



TAVAC Region VI News

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2011

Dallas Area Prepares for TAVAC 2012

The Dallas Association of Vocational Adjustment Coordinators (DAVAC) met on February 22 at the ESC Region X Service Center. The business meeting portion was called to order by DAVAC President Troy Werley. The main topic of discussion was the 2012 TAVAC Conference which will be held in Dallas. The discussion centered on the possible roles and responsibilities if the DAVAC members.

The 30+ members that were in attendance were informed about the changes in the TAVAC scholarships, including expanding the scholarship opportunities for non-paid employees and opening up the nominations to all TAVAC members. Also discussed were the new forms that are now available on the TAVAC website..

Other business matters discussed were the importance of the 60 Hour Certificates, especially with the looming budget issues the districts are facing. The members were encouraged to use the website as a resource for infor-

mation and useful forms.

Vice President, Denise Dudley, talked about the upcoming TAVAC Conference in Austin and asked the group to begin thinking about keynote speakers and presentation topics for the 2012 conference here in Dallas.

Region X News and Training

Following the DAVAC meeting, Cindy Pierce, Transition Specialist from ESC Region X, kicked off the professional development portion of the meeting with information on the Adopted Amendment to 19 TAC 89.1070, the Commissioner's Rules regarding graduation. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, school districts must ensure that locally developed courses for special education classes must align with TEKS so it prepares students for state assessments.

Cindy also provided the group

with an Assessment and Instructional Resources Matrix that groups resources together based on the students developmental skills, functional skills and academic skills. She also gave us a listing of the DARS counselor's, their contact information and their area managers for our region.

After Cindy finished, Kathryn Parsons from Launch Ability, addressed the group on some new programs being offered to our students. Launch Ability provides supported employment services, such as vocational assessments, job development, job training and on-going support.

Launch Ability is also working with UT Southwestern Medical Center to provide training in various hospital departments. Trainees undergo 6 weeks of training in a area such as stocking, delivery, food service, house-keeping, environmental, clerical, customer service or patient support. Candidates will receive a certificate upon completion and a possible job.

East Texas Area: Partnering with CTE

The East Texas Area VAC group held their 3rd meeting of the year on February 17 in Tyler. The main theme of this meeting was to develop a relationship between Special Ed. and CTE. At this meeting, local members were encouraged to invite a CTE person from their district and many were in attendance.

Leading the day's agenda was Ken LeMartiniere, CTE Specialist for Region 7. Ken shared resources and provided website information along with

evaluation tools, work, and active citizenship. Also shared was information regarding "I'm Determined", a website with tools, lessons, videos, etc. on self determination.

Next up was Lakshmi Mahadevan, who was promoting the Career and Technical Special Populations (CTSP) website, an online teachers aid for CTE and Special Ed. The website provides resources and materials on a variety of special needs and CTE topics. Funded by TEA and hosted by the Texas A & M

website, CTSP has modules for teachers, online courses, webcasts, and many links to areas relating to special populations.

Other presenters were Jaunita Fletcher, Disability Board Chair, Ann Scoggin from TX State Technical College and Charlie Jones from PAES.

The business portion of the meeting included discussions on whether the area was going to help Dallas with TAVAC 2012, the Texas Transition Conference and a plea for new officers.