

Draft Report PLC Review Taskforce

Background and Charge

At the Fall 2001 joint meeting of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) and the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), an ad hoc taskforce was formed to review the structure and function of Southern Region PLC. This decision was based on the increasing importance of multi-state cooperation, the need for better coordination between PLC and Directors/Administrators, and the need to facilitate more timely decision-making and activity.

The charge to this taskforce was to review the structure, operations, activities and functions of PLC and to make recommendations to ASRED and AEA about ways in which:

1. The connectivity between the PLC and its standing committees could be strengthened.
2. The PLC could be better supported to do its work, i.e., more resources and in-kind support for the states.
3. The newly formed ASRED Executive Director office should relate to the PLC process so that both can most effectively support one another.
4. The overall PLC and its program committees can focus the charge of each committee, give its leaders greater responsibility, visibility and credit so that individuals will view serving on PLC as a prestigious appointment and greater work can be accomplished.
5. The time required for decision-making within PLC and between PLC and Directors/Administrators can be reduced.
6. The PLC can more readily engage the Extension family beyond current PLC members in order to get more multi-state work completed.

Taskforce Activity

Administrative Advisors David Foster and Lawrence Carter met with the Taskforce at one face-to-face meeting and several teleconferences to develop the following recommendations and the attached draft document.

Taskforce Recommendations

The Taskforce recommends adoption of the attached document, along with the following recommendations, most of which are embedded in the document.

1. Amend the structure and clarify names and responsibilities of groups.
 - 1.1. Designate the whole of the component parts as the Southern Region Program Leadership Network (SR-PLN). This would include the Program Leadership Committee (PLC), the 7 Program Committees (PCs), and the Executive Committee (EC).
 - 1.2. In addition to the co-administrative advisors, add one ASRED and one AEA member to PLC.
 - 1.3. Create an Executive Committee (EC) with authority to act on behalf of SR-PLN and Directors/Administrators on programmatic issues.
2. Maintain the bottoms-up structure so that institutions select qualified participants for each of the Program Committees. Clarify participation expectations, and replacement procedures for non-participation.
3. For communication, coordination and accountability, require a written, web-posted Plan of Work from each Committee and Taskforce.
4. Assign to PLC the preparation of a plan for an Orientation and Leadership Retreat to be held annually for incoming leadership and advisors, and with invitations to new directors/administrators and newly appointed associates.
5. Plan the annual SR-PLN meeting on the schedule with the joint ASRED/AEA Fall meeting so that a part of the two meetings can overlap and allow directors/administrators to interact with SR-PLN activities.