a common view of high-quality secondary CTE for Iowa.	Task Force Members	Task force members were reminded about their “homework” assignment.

Notes: Kotamraju summarized that the group is close to a career academies definition and close to a career guidance definition – to be completed in future meetings. Additionally, a dual approach to CTE education is encouraged, more math and science courses that can meet the academic requirements. The group should be able to come up with recommendations regarding high-quality CTE in Iowa.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.