

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
Social Determinants Work Group
November 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Dr. Jeffrey Menzer, Co-Chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, welcomed all in attendance.

I. Data Dashboard Updates

Katey Semmel from the Delaware Data Service Center (DSC) reported that the first iteration of the Equity Data Dashboard is complete. Currently, the mock-up has a usable “menu bar” with navigational tabs to “explore students” or “explore faculty.” The DSC has also constructed an “About Us” page to outline the goals and purpose of the Dashboard.

Katey Semmel highlighted that the DSC allocated a space on the site to list the intended goal of the Dashboard. Currently, the Dashboard includes the Redding Consortium’s Mission Statement on educational equity. However, the DSC anticipates Work Group members will edit and workshop the rhetoric of this goal.

The DSC also constructed a section on how the Dashboard “should” and “should not” be used. Semmel and the DSC hope that Work Group members will modify and polish the section soon.

II. Purpose Activity with the Data Service Center

To amend the Dashboard mock-up, Katey Semmel led a purpose activity to determine the mission statement for the site. Currently, the DSC copied the Redding Consortium’s definition of educational equity to frame the mission of the Dashboard. According to the Redding Consortium, “educational equity requires safe, secure, and student-focused learning environments where every student is intentionally provided access to the support, resources, and opportunities they need to reach their full academic and social potential, in and out of the classroom.” This definition helped Work Group members think about the mission statement and the intended use of the Dashboard by focusing on the lens of educational equity.

Before the activity, Dr. Roger Harrison, a Social Determinants Work Group member, inquired about the definitions for educational and social inequities. He stated that definitions are imperative for the Dashboard and the Dashboard should be used to visually highlight institutional equities.

In addition, several Work Group members contributed ideas for the working mission statement.

Dawn Alexander aspires that future iterations of the Dashboard include experiences of children within the City of Wilmington before entering kindergarten.

Tamara Smith requested that the Dashboard call attention to why the data matters; the Dashboard should be more than simple measurements. Roger Harrison agreed and noted that the Dashboard is not just inputs and outputs but a visual representation of the relationship and experiences of social determinants.

Raye Jones-Avery, Co-Chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, wishes for the Dashboard to humanize scholars within the City of Wilmington utilizing “people-first” language and provide agency to Wilmington students to tell their own story. Raye Jones-Avery concluded with the importance of the accessibility of the Dashboard; the data should also not “other” or “isolate” scholars within the City of Wilmington. Tika Hartsock, Work Group member, and Haley Burns, Redding Consortium staff member, both agreed.

DSC will compile these statements and use them to determine the final version of the mission statement.

III. Tagline Activity with the Data Service Center

Katey Semmel from the Data Service Center (DSC) held a tagline activity to determine the tagline for the website. Currently, the tagline reads: “Understanding the City of Wilmington students through an equity lens.”

Raye Jones Avery, Co-Chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, asked if **understanding** was an appropriate active verb for the site, sparking discussion about alternative word choices.

Dr. Roger Harrison and various Work Group members agreed to finalize the tagline after completing the purpose and mission statements.

Dawn Alexander, a Work Group member, asked where the Dashboard is acquiring its data. Dr. Jeffrey Menzer, Co-Chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, stated that the DSC has readily available data for the Dashboard; the Dashboard will also utilize information from iTracker.

IV. Update on Wilmington High Schools

Dr. Jeffrey Menzer reported his meeting with the University of Delaware's Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research (CADSR). CADSR is collaborating with the Boost '22 project to answer the following questions:

- "Why didn't City of Wilmington students graduate in 2022?"
- "What happened to the City of Wilmington students who did not graduate in 2022?"

To analyze the data, CADSR stratified the City of Wilmington by zip code (19801, 19802, and 19805). CADSR declared there were delineations in academic success and graduation rates among the zip codes. The data also looked at Pre-K rates within Delaware, differences between special education and general education, graduation rates of students within CTE pathways, and attendance rates.

Nicole Kennedy, a member of the public, inquired about the release date of the data report. Dr. Jeffrey Menzer stated that the data report's anticipated release is in late 2022.

V. Meeting Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes from May 16, 2022, and October 10, 2022, were delayed until the November meeting.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Attendance

Work Group Members

Raye Jones Avery, Co-Chair

Jeffrey Menzer, Co-Chair

Dawn Alexander

Roger Harrison

Tika Hartsock

Teri Lawler

Delayne Johnson

Mark Pruitt

Tamara Smith

Redding Staff/Students

Haley Burns (Qaissaunee)

Alaina Robinson

Matthew Denn

Ashley Wilkinson

Members of the Public

Nicole Kennedy

Adrian Peoples

Nicole Priest

Lucinda Ross

Katey Semmel