



## **PROJECT 14-1319 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING**

September 8, 2014

TO: CCHE Commissioners  
FROM: Kachina Weaver, 1319 Project Manager  
RE: Project Update

---

This bi-weekly update is intended to keep the Commissioners of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education informed about the activities and progress of the HB 14-1319 Project. A complete update will also be provided at each Commission meeting.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly at (303) 866-4030 or [Kachina.Weaver@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:Kachina.Weaver@dhe.state.co.us).

### **EXECUTIVE ADVISORY GROUP (EAG):**

The EAG last met August 28<sup>th</sup> in person. The meeting began with a reiteration of the differences in the roles of the EAG and CCHE and why the EAG is important. The Keystone Center provided an explanation and demonstration of the “decision making framework” that will be used as the EAG tackles the issues that come to them.

Representatives from the Office of Legislative Legal Services, the Joint Budget Committee, and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting provided clarity to the group about the definition of “Total State Appropriations” and firmly asserted that it does not include specialty education programs or general fund direct grant programs.

Kachina Weaver walked members through the Foundational Working Document with an overview of the process and the individuals who were involved in the meetings. It was explained that this document will now be shared with the Funding Allocation Modeling Team to be used as a launching point for their discussions.

The Keystone Center walked through the Outreach Plan, the involvement of key informants and the regional meetings, which will help frame the priorities for the work being done by the Funding Allocation Modeling Team. Key informant interviews are about half-way completed and the regional meetings will be scheduled within the next week.

Public Comments were given at this meeting by Loretta Martinez, from MSU-Denver, articulated the institution's concern about the setting of the COF stipend amount as this project progresses and strongly encourage a greater emphasis to be placed on increasing this amount.

The next EAG meeting is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30-12:30pm as a conference call. The agenda for this meeting is still to be created, given that we are awaiting input from the Funding Allocation Model Team whose first meeting was September 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CCHE SEPTEMBER MEETING:**

The September meeting of the CCHE dedicated a significant amount of time to a 1319 update: thanks were given to the various people and groups who helped with the "setting up" of the project; a formal introduction of the vendors – The Keystone Center, Engaged Public, and NCHEMS – was given to the Commissioners; an update on the project structure and process was given; a discussion of the roles of the EAG and CCHE; a review was done of the bill directives and deadlines; an explanation of the issues surrounding "Total State Appropriations" was given along with the legal interpretation that was provided to EAG; a presentation was provided by the National Governor's Association identifying what is happening around the country and things to consider as this project moves forward; an explanation of the Foundational Working Document was given; along with an update on the progress of the EAG; and, finally, adoption of the Project Principles was completed. The Project Principles now read as follows:

#### **PROJECT PRINCIPLES**

HB 14-1319 requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to develop a new base funding formula to allocate state general fund dollars among the State's public institutions of higher education.

All decisions regarding the development of this new funding formula should:

- Align project outcomes with Master Plan goals, which are:
  - Increase the attainment of high quality postsecondary credentials across the academic disciplines and throughout Colorado by at least 1,000 new certificates and degrees each year to meet anticipated workforce demands by 2015.
  - Improve student success through better outcomes in basic skills education, enhanced student support services and reduced average time to credential for all students.
  - Enhance access to ensure that the system reflects the changing demographics of the state while reducing attainment gaps among students from underserved communities.
  - Develop resources, through increases in state funding, that will allow public institutions of higher education to meet projected enrollment demands while promoting affordability, accessibility and efficiency.
- Promote clarity, simplicity and predictability in the allocation of state funds to public institutions of higher education.
- Evaluate Colorado public institutions of higher education on accurate and comparable data.

- Respect the individual role and mission purposes of each Colorado public institution of higher education with regard to operational authority and flexibility.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:**

The Public Education & Outreach Team has been meeting. Key informants have been identified and the interviews are in progress.

A list of regional meeting locations has been agreed upon and those meetings are in the progress of being scheduled. We hope to have a list of dates, locations, and times within one week. CCHE and EAG members are encouraged to try and attend those meetings within their regions, to hear firsthand the concerns and input from the public.

**COST DRIVER ANALYSIS TEAM:**

The Cost Driver Analysis Team had their first meeting on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. This was an organizational meeting – identifying the purpose of this undertaking, understanding roles and responsibilities of the group, and establishing meeting dates/times. NCHEMS provided a PowerPoint from which the discussion about the pieces and parts can launch.

The next meeting of this team is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4pm in the CDHE Offices.

**FUNDING ALLOCATION MODELING TEAM:**

The Funding Allocation Modeling Team held their first meeting on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm in the CDHE offices. The team made significant progress working through the definitions and data sources for the model, and will be meeting again on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm in the CDHE Offices to work on those items that have not yet been resolved.

## ## ##

Please note the project website, within which all things 1319 will be listed: *meeting dates/times/materials, expert team membership lists, and additional resources.*

Please bookmark this link and check it regularly.

<http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/General/1319/default.html>