TAESE Starts Strategic Planning Process
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Work has begun on a five-year strategic plan for the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), a project of Utah State University’s Center for Persons with Disabilities.

“In January 2014, the TAESE leadership met with an outside facilitator to lead us in the process of identifying our strategic vision for the next five years,” said Steve Smith, TAESE associate director.

Over the last couple of years, Smith said, TAESE has undergone major changes in staffing and leadership, including the additions of both himself and Dave Forbush as co-associate directors.

“John (Copenhaver, director of TAESE) thought it would be a good time to solidify the direction TAESE was going in,” Smith said, citing changing environments in special education and contracts in the states in which TAESE works.

During the January meeting, TAESE leadership and the facilitator discussed a variety of topics, including the current values of TAESE, past accomplishments, the current landscape in which the project works, and identifying barriers to desired outcomes. Eight areas were addressed, Smith said, with four strategic areas being identified: To position TAESE for the future, to align the organization to the vision, to organize expertise and to use data strategically.

The group met again recently, without the facilitator, to review what had been accomplished in January and to create implementation plans and smart goals for each work group. A vision statement will be drafted, and then a mission statement.

No specific goals have been finalized yet, Smith said, but that will happen before the official staff rollout during the next quarterly meeting in June.

“A lot of it we’re already doing,” Smith said. “It’s an ongoing process.”