

OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25th, 2024 – 1:00 PM

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

2915 N Classen Blvd., Ste 400, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

The agenda was posted at 2915 N Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024, at 4:40p.m.

Call to Order

OPSR Board Chair, Sarah Roberts, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

OPSR Secretary Angie Clayton was not in attendance; Allison Loeffler, OPSR Director of Early Childhood Systems, called roll and recorded attendance. Quorum was met.

Members Present

Darrell Strong, Paula Brown, Kasie McCarty, Trisha Hutcherson, Tonya Garman, Gina McPherson, Annette Wisk Jacobi, Marshall Vogts, Sada Knowles, Melissa Larimore, Amanda McCabe, Jennifer Stepp, Lorri Essary, Sarah Roberts, Anthony Stafford, Brett Vanderzee, Sharon Morgan, Vicki Weaver Payne, Cindy Lee, Kody Suanny, Carrie Williams.

Members Present by Video (Zoom Video)

Jaqueline Evans.

Members Not Present

Polly Anderson, Christin Bollinger, Deborah Shropshire, Jennifer King, Brittany Lee, Zoe Campbell, Curtiss Mays, Ellen Buettner, Kasie McCarty, Angie Clayton, Natalie Currie, Dr. Katherine Curry, Dr. Hokehe Effiong, Tina Floyd, Melinda Fruendt, Allison Garrett, Brent Haken, Joann Carter, Kelly Kay, Hopper Smith, Shellie Schlegel, Jon Pederson, Rachel Proper, Keith Reed, Joyce Marshall. Carrie Slatton-Hodges, Audra Haney, Annie Van Hanken, Ryan Walters.

Staff Present

Allison Loeffler, Dustin Goad, Angela Rodriguez, Daphne Peschl, Jon Trudgeon, Denise Daniels, Mary Griffin, Kelsey Thomas, Brittany Zaring-Hinkle, Amber Cuyler, and Wendi Mayfield.

Guests Present

Amy Emerson, OPSR Foundation Board; Pam Campbell, OPSR Foundation Board; AJ Griffin, Potts Family Foundation & OPSR Foundation Board; Mike Gibson, OPSR Foundation Board; Lucie Doll OPSR Foundation Board; Marsha Schmidt, OPSR Foundation Board; Amber Adams, OCCY Parent Partnership Board.

Approval of Minutes

Sarah Roberts presented the board meeting minutes from the meeting held on January 25th, 2024. Cindy Lee made a motion to approve the minutes without changes, and Annette Wisk Jacobi seconded the motion. Eighteen members voted in favor and five abstained. The motion passed.

Review of OPSR Financial Report (Daphne Peschl)

OPSR Director of Finance, Daphne Peschl, presented FY24 financial documents to board members for review. The OKDHS base contract has a budget of \$779,000, with \$285,703 currently spent. The Clearinghouse budget shows a spend of \$1,512,499, while Child Care Resource and Referral has spent \$1,999,671 for FY24. PDG funding is on a calendar year and has a total budget of 12.9 million. Of that budgeted amount \$1,036,195 has been spent.

Regarding the PDG budget, Sarah Roberts asked if OPSR was concerned about the amount of money still to be spent in the budget. Carrie Williams answered that she was not concerned. OPSR has been in regular communication with our PDG Federal Project Officer and federal team, and they recognize the challenges of administering the grant and establishing the necessary contracts for its implementation. The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) has indicated that Oklahoma is like most other PDG states pertaining to spend down, and they are supportive of Oklahoma's efforts with PDG.

(No action is required for the review of the budget or financials).

OCCY Parent Partnership Board Update (Amber Adams, OCCY PPB Member)

Amber Adams presented the update from the OCCY Parent Partnership Board (OCCY PPB). She began her remarks by thanking the OPSR board and staff for their support of the Parent Partnership Board Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol on Feb. 14, 2024. The event highlighted the OCCY PPB and allowed them to inform legislators about the importance of parent voice in policy making. Ms. Adams stated that OCCY PPB members have been busy attending and presenting at conferences, community events, and nonprofits about the work of OCCY PPB and the importance of including parental voice when planning activities or programs that involve families. To that end, Ms. Adams noted that the OCCY PPB recently added a new member who will be representing the voice of rural fathers across the state. Ms. Adams concluded her report by speaking about the inaugural Oklahoma Parent Leadership Award program to recognize outstanding parent leaders across the state. OCCY received twenty-two nominations, and the awards were given at the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention Awards on April 23, 2024, celebrating parental contributions to child services and community well-being.

Know and Grow Presentation (AJ Griffin, Executive Director, Potts Family Foundation)

AJ Griffin presented a report of recent findings tied to the Know and Grow initiative launched as a collaboration between the Oklahoma Health Department and Potts Family Foundation. Ms. Griffin started by stating the report was intended to get community-level data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on newborns and their families. Potts Family Foundation administered surveys to caregivers and early childhood service providers that were analyzed by the Center for Family Resilience at Oklahoma State University. The report found that children born during the pandemic are growing up in a much different world than previous generations. The pandemic forced a change in many societal norms which impact child development and the health of their family unit. The data indicated that many children born during the pandemic feel isolated and spend more time on screens. Children's parents more often reported suffering from mental illness

and fears about their and their family's economic security. To counterbalance these findings, communities must grow to meet the specific needs of their communities and families. Without tailored support that looks at the health and development of children and their families, the societal cost of the pandemic will be potentially devastating to children with lifelong repercussions. To aid in this response, the Potts Family Foundation intends to build a Know and Grow website to provide caregivers with positive parenting information along with where and how to access community resources. The Potts Family Foundation will also work to create eight new family resource centers across the state to aid in training communities on the importance of early attachment, child development, and parental resiliency.

Executive Director Report (Carrie Williams)

Sarah Roberts asked Carrie Williams to deliver her Executive Director's Report. Ms. Williams spoke about the latest child care statistics for the state of Oklahoma, stating that currently there are 181,059 children needing child care across the state and that the average cost of care for infants in the rural parts of the state was \$8,580 annually; within the Oklahoma City metro families could expect to pay \$12,351 annually for infant care. Currently, 73% of licensed child care programs around the state accept child care subsidy. Ms. Williams then shifted her attention to policy issues impacting OPSR and informed the Partnership Board that on April 22, 2024, Governor Stitt signed SB1229 extending OPSR's sunset for an additional five years. The board was also informed about the results of Invest N Kids Day (INK Day) 2024, which saw more than 200 early child care and education advocates visit the Oklahoma State Capitol on Monday, April 15, 2024, to meet with legislators about the needs of children 0-5 years and their families. Highlights from the day included Governor Kevin Stitt, Representatives Mark Lawson, John Talley, and Oklahoma Department of Human Services Director of Child Care Services Brittany Lee reading to kids in the pop-up child care center at the capitol for the day.

Child Care Resource & Referral (Carrie Williams)

Ms. Williams announced that Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) had recently finished preparing its annual report on the state of child care that was presented by county to legislators on INK Day. Through this data, OPSR can look at child care costs across the state, county by county, to determine the state of child care in Oklahoma. Recent data shows there is still a high demand for before and after-school care and non-traditional/24-hour care. Ms. Williams continued to say that the statistics for Oklahoma show that 21% of children in Oklahoma live in poverty, and as a result, Oklahoma ranks 46th for child wellbeing.

In a new effort to support families, CCRR plans to hire eight new family support specialists around the state and to continue to develop training modules for programs like the Pyramid Model. With the Pyramid Model implementation plan, CCRR is looking to deeply implement this program in at least 80 sites around the state to improve outcomes for children. As of the meeting, OPSR has received implementation commitments from 67 sites, and expects to surpass our initial target goal.

Ms. Williams also stated that in April, CCRR hosted its Second Annual Thrive Network Conference. This year, more than 250 people from the network registered to attend the event that featured trainings and a dynamic keynote address by Marty Appelbaum. CCRR is also actively

working to recruit new family child care homes to add to the 1,400 providers already in existence across the state.

Sarah Roberts asked if the reports on the state of child care can be broken down to show the number of people needing care who might qualify for subsidy support. Ms. Williams indicated that she believed it was possible to do so.

Preschool Development Grant Update (Carrie Williams)

Ms. Williams stated that the PDG grant was progressing well and that the updated needs assessment and strategic plan will offer further implementation opportunities. To support implementation efforts, OPSR has recently made three new hires. Emma Bigheart will serve as the tribal relations specialist, Wendi Mayfield as an early childhood systems coordinator, and Terri Davis as the finance manager for PDG. Additionally, the PDG team will be co-hosting a Transitions Summit in Tulsa and Oklahoma City on June 26th and June 28th, respectively. Ms. Williams also stated that OPSR has officially signed a memorandum of understanding with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to administer and grow the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Through PDG resources, we hope to grow the Imagination Library into new communities building on existing strengths that could be leveraged for further PDG implementation programs within those impacted communities. In conclusion on her PDG update, Ms. Williams also called attention to the “Before the Bell” public engagement campaign that launched as an awareness and resource campaign to help families find and access resources for parents with children aged 0-5.

Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success (Carrie Williams)

To conclude her Executive Director’s report, Ms. Williams informed the board that the Clearinghouse has approved the construction of 27 outdoor learning environments and that the first two in the Tulsa area are complete. To celebrate the milestone, OPSR held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Jewel’s Place in Tulsa. Ms. Williams reminded the board that through this program, the Clearinghouse received 190 applications spread across 55 counties in Oklahoma. Also, eleven people have been trained to become authorized Conscious Discipline trainers for the state through the Clearinghouse program with Sunbeam Family Services.

Marshall Vogts asked about a graph on the Executive Director’s report that showed the allocation of the Clearinghouse budget and asked for clarification about what constituted rollover versus what made up the expansion of programs in the graphs. Ms. Williams replied that rollover are funds flowing from one budget year to the next, typically due to implementation timing within an approved program. The expansion was a new budget allocation to a program that has demonstrated strong results and the ability to scale those results. The money for expansion typically came from other Clearinghouse programs that were not going to be able to fully spend the entire amount of their grant within the allotted implementation timeline.

Public Comment (Public Guests)

None.

Announcements (Sara Roberts)

None.

New Business (Sara Roberts)

Marshall Vogts asked about changes to the QRIS ratings system for child care, and how that impacts subsidy rates for providers. Ms. Williams responded that a year ago, OKDHS moved to a five-star rating scale and gave all providers a year to reach that status, while paying providers as if they were a five-star program level. This means the state has been paying more in subsidies than before because of most programs being granted temporary five-star status. Now the grace period is over, and OKDHS will resume full monitoring. OKDHS recently said that if programs are not at five-star status they will have to self-report a QRIS downgrade, or after licensure visits, providers have a week to address issues keeping them from five-star status before facing an official downgrade in the QRIS system.

Adjournment (Sarah Roberts)

OPSR Board Chair Sarah Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula Brown made the motion, and Amanda McCabe seconded the motion to adjourn. Sarah Roberts adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Signature: 
[Carrie Williams \(Oct 17, 2024 15:14 CDT\)](#)

Carrie Williams, Executive Director, OPSR

16-Oct-2024

Signature: 
[Sarah Roberts \(Oct 23, 2024 11:13 CDT\)](#)

Sarah Roberts, OPSR Board Chair

23-Oct-2024

OPSR Meeting Minutes 4.25.24 Approved

Final Audit Report

2024-10-23

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