

Ohio Clinical Alliance for Educator Preparation  
Leadership Committee Retreat  
July 30<sup>th</sup> 10am - 3:45pm

In attendance: Debbie Campbell, Monique Cherry-McDaniel, Julie Davis, Randy Flora, John Henning, Cheryl Irish, Karen Kaye, Amy McClure, Brad Mitchell, Sue Owen, Cheryl Ryan, Mike Smith, Deb Tulley, Rebecca Watts

Organizations Represented: BASA, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, Ohio Education Association, Battelle for Kids, Ohio PTA, Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Board of Regents, American Federation of Teachers, State University Education Deans, and the Ohio Association for Private Colleges for Teacher Education

Not in attendance: Ken Baker, Sally Barnhart, Charles Howell, Katie Kinnucan-Welsch, John Soloninka

***Welcome and Introductions***

The retreat was called to order at 10:15 by John Henning and began with extended introductions from those present. The introductions made it clear that the Ohio Clinical Leadership Committee is represented by many unique and diverse perspectives. The Leadership Committee considered the question of added representation and left it as an open question for the future, but for the time being the committee seems to be representative of key educational entities in Ohio. The Leadership Committee also decided on a minor change in the name of the Ohio Clinical Alliance by adding the words “for Educator Preparation.” These words were added to help parents, school boards and other educational stakeholders who may not be familiar with the recent adoption of the word “clinical” in teacher preparation. Thus, the new more descriptive name “Ohio Clinical Alliance for Educator Preparation” is intended to ensure that important stakeholders recognize the relevance of this group to education.

***Purpose***

Randy Flora led a lengthy discussion of the Leadership Committee’s purpose. During this discussion, the purpose stated in the original proposal was revised to emphasize to all stakeholders the primary goal of student learning.

For the purpose of improving P-12 student learning, the Ohio Clinical Alliance Leadership Committee is established to advance and promote practices and policies for transforming clinical preparation through collaborative partnerships among schools, districts, and higher education by:

- Creating and communicating a vision and goals for clinical practice;
- Sharing best practices, research and innovations;
- Identifying and addressing issues related to clinical practice;
- Advocating for policies needed to support clinical practice.

### ***Clinically-Based Teacher Education***

During this part of the meeting, the Leadership Committee engaged in a wide ranging discussion that acknowledged and affirmed the many benefits of clinically based teacher preparation, including improved student learning and better teacher preparation as accomplished through active partnerships, co-teaching, and sustained clinical experiences. A substantial part of the discussion was spent considering an “elevator speech” or a brief sales pitch that can inform teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and teacher educators about the benefits of clinically based teacher education in a few sentences. The Leadership Committee discussed the importance of using language that can evoke imagery that both communicates a powerful vision and inspires action. For example, in a mature vision of clinically based teacher education, teacher candidates would be a constant presence in partnership schools, contribute substantively to student learning by increasing the capacity of schools to differentiate instruction, and whose absence would lower the school’s effectiveness. In this model, the most highly skilled teachers (and perhaps other educators) would be those who could lead a team of one or more teacher candidates in providing collaborative instruction that would increase student learning by more effectively addressing the needs of individual children. The following was an initial attempt to capture the above vision:

"We are committed to Ohio's future teachers working shoulder-to-shoulder with practicing educators on the real challenges of student learning from the very beginning of their teacher preparation program."

### ***Goals***

There was widespread acknowledgement among the leadership Committee’s members about the importance of taking action and achieving concrete results. It was also acknowledged that many teacher preparation programs in Ohio have made a promising start toward teacher preparation. Therefore, the primary goal of the Ohio Clinical Alliance was to scale up the clinical preparation of teachers so that it is institutionalized as a system wide expectation in teacher preparation.

The discussion of the immediate goals of the Ohio Clinical Alliance was centered on how to widely communicate the vision across the state, how to get others excited in joining and participating on the design teams, and through what mediums such communication would take place. The following are the Leadership Committee’s most immediate goals.

1. The Leadership Committee agreed to develop a "professional looking" PDF that could be used as a means to communicate the vision of the Ohio Clinical Alliance through email as briefly and accurately as possible. The PDF could be emailed and should include a link to the previously written White Paper.
2. The Leadership Committee members will use the flyer for networking within our individual organizations to create investment and buy-in.
3. The Leadership Committee members will use the flyers to engage others in the educational community and among our constituents/members/students to increase investment and buy-in.

4. The Leadership Committee also discussed the possibility of developing a website and a video, although there was not a definitive decision made in regards to the final form or timeline for completion.
5. The Leadership discussed and agreed on the importance of creating three design teams to facilitate the work of the Ohio Clinical Alliance. This work would be accomplished in the coming year through a series of meetings to invite participation by teachers, school administrators, and teacher educators.

### ***Implementation Plan***

#### *Communication*

The Leadership Committee immediately began work to develop an initial communication piece in a PDF format that could be emailed to others. The PDF would have this statement front and center:

"We are committed to Ohio's future teachers working shoulder-to-shoulder with practicing educators on the real challenges of student learning from the very beginning of their teacher preparation program."

The words "Join Us" with a link to the paper and a contact email for more info would be included. Leadership Committee members agreed to send Cheryl Ryan by August 8<sup>th</sup> possible bullet points that would represent success/benefits to their own stakeholder groups. Cheryl agreed to develop a draft flyer for review by the Leadership Committee

#### *Organizational Structure*

During this part of the meeting, Mike Smith led a discussion of the organizational structure and future meeting dates. The draft proposal of the organizational structure was accepted for the most part. Some further revisions need to be done related to the description of the design teams and purpose. Randy Flora and John Henning were selected as co-chairs of the Ohio Clinical Alliance for Educator Preparation Leadership Committee. An executive committee to plan meetings and attend to other organizational details was also approved. The executive committee is comprised of John Henning, Randy Flora, Mike Smith, and Cheryl Irish.

#### *Future Meetings*

The dates for future meetings were set at times and places to encourage wide spread participation among stakeholders. Meeting sites and dates are tentatively set to coincide with the OCTEO, OLAC, and Battelle for Kids conferences, as shown below.

October 15, 8:30-10:00 AM at the Dublin Crowne Plaza in conjunction with OCTEO meetings (Mike is checking)

December 2, 2:00-4:00 at hotel near the OSBA office in conjunction with OLAC conference (Deb is checking)

March 4, 2:00-4:00 at OCTEO conference (Mike is checking)

June 16, 9-11 and 1-3 in conjunction with Battelle for Kids conference (Deb is checking)

The Leadership Committee adjourned about 3:45 PM