



**ODHE Guaranteed Transfer Pathways
Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Cluster
Next Steps – February 2017**

Dear Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Cluster Faculty Panel Members:

Thank you for attending a productive first cluster meeting and for your dedication to helping transfer students succeed. We would like to sincerely thank you for being a part of this panel and would like to let you know that we are available to provide any guidance or assistance in your work on this panel. Should you face any issues on your campuses related to this work, please contact us. Also know that the state is behind you in this work and that there is a Steering Committee that can provide advice and assistance. If we do not immediately know the answer to a question, we will contact our resources to learn the information.

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A separate document titled Institution Progress Report will be used in reporting the progress made on individual campuses. We expect that each institution would have at least one meeting before the end of March. On March 22nd, the Steering Committee will be meeting in order to discuss how the first full cluster meeting went and we leads will provide updates on the progress of the pathways work based on the Institutional Progress Reports that we receive. From there, we will be able to see any patterns, issues, or breakthroughs and determine the next steps to take. Please complete the Institution Progress Report and send it back to the leads (emails found above) as well as Katie Dean, Administrator for the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, kdean@highered.ohio.gov, by **March 15th**.

As mentioned during the meeting, additional members from the human services area will be requested as a sub-panel for further discussion in that specific area. If you are not in the area of human services or social work, please complete this survey [Guaranteed Pathways Human Services/Social Work Sub-Panel Nomination](#) to nominate a member from your institution who has the relevant curriculum knowledge and authority over the program. Tamara will then communicate with members of this human services sub-panel to work with them more closely on issues specifically related to the human services and social work area such as accreditation requirements. All panel members who work primarily within the human services area are still an integral part of the larger cluster and should continue to take part in larger discussions on their campuses and work alongside their colleagues from the different discipline areas.

Below you will find information regarding guidelines for communicating the pathways work with your institution's stakeholders as well as some topics that need to be discussed during meetings.

Guidelines for Communicating with Your Institution's Stakeholders and Facilitating Discussions

1. Meet with your Chief Academic Officer (Provost or equivalent) and their liaison(s) to ODHE, the institution's faculty governance body, transfer office and/or registrar, the top academic officer (Dean or equivalent) of your social and behavioral sciences and human services/social work schools/units to touch base and provide an overview of the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Cluster Panel meeting and work. Please make sure they know that you are their institution's representative and point-of-contact to the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Cluster Panel and that the panel held its first meeting early in February. Keep the above individuals and groups updated with your progress periodically.

2. Identify and engage the individuals most directly involved with determining the undergraduate curriculum at your institution in the areas of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology. The job titles of these individuals vary by institution, but likely include members of faculty curriculum committees, deans, assistant/associate deans, department chairs, and program directors.

Provide these individuals with a brief description of the present task at hand. Two possible ways of stating it:

- *Create a seamless curricular pathway that allows students to complete a 120 credit hour bachelor's degree in one of the areas within social and behavioral sciences and human services by fully transferring a 60 credit hour AS or AA degree program from any public 2-year college in Ohio to any public 4-year college in Ohio. In addition, human services/social work will also be addressed at the Associate of Applied Science level.*
- *We must develop a 60 credit hour AS or AA (or AAS for human services/social work) social and behavioral sciences and human services curriculum that can be completed at any public community college in Ohio and will be fully transferable to any public university in Ohio without requiring more than 60 additional credit hours in order to earn a bachelor's degree in the areas of social and behavioral sciences and human services.*

This task is mandated by state law (Section 3333.16(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, 2015).

Send them the link to the ODHE Guaranteed Transfer Pathways website which contains documents related to the process, structure, and timeline of the initiative, as well as research, rationale, and the background history for Ohio's Guaranteed Transfer Pathways initiative: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/guaranteed-transfer-pathways/important-documents>.

Make sure they know that you are their institution's representative and point-of-contact to the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Cluster Panel.

Note: All faculty and stakeholders need to be made aware of this initiative at some point in time, but it is up to you, based your understanding of your college's culture, to decide whether they all need to be informed this month or a later date (when there will be more specific discussion points and information to share).

Begin discussions with your colleagues about the small group discussion questions on the meeting agenda:

- Stay focused on the present task of transferring AA or AS degrees, not Applied programs from two-year to four-year institutions. However, human services/social work will also be addressed at the Associate of Applied Science level.
- Identify hurdles that you or other institutions face, including unintended consequences
 - Let people vent, but encourage them to move on quickly.
- Identify pathways or partial pathways to the solution (feel free to be creative)
 - Discuss what approach would best work in your area: program outcomes or building on existing courses like TAGs.
 - Assess common course requirements across various social and behavioral sciences and human services disciplines.
 - Assess common courses included in regional articulation agreements.
 - Take advantage of existing transfer policies/programs such as the Ohio Transfer Module and TAG courses.
 - Discuss by when students should declare a major (how many credit hours?).
 - List common outcomes, which were general outcomes that usually fit into gen ed. (critical thinking, communication skills, ability to understand information from research).
 - Discuss and describe program learning outcomes for various social and behavioral sciences and human services programs at your institution (what does your program want students to be able to do at the completion of your program [AA, AS, AAS (for human services/social work), BA, or BS]).
- Identify what people see as the job of the two-year institutions and the job of the four-year institutions in contributing toward the pathway creation.
- Fold experts from outside of your area of expertise into the process (e.g. panelists who are political science faculty need to make sure geography faculty are included) from the beginning.
- Keep administrators and faculty governance officers who are not involved in these initial discussions in the loop (Chairs, Deans, Provosts, Faculty Senators, etc...). One suggestion is to copy them on emails or memos sent to those involved in early discussions.
- Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or guidance.