

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Coats (NC), *Chair*
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Amy Bittner (WY), *Co-Secretary*
Charles Rynerson (OR), *Co-Secretary*

*Representing a Network of 1,800
SDC/BIDC Data Centers and Affiliates
Nationwide*

Allen Barnes (AZ)
Patty Becker (MI)
Sue Copella (PA)
Todd Graham (MN)
Dan Veroff (WI)

We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
2:00 pm EST

Participants:

<i>Steering Committee (SC) including members-elect*:</i>	<i>Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):</i>	<i>Special Guests from Census Bureau:</i>	<i>Census Information Centers (CIC) Liason:</i>
Allen Barnes Amy Bittner Bob Coats Charles Rynerson Dan Veroff Pam Schenker* Patty Becker Sue Copella Suzan Regan* Todd Graham	Tom Edwards Barbara LaFleur	None	Melanie Poulter

The meeting started at 2:00 PM EST

Annual Meeting

It won't be known until sometime in March if funds are available for an in-person annual meeting. Because of this, it would be logistically impossible to have an in-person meeting in April. The Steering Committee (SC) will meet at the Bureau in April. If funds are available, an in-person network meeting could happen at a later date. Tom says that if funds are not available for an in-person meeting, there will be some virtual sessions in the afternoons when the SC is at the Bureau, April 13th-15th.

There was a concern that if the SC meets in April, would it jeopardize having an in-person network meeting? Tom said it wouldn't.

Bob asked if the April SC meeting would include both current and incoming SC members. Tom was not sure, and will get back to us about it.

The Steering Committee feels it is important to have an in-person meeting this year, even if it doesn't occur in April. The SC will craft an e-mail to send to the network stating that there will be an annual meeting this year, but that it would not be an in-person meeting in April. Budget decisions will

determine whether the annual meeting will be virtual or in person [note: Bob sent this email to the network on Feb. 11].

There was also discussion about having a Boot Camp for new SDC Leads. There are about twenty new SDC Leads since the last Boot Camp. If there is an in-person meeting and if the Boot Camp attendees could cover their own travel for one day, a Boot Camp could happen the day before the annual meeting.

Annual Report

Are the right questions being asked on the annual report? What is the history of some of these questions?

There is some concern about how this data is being used once it's collected. How are these metrics being used inside the Bureau? Who sees it? Does CLMSO debrief upper management about this information?

A suggestion was made about getting information from CLMSO about who gets the data.

Barbara: Annual report information is available on the SDC site. [links to reports at <http://www.census.gov/sdc/annualreport.html>].

From the CLMSO perspective, there is a concern that some Leads are not completing the annual report correctly. Every state is different, so reporting will be different.

SDC Contact Changes

What is the appropriate protocol to change contact information on the Census Bureau's SDC site? There was a concern that contact information on the SDC site was not current.

The Lead must provide information to CLMSO if there are changes to the coordinating agency information.

Forward any email concerning contact changes to Barbara!

3-year ACS

It was recently announced that the Census Bureau is considering eliminating the 3-year ACS product. The Steering Committee wanted more information about this. Has a final decision been made about it? Not yet. What if SDCs want to provide feedback about the importance of keeping the 3-year ACS data? (CLMSO will provide info about whom to contact) There was also a question about whether the 3-year ACS PUMS working file would be eliminated as well.

Other Items

In a discussion that Bob had with Tom there was a mention of creating a 1-year and 5-year plan for SDC network. How is this plan different from the Strategic Plan that was created a couple years ago? A lot of time and effort was spent on creating the strategic plan. Perhaps we should revisit the strategic plan and evaluate the goals and objectives.

During last month's call, it was mentioned that file for the Building Permits Survey (BPS) follow-up would be available to SDC Leads on February 13. Is this still true? Barbara was going to check with the BPS staff. Barbara also mentioned that BAS follow-up would also be coming up. [Post-conference call: An e-mail was sent on Feb. 11 to Lead agencies about BAS].

Tom: Rene Munoz is the Census Bureau's new Chief of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. He was formerly Chief of Staff for Texas congressman Pete Gallego.

CIC Update: Melanie Poulter

The CICs have been discussing their annual meeting.

They are doing a survey every fall and spring. The upcoming survey will focus on developing core competencies.

The CICs raised a question about whether there will be a post-high school vocational category added to the ACS questionnaire. Toni Hall will research that.

The meeting ended at 3:00 PM EST