



Data Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

March 16, 2026

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1. Welcome & Introductions

In attendance: Mark Chisholm, Dina Advani, Dr. Brit Gallegos, Kathleen Sena, Jody Weber, Johanna Sandoval, Carmella Sanchez, Kate McGowan, Dawn Kenney Pshlakai, Vanessa Hawker, Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, Charla Orozco, Marc Saavedra, Dr. Barbra Medina Nicole Thorpey-Saboe and Abigail Willem

2. Previous Meetings Minutes Review

No changes noted.

3. First generation discussion

Mark Chisholm- we will send out this document showing our proposed definition of first-generation discussion. Sharing definitions document on screen. For those institutions currently collecting this data we would like to see you clarify/update using these definitions. For those HEI's not collecting we would like to see you using these definitions and attempt to collect this data. Carmella – will this data be included in the financial aid data? Mark Chisholm- no this will be collected in the student data. I know some of you are collecting but not sure all in the same way. Vanessa-workforce training world, not sure how that is going to work with work force Pell. You might consider having an option for workforce training. Dawn- I think we should be collecting first gen. But we really do need the community colleges to have associate degrees option. Otherwise, you will get a lot of no response data. Mark Chisholm- should there be an option for certificates and associates. Dawn- yes, they really are not the same. Kate McGowen- I did research on what FASFA defines as college. This year they did define college. Not sure if this changes our approach. If we use the FASFA definition we still may lose a lot of the data, we are trying to collect. *FASFA def. shared 1. One or both parents attended college. 2. If one or both attended college but neither completed college. 3. If one or both parents completed college. 4. Unknown.* Mark Chisholm- We will take all of this into consideration in our decision on the data definitions for first generation discussion.

4. HED Updates

a. Dual Credit Survey

Mark Chisholm- survey went out on Friday March 13, 2026, emailed to provost and dual credit coordinator. We can send out a copy to the IR's if you would like for reference.

b. Retention Definition Discussion

Mark Chisholm- we did send definition out for clarification. This will aid in GROW monies data/disbursement.

c. NMHED Technical Summit



Mark Chisholm- We hope to see all of you at the Summit. I know this conflicts with another conference. We have included the link to register in the Chat. Dina Advani- last day to register is Wednesday March 18th, 2026.

5. Trellis (30Min)- State opportunity Index Survey

Dina Advani- Introduces Nichole and Abigail with Trellis group

Nichole -with Trellis Strategies partner of Strada. Strada focuses on strengthening education and opportunity through many measures. The state opportunity Index is one of these measures. Slide presentation on The State Opportunity Index survey data.

Vanessa Hawker- will slides be shared? Dina Advani-yes. Abigail Willem- presentation on benefits of institution participation in The State Opportunity Index survey.

Vanessa Hawker- does your research focus on paid experience in college or after college career success. Nichole- Our research is focused on paid experience in college. However, in other research I've been a part of has showed a positive correlation between college paid experience and after college career success. Marc Saavedra- Here in NM we do have such funding as the GROW fund that could be used to help NM start more internship programs.

Mark Chisholm- I think it would be very beneficial if NM Institutions could participate in this survey.

Vanessa Hawker- is NMHED going to send out anything out to the institutions to request their participation in the State Opportunity Index Survey. Dina Advani- We are discussing this in DAG but had no considered sending out requests to HEI's.

Vanessa Hawker- I feel that if NMHED sent out something to help nudge the HEI's to participate we may get more participation. Mark Chisholm- who do you suggest we send this request to IR's, provost, Registrars, or Presidents?

Marc Saavedra- IR's might be the better way to go for faster results. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez- Funding is critical issue some small schools like us don't have career Services office/staff.

6. Next meeting

a. Meeting dates for 2026:

- April 13
- 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?