

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
Social Determinants Work Group
September 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes
Draft

Welcome

The meeting started at 4:30 p.m. Jeffrey Menzer, Work Group Co-chair, opened the meeting with an ice breaker. The purpose of the meeting was to re-group and re-orient.

Report on the Status of the Recommendations

Matt Denn, Redding Consortium Co-chair, gave an update on the status of the Social Determinants Work Group (SDWG) and Redding recommendations. He expressed gratitude to Senator Sokola for pushing for the recommendations among his colleagues; and to Secretary Bunting for the collaboration on the Request for Proposals (RFP). Funding was allocated to several of the Redding Consortium recommendations. \$10m was appropriated of the \$20m recommended. \$3m is in the recurring operating budget, \$7m is one-time funding. Three of the lines called for the state to issue RFPs, all were issued. DDOE (Delaware Department of Education) shared drafts of the RFPs before they went out and responded to suggestions.

The Pre-K RFP was the first to go out and responses are due September 15. This funding was added to the operating budget so it will be ongoing. There are questions about physical space required and providing notice to eligible families. So far, the RFP process is on track.

The Wraparound Services RFP is out and is due on October 1. This RFP is focused on elementary schools. There are 9-10 schools that qualify to apply based on the percentages of students in poverty. Three grants will be awarded of about \$1.5m each.

The third is the Professional Development RFP based on recommendations from the Educators Work Group. DDOE combined it with an RFP for broader professional development; Senator Lockman is following up with the Office of Management and Budget regarding the money allocated to other initiatives.

The Path Forward

J. Menzer shared a path forward. A key charge is tracking and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations. The UD/DSU team is setting up the monitoring plan.

For the SDWG, there have been conversations about next steps. The focus areas moving forward will be monitoring, engagement, sharing, collaboration, and secondary education (focusing on graduation and seniors). E. Edney, M. Pruitt, J. Taschner, T. Lawler, D. Sokola & D. Alexander confirmed this path forward makes sense. D. Alexander asked to continue to focus on special education in high-needs schools. J. Menzer responded that we will re-visit previous discussions that did not make it into the recommendations in future conversations.

J. Menzer and R. Jones-Avery will review the previously-generated word cloud and overlay them with the path forward and incorporate them to move forward. D. Sokola, J. Menzer & M. Denn discussed the need and importance of measurement. D. Alexander highlighted the importance of spreading and sharing information about programs and opportunities available for students.

Regroup: Membership

Work Group leadership will review membership and determine whether people who have been less active would rather focus their attention elsewhere and reallocate those seats to other potential members. New members may be presented in the next meeting.

Homework: Bring Parents and Students

J. Menzer asks all members to bring parents or students with them to the next meeting.

Minutes

Minutes from June could not be approved because there was not a quorum.

Public Comment

No public comments.

The meeting adjourned.

Attendance

Work Group Members

Raye Jones-Avery
Jeff Menzer
Yvette Santiago
Tamara Smith
Mark Pruitt
Jeff Taschner
Teri Lawler
Evelyn Edney
Tika Hartsock
Dawn Alexander
Roger Harrison
Shanika Perry

Redding Consortium Members:

Elizabeth Lockman

Members of the Public:

Kim Graham
Eleanor Kiesel
Karen Eller
Kristin Dwyer
Chuck Longfellow
Steven Davis

Institute for Public Administration and Delaware State University Staff

Jason Bourke
Haley Qaissaunee