

## Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

### Social Determinants Work Group

May 16, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

#### Welcome

Co-chair Jeffrey Menzer welcomed all in attendance.

#### Carryover, FY23 Funds, & RFP Timeline

In discussion about the Pre-k and Wraparound funds, it was discussed that both the Pre-K Early Childhood Program and the Wrap Around Services Wellness Center Program funds were not exhausted and those funds will be used for the FY 23 Budget. These funds have been moved into the operating budget so the Department of Education can put out RFP's or RFA's for three years rather than one year. The carry over funds will be used to primarily fund onetime costs for things like building modifications needed to provide a wellness center or to start an early childcare program.

#### Legislative Discussion—Legislation Redding Should Support?

1. **HB129 School Based Health Centers in High Need Elementary Schools:** Yvette Santiago, Work Group member, suggested arranging people to deliver public comment in support of the bill. Kristin Dwyer, Work Group Member and DSEA representative said that the bill is currently in appropriations but they most likely won't have a committee hearing for it. The entire work group voted to support it.
2. **HS 1 for HB 144 Funding for Prekindergarten Spec Ed:** Dawn Alexander, Work Group member, asked for support for HB 144 because 1:12.8 student to teacher ratio does not meet licensing requirements or state dollar ratios. A question was raised in the chat asking how much funding was provided and if it was specifically for k-12 students. Dawn Alexander clarified that the money would reduce the current student to teacher ratio to match the 1:8.4 and 1:7 for two-year-old's and thus provide better services with lower caseloads. The entire work group voted to support it.
3. **HB 294 Oral Health Examinations:** This bill is a proposed pilot project in Colonial school district to provide oral examinations for students and upload it to Department of Public Health records. There was a concern raised about how this would increase the workload on school nurses who already have a significant workload. The group did not vote on the bill.
4. **HB 300 Mental Health Services in Middle Schools:** This bill extends HB 100 by providing mental health services to middle school students. Currently, the bill is in appropriations. Teri Lawler, Work Group member, said that the Department is very happy with the legislation but there has been a tough time implementing it because of the lack of mental health professionals. The entire work group voted to support it.
5. **HB 301 Mental Health Programs:** Lawler mentioned that she is hoping to establish a goal-oriented taskforce for implementation and evaluation.

6. **HB 303 Annual Behavioral Health Well Check:** Dwyer explained that this bill provides coverage for a behavioral well check for students like an annual physical well check from a provider. This would require all health insurance providers to cover an annual behavioral well check.
7. **HB 400 Suppression of Explanation of Benefits:** Santiago explained that this bill prohibited the sharing of sensitive information regarding healthcare treatment of a dependent to the policy holder through the billing process. Senator David Sokola explained that it applied to all circumstances not just school-based healthcare. The entire work group voted to support it.
8. **HS 1 for HB 377 Early Childhood Education:** Caitlin Gleason explained that this bill is to conduct a survey of early childhood professionals to better support the workforce and provide data for the Department of Education for a plan. A majority voted to support.
9. **HB 304 Reading Competency:** This bill requires students to in K-3 to participate in three times a year reading competency screenings. Terri Lawler asked if there were schools currently not doing this already and Senator Sokola, Work Group member, explained that this requirement is to reinforce the priority of reading by grade 3. Kristin Dwyer emphasized that she was happy that educators were invited to the table regarding the curriculum and timing of this bill. A majority voted to support.
10. **HB 317 Medical Coverage program for all children in Delaware:** Santiago explained that this bill provides health insurance for all children in Delaware not already covered, mainly undocumented populations. The bill is in appropriations, but it is not in the governors recommended budget. Dawn Alexander asked how this bill worked with the community fund in the terms of money needing to be reinvested in the community. It was explained that the purpose of this bill was to address health concerns before a child needs acute care in an emergency room. DSEA liked that this bill takes the decision away from health insurance companies about items that would and would not be covered. Now all children will be covered with adequate health insurance.
11. **HCR 82 Mental Health Services in DE Schools:** Lawler explained that the Department of Education is being asked to get data statewide on the professionals in the mental health care workforce within Delaware schools. This information will be used so they can do strategic planning and help implement HB 100. Kristin Dwyer elaborated that they also want to focus on where the funding for these positions come from and how to build a pipeline for future mental health professionals.

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from March 14, 2022 were unanimously approved by the Work Group.

## Data Dashboard

Raye Jones Avery, Work Group Co-chair, presented an update on the Data Dashboard. Previously, the Work Group participated in brainstorming sessions around what data should be collected and how it should be used to create more equitable outcomes for vulnerable students. At the next meeting, the Work Group will cull narrow down the data points to ensure phase one of the dashboard is manageable. There also needs to be conversation about how the data is presented depending on the audience and the use of qualitative and quantitative data.

For the Redding Consortium Wilmington Student Data Report, the Redding Consortium compares Wilmington students to non-Wilmington students across the state and counties. The report tracks

Wilmington student enrollment by school, low-income enrollment of schools located in Wilmington, Wilmington student proficiency in ELA and math over time, and dropout data and graduation data.

There was also a map created that is a map of the City of Wilmington overlaid with zip codes, election districts, and communities. This map is proposed to be a tool to help define the “City of Wilmington.” The Work Group and dashboard will use this map and definition for reference in discussions moving forward.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Amy Roe, chair of the childhood lead poisoning advisory committee subcommittee on data, commented that she would like to ensure that lead poisoning be included in the data set as it is a major social determinant of health. Many CDC health regulations have changed and thus will affect the students of Delaware.

Julie Bieber, owner of a pre-k provider program at Kingswood Community Center, thanked the committee for listening to suggestions and changing things to align with ECAP. She mentioned that she would love to see one unified system for early education rather than separating ECAP and the Redding funding. A unified system would be less confusing and better serve families.

Lucinda Ross mentioned that St. Michaels was excited to receive Redding funding this year and that simplifying and aligning with ECAP makes absolute sense. She also would like to set up a mentoring program or support system for getting new sites up and running.

**The meeting concluded.**

## **Attendance**

### **Consortium/Work Group Members**

Raye Jones Avery, Co-Chair  
Jeffrey Menzer, Co-Chair  
Matt Denn  
Kristin Dwyer  
Roger Harrison  
Tika Hartsock  
Teri Lawler  
Yvette Santiago-Nemours  
Tamara Smith  
Sen. Dave Sokola

### **Members of the Public**

Amy Roe Ph.D.  
Caitlin Gleason  
Dawn Alexander  
Deborah Stevens  
Jarek Rutz  
Jess Gibson-Brokenbaugh  
Julie Bieber  
Lucinda Ross  
Lynne Howard  
Sarah Bucic  
Patricia Dallas

### **IPA/DSU Staff**

Haley Qaissaunee  
Kelly Sherretz