



Utah School Readiness Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board Member Attendees: Jim Sorenson - Chairman, Tracy Gruber, Jennifer Throndsen, Jamie Bitton, Debbie Hanson, Janis Dubno, Kenny Shackelford

Excused Board Members: Jeremias Solari, Steve Crandall

Other Attendees: Mark Innocenti, Samantha Mafua, April Gardner, Jolene Hill, Debi Carty, Jimmy Hernandez, Jon Collins, Alda Jones, Natalie Brush, Jessica Smith, Nune Phillips, Emma Moench, Montana Meyers

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTION
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mr. Sorenson provided opening remarks and introduced new Board member Kenny Shackelford. b. Ms. Phillips reviewed the new meeting binders for Board members and noted that they will be collected at the end of each meeting and returned with new materials at each future meeting. 	
Approval of 7/19/2019 meeting minutes		Mr. Sorenson called for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Gruber motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The minutes were approved.
SY 2018-2019 Grant Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms. Moench gave an end-of-year update on the High Quality School Readiness Grant and Results Based Contracts. The presentation included the amounts spent by programs, number of eligible children served, and observation scores. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Board discussed KEEP proficiency levels and pre-, mid-, and post-assessment data. Several student outcomes were noted as important to better understand the academic growth and preparedness of preschoolers as they enter kindergarten. In future years, PEEP scores will fill in data gaps and provide a standardized way to assess preschool outcomes. ii. Several Board members commented on the chronic absenteeism rates and the potential reasons. There was consensus that absenteeism should continue being tracked and, to the extent possible, the relationship to student outcomes. b. Mr. Innocenti presented the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) data for students in programs funded with a Results Based Contract. It was noted that the funded group had lower PPVT scores and was ethnically more diverse than the comparison group. Although most students made statistically significant progress during the year, students in the funded group did not “catch-up” to the comparison group in terms of PPVT scores. 	At the request of the Board, Mr. Innocenti will review the data again to determine if the results differ by program.
SY 2019-2020 Grant Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms. Moench provided a status update on the SY 2019-2020 contracts, which are in the process of being finalized and will be sent to programs for signature within a couple of weeks. OCC and USBE are 	

	<p>meeting regularly to ensure seamless coordination of monitoring and quality observation processes.</p> <p>b. Ms. Moench also noted that the external coach contract is being updated to include additional data elements in response to the Board’s request for more quantitative data related to coaching.</p>	
Pay For Success	<p>a. Ms. Dubno gave an overview of Pay for Success as a financing model and highlighted the early education projects taking place throughout the country. Utah’s High Quality Pay for Success Preschool Program was the first early childhood project to launch and the second overall Pay for Success project in the country. The project was developed to address the need to ensure that low-income children are kindergarten ready.</p> <p>b. Mr. Innocenti provided background about the PPVT used in Utah’s Pay for Success transaction and reviewed the cohort sizes and past student outcomes. He emphasized that payments to investors are calculated based on the at-risk children that did not enter special education for that school year. This outcome is tracked from kindergarten through 6th grade.</p>	
Other business & upcoming activity	<p>a. Ms. Phillips welcomed Jon Collins from the Utah State Board of Education and introduced him as the lead researcher for School Readiness. Jon will also be leading and supporting the Research Subcommittee, which was approved to form several meetings ago. The upcoming priorities for the Subcommittee include establishing a research agenda, as well as recommending a quality tool and student performance outcome benchmarks for future grants. The Subcommittee will provide updates to the Board and ensure key decisions that require a vote are brought before the Board in a timely manner.</p> <p>b. Ms. Phillips informed the Board that a governance policy is being developed to provide structure to the Board’s activities. The policy will be brought before the Board for feedback and a vote.</p> <p>c. Ms. Phillips referred to the Conflict of Interest form included in the binders for Board members to sign and return within the next couple of weeks. The form was developed in consultation with the DWS Division of Adjudication.</p>	
Public Comments	<p>a. Jimmy Hernandez (USBE) inquired about the Pay for Success outcome measure and how the payout group is determined. Mr. Innocenti replied that outcomes are based on whether children determined at-risk for special education based on their PPVT scores in preschool ultimately end up in special education in the year of analysis from kindergarten through 6th grade.</p> <p>b. Jessica Smith commented that PEEP training is available online, including resources and a video: https://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/assessments?mid=1173&tid=6</p>	
Adjournment		<p>Mr. Sorenson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamie Bitton motioned to adjourn. Tracy Gruber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.</p>