

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2015

Board Members Present:

Mona Statser – Executive Director Workforce Solutions Board

Larry Souza – North Texas Workforce Solutions Center

Aletha Newman – Student Loan Coordinator

Deana Lehman – Director of Special Services

Jane Robinson – New Beginnings Coordinator

Also in attendance:

Dr. Gary Don Harkey – Dean of Instructional Services

Cher Prescott – Clerical Assistant, New Beginnings

Packets were distributed containing the previous meetings minutes, the 2013-15 New Beginnings Fact Sheet, Priddy Grant Final Report, New Beginnings Year End Totals for 14-15, New Beginnings Evaluation summary, grant totals for 15-16, Revised Application, Revised Application Update form, Resource Center handout and Pass Department brochure.

Everyone took a moment to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Statser made the motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Souza seconded, and minutes were approved by common consent.

Old Business

The New Beginnings fact sheet was reviewed. Ms. Robinson mentioned that the placement rate for the 14-15 graduating class is allowed 12 months to determine. Dr. Harkey asked about the average cost per student and why it was so much higher over the 14-15 school year vs the 13-14? Ms. Robinson explained that the cost of most of the benefits increased over 14-15, and Ms. Lehman added that with fewer students and more money received by the program it would equate to more money spent per student. Ms. Statser mentioned that a possible change in the DARS program is on the horizon.

The Priddy Final Report was reviewed. Ms. Robinson mentioned that the Priddy Foundation granted an additional \$50,000 for the 15-16 year. She stated also that for the fall 2015 semester we have a much higher number of students receiving the gas reimbursement benefit. It was also noted that in the New Beginnings program gas reimbursement is a flexible benefit with the number of days reimbursed varying based on funding available. It is also the benefit that students are notified upon application that may be decreased or eliminated, if funding is not available.

The Year End Totals were reviewed. Dr. Harkey brought up a question about what the program does with books that are out of edition or even anticipating to go out of edition. Ms. Robinson explained that the books are sold back to online book distributors when possible. There is also an “out of edition” used book cart for books which cannot be sold online in the New Beginnings office. These can be purchased at a discounted rate.

The Evaluation summary was reviewed. Ms. Robinson noted that the biggest complaint from students is having to pick up and return their (RN) textbooks on the Vernon campus instead of being able to do so at Century City Campus when they live and attend classes in Wichita Falls. She explained that after research into the issue, there isn't really anything New Beginnings can do to remedy the problem. Kim Bateman, bookstore director, states that it basically comes down to the lack of storage space at the CCC bookstore.

New Business

The Grant summary sheet was reviewed. Ms. Robinson pointed out again that the Priddy Foundation has increased their grant to the New Beginnings program to \$150,000. It was noted that the number of approved students in fall '15 (130) semester has increased slightly from the number in fall '14 (120). She also stated that the number of students approved and receiving gas reimbursement has increased greatly from previous semesters (Fall '15 – 45; Fall '14 – 30), noting that it was estimated that approximately \$40,000 would be paid out for gas reimbursement in Fall '15 with only \$40,000 spent on gas reimbursement in all three semesters of 2014-2015.

The PASS department brochure was reviewed. Ms. Robinson showed a video about New Beginnings that was placed on Facebook as a targeted advertisement and is also available for viewing on the Vernon College website, under the New Beginnings heading. There has been an increased focus on advertising for the New Beginnings program for this fall semester to increase the number of students served. Ms. Robinson has spoken with various orientation classes in an effort to promote the program. There has been a significant increase noted in applicants coming from the Automotive Technology and Surgical Tech programs.

The revised program Application and Application Update forms were reviewed. Ms. Robinson explained that the greatest change was reducing the initial application by one page and adding the "How did you hear about New Beginnings" question. She also mentioned that for the fall '15 semester she has not stopped taking applications.

The Resource Center brochure was reviewed. Ms. Robinson explained that the Resource Center is a result of a QEP project she began a few years back and was asked to continue the service as it has been a positive benefit to students and prospective students. The goal of the resource center is to help students find additional resources beyond New Beginnings.

Meeting adjourned.