



Data Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

April 13, 2026

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1. Welcome & Introductions

In Attendance: Mark Chisholm, Dina Advani, Jody Weber, Dr. Brit Gallegos, Johanna Sandoval, Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, Carmella Sanchez, Carrie Tsosie-Jim, Dawn Kenney-Penhlaskai, Jing Feng, Kate McGowan, Larry Sanderson, Vanessa Hawker, Dr. Barbara Medina, Bill Brown, and Marc Saavedra.

2. Previous Meetings Minutes Review

No objections

3. Degree Programs

- a. Proposed rule change regarding dormant programs-Mark Chisholm – in rule dormant is defined as a program that has not admitted any new students in 3 years. It also states institutions are supposed to notify us at least once a year of any programs that have been discontinued. Although us here at the agency have not followed up on this. I guess this is our attempt to correct this. Jody Weber and I have proposed some modifications to the existing rules in process. There will be a public hearing for these proposed rule changes on May 1st, 2026. We are proposing these changes to the existing rule: once a program is inactive or dormant for 3 years or more and an institution wishes to reactivate the program the institution must reapply. Kate McGowan- I would like the agency to be able to determine a program's inactivity or dormancy from the data they already receive from the Institutions. I am concerned with workload for HEI's. Mark Chisholm- that makes sense I think we would be gentle anyway and not just inactive program without HEI input. Jody Weber- proposed date of hearing has been moved to May 28th, 2026. Mark Chisholm- I will share a copy of our proposed rule change for review and or comments. Mark Saavedra- on that hearing day there are 6 other proposed rule changes, it will be a busy day.
- b. Review of active graduate programs- Mark Chisholm- we have recently sent out requests to the HEI's with the list of approved graduate programs for each institution. We have not developed a method here at HED to help us monitor and update offered programs at the Institutions. Responses to the sent-out lists is April 17, 2026.
- c. Next review – undergraduate certificate programs- Mark Chisholm- we don't approve certificate programs. It is not as essential whether a certificate is active or not. But we will probably work on this. In relation to workforce Pell. This is an issue being pushed by PED for developing workforce tracks for High School



students. We will probably be auditing more on credit hours on certificates than anything else to meet requirements for other programs. Kate McGowen- you said HED does not approve certificates what does that mean? Mark Chisholm- Institutions are required to inform us of the certificate and we approve cip but not the program.

4. SSN Matching for GRO Program Success

- a. Working on an MOU to permit-Mark Chisholm- if any of the institutions are collecting SSNs for the students receiving the GRO monies we can do DWS matches to try and track success of GRO programs. However, to do this we will need to develop a MOU to share such data. We have been told the LFC does want to see concrete proof of GRO monies' success. We will do the DWS matches for the institutions, but it will be up to the institutions to due the corresponding reporting/analysis. Dawn Kenny-Penhlaskai - just so you know DWS does have a way to do matching without using SSNs. We have used this at CNM for the non-credit side. You would just need to request this format. Mark Chisholm- This explains how PED plans to get info on their students who do not go to college. We will follow up on this. Dina Advani- I am going to mention this to my contact at DWS. We are currently working with our staff to develop an MOU type memo to meet our data sharing needs. Marc Saavedra- this GRO monies is potentially going to become re-accruing and law states data collection on status and success is required. Alejandra Villa-Lobos- would the MOUs be between DWS and HED? I know we are currently working directly with DWS on MOU for our institutions. Mark Chisholm- No it would be with each institution and HED. It will not be mandated that each institution go through HED. If an institution wants to go directly through DWS that is ok. We are just trying to mediate data collection for swiftness. Dina Advani- we currently have some MOUs in place and if any institution wants to reach out to us for data wage match, we will gladly assist.

5. Preliminary Retention Data

- a. Methodology-Mark Chisholm- most of you identify your 1st time freshman using the IPEDS definition and I look at how many credit hours, and I look at your dear file one year later if they still enrolled, I consider them retained. Then I look to see if they completed a degree or certificate either in their 1st or 2nd semester, I am called that retained. However, there is a lot of overlap at the branch colleges and main campuses. I try to follow the logic, if a student is coded as a first-time freshman at the main campus and they have hours at one of the branches I am adding them in. However, this method is not being deployed for Eastern. I am still working on the best method to determine retention data.
- b. First look at rates- Mark Chisholm -shared screen with retention rate data. This year's data shows retention rates have increased at each institution. Every



institution will be getting new money. I just need to determine and confirm my methodology. It is not finalized this is just a quick look at retention as it stands right now. Marc Saavedra- the data the LFC was looking at for retention showed the rates not as good at the 4-year institutions. They were really looking at the age group, I think it was 18-22 that showed poor retention rates. That's how they came up with the retention rates. Maybe finding out which methodology they used may be worthwhile. Mark Chisholm-We will have data to report on the GRO money.

6. HED Updates

- a. Dual Credit Surveys-Jody Weber- surveys were due last week a couple extensions have been extended. We will be analysis data soon. We look forward to using the data to make improvements and recommendations. Dr. Brit Gallegos- I will be reaching out to some institutions on the data submitted and reaching out to those who did not submit data. We will have some preliminary data at the CAO meeting. Thank you for all that submitted data and we look forward to sharing outcomes.
- b. Strada survey-Dina Advani- we did see some comments coming in to have the Strada survey participation request be done though our Secretary's office. We are in the process of drafting a letter requesting participation from the Secretary to each institution and should be going out next week.
- c. Workforce Pell working group- Dr. Brit Gallegos- I have been working with Dina Advani closely to move onto the workforce Pell advisory group. It was an invitation only participation, first meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. It is a partnership with HED and DWS. Workforce Pell is going to be starting in July 2026. In accordance with that start date there must be several statewide decisions and definitions made on how it's going to operate in New Mexico. Dina and I can provide updates on the meeting here in the DAG meeting. We are also going to have a workforce Pell page on the HED website. On the workforce Pell page there will be meeting agendas and meeting minutes available. Dina Advani-we did put together a QR code with resources to be placed on the workforce Pell webpage. It is awaiting approval and we hope to have it up and running next week. Marc Saavedra- Who is driving this change on the workforce Pell? Mark Chisholm- it is Federal legislation. It would be up to the Governor to determine and identify the programs. The advisory group will be sending recommendations up to the Governor for final decision.
- d. Upcoming meeting of Chief Academic Officers-Mark Chisholm shared on screen CAO agenda- We will discuss these topics at meeting: degree audits, micro-credentials, dual credit survey, workforce Pell, workforce gro and Enhanced math pathways.

7. Next meeting



a. Meeting dates for 2026:

- May 11
- June 8
- July 13
- August 10
- September 14
- October 5
- November 9
- December 7

b. Are there any topics that should be added to upcoming agendas?