

**Redding Consortium Full Body Meeting
December 9, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

The virtual meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. Matthew Denn, Co-Chair of the Redding Consortium, welcomed all in attendance.

I. Update on RFPs related to the Consortium's funded recommendations

Since the last full body meeting, four Pre-K programs were awarded funding to convert from half-day to full-day programs, affecting 110 children. Some providers who chose not to apply for the grant said the timing of the grant opportunity was a challenge, and wanted assurance that the funding would be permanent before committing to expansion.

The wraparound services grant was awarded to three schools serving elementary-age children in the City of Wilmington. These funds are to be used to expand the length of the school day and the breadth of in-school healthcare services. The three grant proposals need to be examined to understand if each schools' plan aligns with the Consortium's intent for the funds.

The original professional development grant, which did not align with the Educator Work Group's expectations when it was released, was awarded to two schools. Additional money has been allocated from the one-time funds for the Educator Work Group to work with the Department of Education to tailor a professional development program that matches what the Work Group thinks is needed. In addition, the remaining funds from the original proposal can be reallocated to the Educator Work Group's priorities.

The State has also approved the release of funding for an expansion to home visitation programs for infants and toddlers, and the creation of an equity data dashboard.

Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair of the Settlement Work Group, asked if there is an update on the educational ombudsperson RFP. Senator Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair of the Redding Consortium, said she does not have any new information. Matthew Denn noted that the deadline for feedback on the RFP is approaching quickly.

II. Work Group Updates

The Social Determinants Work Group plans to focus on collaboration, sharing, and implementation of its funded recommendations over the next few months. Discussion topics will include the Wilmington Learning Collaborative, trauma-informed initiatives, and implementing the equity dashboard. Cora Scott of Brandywine School District, Delayne Johnson from Delaware State University, and Kristin Dwyer from the Delaware State Education Association have joined the Work Group.

The Governance Work Group will be chaired by Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Wilmington Councilman Jea Street. They are currently building a list of potential work group

members and plan to start meeting in the new year. Tika Hartsock, Consortium member, asked if the members of the Funding & Governance Work Group will be part of the new Governance group. Rep. Chukwuocha said that the previous members are all being considered for the new work group.

The Settlement Work Group has reviewed the Independent Funding Assessment draft scope of work and approved a memo to the Department of Education with its recommendations. The Work Group provided this memo to Consortium members prior to the meeting. Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair of the Settlement Work Group, reviewed the memo and answered feedback received before the meeting.

Maria Matos, Consortium member, asked if the Department of Education has to use the recommendations if they are submitted. Sen. Lockman confirmed that it is up to the Department to decide how the feedback is used.

Raye Jones Avery, Consortium member, asked how the feedback from Consortium members that is not included in the memo will be communicated to DDOE. Chuck said that anyone could make a motion to amend the proposed memo, or submit their own personal feedback to DDOE.

Sen. Lockman moved to accept the Settlement Work Group's recommendations including the additional points provided as feedback by Consortium members, and recommend the Department of Education incorporate the feedback into the scope of work for the Independent Funding Assessment RFP. Rep. Mike Smith seconded. By vote of 14 yes, 0 no, **the Redding Consortium will submit the Independent Funding Assessment feedback to the Delaware Department of Education.**

The Educators Work Group made recommendations to secure permanent funding in the Governor's FY 2023 budget for previous one-time allocations of its recommendations. The Work Group is working with relevant stakeholders to ensure future spending plans align with the Work Group's recommendations.

III. Approval of Minutes

Tika Hartsock moved to approve the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Rep. Mike Smith seconded. **The minutes were approved as submitted.**

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Matthew Denn adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Attendance

Redding Consortium Members

Sen. Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair
Matthew Denn, Co-Chair
Raye Jones Avery
Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha
Tika Hartsock
Stephanie Ingram
Maria Matos
Xavia Mills
Noelle Picara
Rep. Michael Smith
Dan Shelton
Margie López Waite
Secretary Susan Bunting - *ex officio*
Secretary Rick Geisenberger - *ex officio*

IPA/DSU Staff

Jason Bourke
Chris Kelly
Fran O'Malley
Haley Qaissaunee
Kelly Sherretz

Members of the Public

Dawn Alexander
Kathleen Baker
Bill Doolittle
Luann D'Agostino
Kristin Dwyer
Karen Eller
Emily Falcon
Paul Fine
Gary Henry
Mark Holodick
Reggie Johnson
Nick Konzelman
Teri Lawler
VJ Leonard
Chuck Longfellow
Thea Lopez
Monique Martin
Michael Matthews
Kelsey Mensch
Stefanie Ramirez
Mary Schorse
Cora Scott
Jon Sheehan
Gordon Simmons
Sen. David Sokola
Heather Townsend
Donna Urban