Welcome and Introductions:

The minutes from the previous meeting, held on September 15, 2011 were read and approved with revisions.

The committee spent some time reviewing the new ELL reports that are now available in SIS. The committee had invested considerable time and several meetings in the creation of these reports. They should be quite useful to the bilingual community. There were other report ideas that were not approved by ISBE. It may be possible to get them in the future if security concerns can be adequately addressed.

There was a suggestion the state establish a mechanism for student records to be transferred to another district if the parents/legal guardians give consent.

There was another suggesting that the state resume publishing an annual report of detailing ELL progress in the state. The committee spent some time discussing the merits of such a report and the potential value to the ELL community in demonstrating the progress of students. Rosemarie offered to convene a subcommittee meeting on the matter.

Boon Lee then provided some hand-out material regarding tier usage and how it has changed from 2008 through 2011. There was notable migration from Tier B to Tiers A and C, especially C. The data also made apparent that some tier selection decisions have been inappropriate, regressing from higher to lower. They were quite small in number, but it was pointed out that small numbers locally concentrated could have a detrimental impact on AMAOs. It was suggested that MetriTech’s online ordering system for ACCESS materials include a feature that would assist districts in making tier selection.

There were comments regarding inflated speaking scores and their contribution to premature transition. The groups spent some time discussing the transition level and weighting of domains. A member shared that Illinois sometimes does not use all of its allotted professional development support from WIDA. There was discussion of possible uses. The committee passed a motion to send recommendations to ISBE and IACBE that Illinois use this PD time to improve inter-rater reliability on the ACCESS speaking and Kindergarten tests (including MODEL) by directly training test administrators.

It was noted that some states only recognized proficiency attainment for a Tier C administration. Further, Illinois used to allow transition for only Tier B and C administrations, but now it’s possible with any tier. Some members of the committee expressed the belief that transition out of LEP status be only allowed with Tier C ACCESS results. The committee approved a motion to recommend such a policy to IACBE and ISBE.

A guest announced that ISBE will be holding a stakeholder meeting, on January 9th, regarding an ESEA waiver for Illinois. Participation was encouraged.

A subgroup offered to meet to make recommendations for tier selection according to grade level and language performance.

Members were invited to make general comments regarding the state assessments. One comment was that ISAT is too early in 2012 (March 5). Another was that ACCESS results arrive too late, but members offered advice about getting access to it sooner.

An announcement was made about the flyer to be included in ACCESS materials instructing districts to not use the special education deferment option.

Also announced was an upcoming ASSETS webinar to be held in February.
Also, the Center for Applied Linguistics will start piloting the Alternate ACCESS soon, but there are not many students in Illinois who are participating. We are advised to identify who those students are, and be ready to include them in the future.

The committee set the next meeting date for Wednesday, June 20.

The meeting then adjourned.

Attendees (in order of sign-in):

Members
Judy Yturriago
Boon Lee
David Barker
Beatrice Reyes-Childress
Margo Gottlieb
Sandy Anderson
Rosemarie Meyer
Harriette Herrera
Barry Pedersen

Guests
Pat Gleason
Ana Luisa Dominguez
Anna Szuber
Laura Golden
Nancy Ermel
Reyna Hernandez