

**Assessment Task Force Update
Summary of the July 28-29, 2015 Meeting in Laramie**

Submitted August 6, 2015 by the Center for Assessment

The assessment Task Force met in person in Laramie, Wyoming on July 28-29, 2015 from 8:30 am to 5:00 PM on July 28th and until 4:00 PM on July 29th. Twenty-two of the twenty-five members of the Task Force were in attendance (see below). One member of the Task Force resigned, reducing Task Force membership to 24. Scott Marion and Joseph Martineau of the Center for Assessment, LSO consultants, planned and facilitated the meeting in coordination with Brent Young and Deb Lindsey of the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE).

Members Present		Members Absent
1. Anne Ochs	12. Kevin Roberts	1. Nicole Novotny Wonka
2. Audrey Kleinsasser	13. Kim Ferguson	2. Rebecca Weston
3. Byron Stutzman	14. Marty Wood	
4. Cassie Hetzel	15. Mary Charles Pryor	Members Resigned
5. Christopher Dresang	16. Molly Foster	1. Dan Coe
6. Cindy Gulisano	17. Shannon Harris	
7. Crystal Graf	18. Sharla Dowding	
8. Ellen Kappus	19. Sonya Tysdal	
9. Joanne Flanagan	20. Stephanie Czarobski	
10. Kathy Vetter	21. Sue Stevens	
11. Kevin Mitchell	22. Wanda Maloney	

The agenda for the meeting is presented on the next page. As can be seen from the agenda, the Task Force worked in three groups to review a revised draft of Chapter I of the final report on the morning of the 28th. After finalizing the review of the draft of Chapter I, the task Force broke into two pre-assigned groups (based on requested group membership where possible) to work on issues of statewide summative assessment or the components of a comprehensive assessment system not associated with the statewide summative assessment. Both during and after the separate group work, they shared their work with each other. The last portion of the agenda was intended to clarify the decision made by the group determining whether the final report would focus solely on a statewide summative assessment or include other components of a comprehensive assessment system.

A brief summary of each of the activities in the agenda is provided below. The last set of activities (from 2:45 PM to 4:30 PM on July 29th) is not summarized. The full group decided unanimously to provide recommendations for a comprehensive assessment system. However, by the time that decision was made, there was little time left, and the final planned set of activities was put off to a later meeting.

Tuesday, July 28, 2015	
Whole Group	
8:30 AM Welcome & Attendance	
Small Group (3 small group)	
8:40 AM Review of Revised Chapter I	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the chapter capture the intended purposes and uses accurately? Anything missing, unnecessary, or needs modification? - Does the chapter flow coherently, is it organized the way you would organize it? If not, how can it be improved? - Is it written at a level that a lay person willing to put in some time could understand it? If not, how can it be improved? - Do you believe that the way this is written will serve as a good foundation for the rest of the report? Anything missing? 	

Tuesday, July 28, 2015	
Whole Group	
9:40 AM Small Group Sharing and Feedback	
10:00 PM Break	
Statewide Summative Assessment Group	Comprehensive Assessment System Group
10:15 AM Sketching Out a Theory of Action	10:15 AM Sketching Out a Theory of Action
12:00 PM Lunch	12:00 PM Lunch
12:45 PM Summative Design Recommendations - <i>Assumptions</i> - <i>Testing time</i> - <i>Content considerations</i> - <i>Security considerations</i> - <i>Timing and flexibility</i>	12:45 PM System Design Recommendations - <i>Clarifying goals and intended uses of system</i> - <i>Identifying key components</i> - <i>Matching components to uses</i> - <i>Wrestling with coherence and avoiding redundancy</i> - <i>Interaction among components</i>
3:00 PM Break	3:00 PM Break
3:15 PM Resume Summative Recommendations	3:15 PM Resume System Recommendations
Whole Group	
4:15 PM Group Sharing and Feedback (focus on key areas of overlap)	
5:00 PM Adjourn	

Wednesday, July 29, 2015	
Statewide Summative Assessment Group	Comprehensive Assessment System Group
8:30 AM Resume Summative Recommendations	8:30 AM Resume System Recommendations
10:30 AM Break	10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM Resume Summative Recommendations	10:45 AM Resume System Recommendations
Whole Group	
12:15 PM Lunch	
1:00 PM Group Sharing and Feedback	
1:45 PM Determine Scope of Final Report	
2:30 PM Break	
If Scope = Statewide Summative Assessment	If Scope = Comprehensive Assessment System
2:45 PM Timeline for implementation - <i>Custom, consortium, collaborative, shelf</i> - <i>Variation by content area</i> - <i>Adequate runway</i> - <i>Professional development needs</i>	2:45 PM Incorporation of local assessment in accountability
	3:45 PM Timeline for implementation - <i>Custom, consortium, collaborative, shelf</i> - <i>Variation by content area</i> - <i>Adequate runway, phasing</i> - <i>Professional development needs</i>
4:30 PM Adjourn	4:30 PM Adjourn

Review of Revised Draft of Chapter I of the Final Report

The three groups provided considerable feedback on the draft of chapter I. In a previous revision, attempts were made to reduce the jargon and technical level of the writing. Additional revisions were requested to help make the final report more understandable to a lay audience. The groups also requested greater clarity in several parts of the document to assure understanding and to avoid possible misinterpretation. Finally, additional references supporting several statements were requested. A revised draft of chapter I will be provided at the September 9, 2015 meeting in Casper.

Two-Group Activities

Joseph Martineau facilitated the activities of the group working on recommendations for a statewide summative assessment system, and Scott Marion facilitated the activities of the group working on

recommendations for the non-summative components of a comprehensive assessment system. Both groups spent time engaged in activities to assist in writing a theory of action and to guide recommendations made during the remainder of the meeting.

Following the theory of action activities, the two groups deliberated on several aspects of their respective responsibilities, developing a draft list of recommendations in each group. In the summative assessment group, the topics included allowable testing time, time of year, length of testing window, alignment to Wyoming state standards, item and task types to include, test security, issues specific to high school assessment, and mode of test administration. For the comprehensive assessment group, the topics included coherence of state, district, and classroom assessment; coherence of formative, interim, and summative assessment; whether formative assessment is an appropriate topic for recommendations, the use of district assessment results for accountability, the degree of local vs. state control in each component, building expertise and capacity, quality control/quality assurance, and funding. These deliberations and recommendation were shared with each other (once at the end of the day on July 28th, and once after lunch on July 29th).

Based on the groups' sharing of their deliberations and recommendations with each other, the full group unanimously voted to make recommendations for a coherent system of assessments to include mandated statewide summative assessments as well as district-controlled summative and interim assessments in its final report. The Task Force also voted to simply reference formative assessment practices in its final report as important to student learning, but under the full control of individual classroom teachers. Specific recommendations from the Task Force regarding classroom, district, and state control; degree of integration across levels; funding; and use in accountability will be provided in the first draft of chapter II of the final report.

Finally, in the whole-group session at the end the day on July 29th, the group reviewed and approved a revised draft Table of Contents for the final report, to include the following sections:

Executive Summary

- I. Recommended Purposes and Uses of Assessment, and Intended Outcomes of Implementation
- II. Wyoming Assessment System
 - a. Summative Assessment Recommendations
 - b. Non-summative components
- III. Recommendations for Supporting Successful Implementation
 - a. Timeline
 - b. Supports (e.g., PD, expertise)
- IV. Recommendations for policy coherence

References/ Sources Consulted

Appendices as Necessary