

OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 – 1:00 PM

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

2915 N Classen Blvd., Ste 300, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

The agenda was posted at 2915 N Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order

OPSR Chair, Annette Wisk Jacobi, call the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

OPSR Board Secretary Angie Clayton called roll and recorded attendance. Quorum was met.

Members Present

Darrell Strong, Christin Bollinger, Paula Brown, Angie Clayton, Adrienne Butler, Dr. Marny Dunlap, Jacqueline Evans, Tonya Garman, Gina McPherson, Joyce Marshall, Marshall Vogts, Amanda McCabe, Audra Haney, Brett Vanderzee, Carrie Williams, Brittany Lee, Jacqueline Evans, Annette Wisk Jacobi, Joann Carter, Jennifer Stepp, Jennifer Pham, Rachel Proper, Sarah Roberts, Mary Mazariegos.

Members Present by Video (Zoom Video)

Christin Bollinger, Jacqueline Evans, and Brett Vanderzee. Members attending by Zoom do not count towards quorum.

Members Not Present

Deborah Shropshire, Polly Anderson, Jennifer King, Zoe Campbell, Kevin Corbett, Natalie Currie, Nathan Valentine, Hokehe Effiong, Tina Floyd, Melinda Fruendt, Allison Garrett, Brent Kisling, Shellie Schlegel, Marcie Mack, Dr. Jon Pederson, Keith Reed, Joyce Marshall, Lori Essary, Carrie-Slatton Hodges, Annie Koppel Van Hanken, Ryan Walters, Vicki Weaver Payne, Zoe Campbell, Kelly Kay, Sada Knowles, Melissa Larimore, Brent Haken, Anthony Stafford

Staff Present

Carrie Williams, Stephanie Lippert, Vicki Bumpas, Allison Loeffler, Angela Rodriguez, Joncia Johnson, Gabrielle Jacobi, Daphne Peschl

Guests Present

Collette Shepard and Jay Dudley with Lakeshore Learning, Sharon Morgan with Oklahoma State Department of Education, David Maxwell with University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Christina Foss with Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

*** Approval of Minutes**

OPSR Board Chair, Annette Wisk Jacobi, presented the board meeting minutes from November 17th, 2022.

OPSR board member Dr. Marny Dunlap moved to approve the minutes as written. OPSR Board Member Joann Carter seconded the motion. The majority of members present voted in the affirmative except for board designee Mary Mazariegos who abstained and board member Rachel Proper also abstained..

Chairperson Comments

OPSR Chairperson Annette Wisk Jacobi welcomed board members and designees and asked members to introduce themselves.

Review of OPSR Financial Report

Dr. Dunlap, Treasurer of OPSR Partnership Board, presented the financial report that was provided in the meeting materials, and shared a brief overview of OPSR's three contracts with Oklahoma Department of Human Services: Base Contract, Clearinghouse, and Child Care Resource and Referral. Dr. Dunlap reported that the OKDHS Base contract total was \$779,000, and the amount spent to date is approximately \$336,000. The Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success contract is approximately \$1.9 million, with \$615,000 spent, and the Childcare Resource and Referral contract is \$4.6 million with approximately \$1.8 million spent. Dr. Dunlap reported that OPSR is on track to spend most of the dollars for all three contracts.

Vicki Bumpas, OPSR Finance Director, presented the Budget Modifications and stated that the base contract stayed the same amount. However, due to additional projects being funded the Clearinghouse budget has increased from \$1.9 million to \$2.6 million. Ms. Bumpas also shared that Child Care Resource and Referral added the Staffed Family Child Care Network Project, which raised their budget from \$4.6 million to \$5.7 million. Finally, the recent addition of the Federal Pre-school Development Grant (PDG), based on a calendar year, will provide an increased amount of spending for OPSR from the beginning budget of \$3.6 million for the first six months of the year. By June 30th, 2023, the total spend for all contracts is \$12,754,000.00.

A board member asked about the admin shift from UCO and merger with Resource and Referral, specifically what is the impact to the budget from the transition. Ms. Williams responded that since July 2021 OPSR transitioned away from UCO administration support and no longer had to pay the 30% in administration costs. Additionally, through the OPSR Foundation merger with Resource and Referral, OPSR gained experienced staff which has enabled OPSR to grow significantly and increase capacity, which strengthened the PDG application as well.

No action required for review of budget.

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Presentation and Discussion

OPSR Executive Director, Ms. Carrie Williams, shared a PowerPoint that provided an overview of PDG, including the history of the grant and new projects planned with this cycle

of funding. Members were reminded that the presentation is included in their board materials. Ms. Williams reported the total amount of funding is \$12 million dollars over a three-year period. The grant consists of six key activities: needs assessment update, strategic plan update, family and community engagement, workforce support, quality enhancement, and sub-granting. Ms. Williams highlighted Pyramid Model implementation as an example of cross-sector systems work and community investment for local-level systems work that will align with state-level systems work. Additionally, OKDHS and OPSR will work to build implementation teams to support work in the six activities. A member asked if work committees have been assigned and Ms. Williams answered that implementation teams will be built once a contract is in place with OKDHS. Ms. Williams emphasized that OPSR, as the State Advisory Council, will provide vision, direction, and content expertise regularly throughout the grant period. Dr. Dunlap asked if a contract is in place between OKDHS and OPSR and to expand on hiring plans. Ms. Williams responded that there is an agreed upon scope of work and a contract has been drafted, though not complete now. OPSR has worked with OKDHS to draft job descriptions and create a plan to hire staff once the contract is finalized. PDG Project Managers have been hired, and the next position to be hired will be the Financial Manager.

COVID funding and the Cliff Effect Presentation: Oklahoma Health Care Authority; Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Christina Foss, Deputy Director for Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA), spoke to the board regarding the upcoming changes to Medicaid eligibility, stating that since Oklahoma is no longer under a public health emergency, continuous coverage for Medicaid will end, affecting approximately 300,000 members. OHCA will be working to disenroll members through June 30, 2023, starting with the highest income members first. Ms. Foss announced that eligibility redetermination letters have already been sent to Medicaid members. In mid-March members will receive a letter with the disenrollment date. A third letter will be sent 45 days before coverage ends and a fourth letter will be sent 10 days before coverage ends.

OHCA will be using community navigators to help with the public engagement and communication efforts necessary to share information to all SoonerCare members across the state. Community navigators will also support eligible members with the re-enrollment process. Board member Dr. Marny Dunlap asked about the enrollment process, and Ms. Foss explained that OHCA has been renewing membership. Dr. Dunlap expressed concern that some families may not have access to the internet to enroll online. Ms. Foss reported that OHCA has hired additional staff for their call center to help with access issues. Ms. Foss asked board members to encourage staff and partners to visit mysooner.org to update contact information, especially mailing address. Dr. Dunlap reminded board members that even though parents may not be eligible, their children may be eligible for SoonerCare. OHCA has flyers and leave behinds for communication purposes. Board member Tonya Garman suggested designing communication in ASL to reach the deaf community.

Board member Marshall Vogts asked if there is a predicted level of members after the disenrollment process. OHCA is unsure of this answer but is conducting a longitudinal study on the last three years to have data necessary to answer this question.

Brittany Lee, Director of Child Care Services for Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), provided information regarding ARPA funded child care stabilization efforts and OKDHS SNAP benefits.

Ms. Lee provided a flyer that showed the details regarding the SNAP services that will be going back to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. Lee informed board members that she could not speak specifics regarding SNAP but did volunteer to bring information to handout at the meeting.

Ms. Lee then reported that OKDHS has been looking at the budget and modifying it to support the timelines of the various changes occurring because of ARPA funds ending. Child Care Desert Grants, used to support child care programs, provides \$6,000 to \$25,000 grants every 3 months. The last 2 grant cycle amounts are being doubled in anticipation of the ending of the grants in July of 2023. A center must be licensed and in good standing in order to receive a desert grant. There are currently 2,800 programs participating.

Additionally, OKDHS has used ARPA funds to provide a \$1000.00 bonus to child care personnel through CECPD. Ms. Lee shared that the new QRIS system was launched last year, and all the programs applied. Ms. Lee reported that the \$5/day per child co-pay will continue until 2024. Ms. Lee also reported that the normally allowed 7 standard absence days was increased to 11 days during COVID and will continue.

The subsidized co-pay waivers for essential and frontline workers will also end in September of 2024, and OKDHS plans to transition participants to the default platform. Dr. Dunlap asked the number of state employee families that will be impacted when the Essential Worker Categorical Care ends, and Ms. Lee responded that 1500 employees will be impacted.

Ms. Lee shared that OKDHS does have a \$30,000,000.00 ask for the Oklahoma Legislature to continue the \$5 add on next year.

Dr. Dunlap asked if other agencies will have cliff effect impacts. Member Mary Mazariegos, Oklahoma State Department of Education, shared that districts and schools across the state will feel the impact of the loss of dollars as COVID-19 pandemic response funds end.

Early Childhood Legislative Updates from Agencies and Partners

Chairperson Annette Wisk Jacobi discussed HB1017 and SB907 regarding high quality legal representation for children and parents. The bill, authored by Representative Lawson in the House and Senator Rosino in the Senate, seeks a central office with a multidisciplinary team for families. The impact of this bill in rural areas of the state is important because often cases stay on the docket for long periods of time, which delays permanency for children.

Dr. Marny Dunlap shared that Oklahoma has over 10 anti-vaccine bills this legislative session. She informed board members that vaccination rates are already low relative to other states because Oklahoma gives greater allowances for vaccine exemptions.

Mr. Vogts asked about current legislation regarding car restraints in the back seat of a vehicle. Chairperson Annette Wisk Jacobi explained that this law was accidentally changed several years ago, and the current bill is an attempt to update current law, correcting the mistake. This bill is asking to require children ages 8-17 to be restrained while riding in a backseat of a car and is authored by Representative Peterson and Senator Hicks.

Executive Director Report

OPSR Executive Director, Ms. Carrie Williams, presented the Executive Director Report and reminded board members the report is included in their board materials. Ms. Williams highlighted the new project of Staffed Family Child Care Network within Resource and Referral that began January 1st of this year and will end June, 2024. The Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success recently presented OKDHS with third round projects in the area of Healthy Environment and Relationships. Ms. Williams reported that OPSR does not have a contract in place with OKDHS for PDG implementation, but it's in the final stages of the process at OKDHS. OPSR has begun hiring PDG positions, with the recent hire of Gabrielle Jacobi as PDG Project Manager for OPSR. Ms. Williams shared that INK Day, an early childhood advocacy day at the state capitol, is planned for April 3rd and all board members are invited to attend. OPSR has completed a Home Visiting Outcomes Report, and board members have been provided with that publication.

Ms. Williams reported that the following Clearinghouse projects received funding:

1. The Pyramid Model, with 80 different implementation sites, that presented in Round 1 was revisited in Round 2, and received funding
2. Early Learning Works in Tulsa
3. Early Learning Matters contributed through Sunbeam in partnership with OCCA
4. Smart Start Early Bird Training for Child Care Providers
5. Developmental Monitoring Resources, submitted through OUHSC
6. Expanding Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services in NW Oklahoma
7. Growing Like a Read, through Pioneer Library Systems
8. Rachel Proper/OCCA submitted a project for providing directors with workforce credentials, that OKDHS decided to fund on its own.

Ms. Williams shared that 3 different submissions were submitted in the 3 different rounds that included an element of outdoor learning environments. The program and implementation committee asked OPSR to complete a literature review regarding outdoor learning environments and seek funding.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcements

Marshall Vogts with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shared that the CARES Act funding for emergency housing support will end in September of 2023.

Jennifer Stepp shared that a Tulsa Educare provider was the first to receive the online Early Child Care and Development degree through Oklahoma State University, which now has 27 students enrolled in the program.

Gina McPherson shared that 604 child care centers, 198 family child care homes, and 109 Head Start centers across Oklahoma are currently participating in the Scholars program.

Audra Haney reported that the Infant and Toddler Court will add two courts, and they are also hiring the state coordinator for the Infant and Toddler Court Program.

Member Paula Brown shared Stillwater and Tulsa are partnering to complete a self- assessment to explore an Educare in the Stillwater community.

Dr. Dunlap shared that the Alliance for Healthy Families has a campaign to encourage COVID vaccines for young children, including PR materials through a small grant, and she asked all to please share on all platforms.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

OPSR Board Chair, Annette Wisk Jacobi, adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Signature: _____
Carrie Williams, Executive Director, OPSR

Signature: _____
Annette Wisk Jacobi, Chair, OPSR Partnership Board of Directors