



Utah School Readiness Board
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
11:00am – 12:00pm

Board Member Attendees: Jim Sorenson, Kathy Link for Tracy Gruber, Jeremias Solari, Jamie Bitton, Debbie Hanson, Janis Dubno, Jennifer Thronsen, Amy Terpstra, Seung-Hee Claire Son

Excused: Steve Crandall

Other Attendees: Nune Phillips, Emma Moench, Montana Meyers, Mark Innocenti, Debi Carty, Joe Edman, Jon Collins, Alda Jones, Natalie Brush, Samantha Mafua, Gina Ruiz, Chelsea Beck, Amy Andelin, Jamie Robinson, Jessica Smith, Jon Collins, Jimmy Hernandez, Erin Medina

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTION
Welcome	a. Mr. Sorenson welcomed the group and called for attendance of the board.	
Approval of 3/2/2020 meeting minutes		Mr. Sorenson called for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Jennifer Thronsen motioned to approve the minutes. Amy Terpstra seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.
Updates (Nune Phillips)	<p>a. Board Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Four Original Members reappointed at the start of the new Fiscal year. ii. Amy Terpstra appointed representing a non-profit organization <p>b. Pay for Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Ms. Terpstra interested to know if there will be impacts going into the next school year related to the repayment calculation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Thronsen indicated generally Special Education referrals happen the last 45 days of school and children were not in school for the last 45 days this year. Next year, depending on school instruction delivery, it may increase learning disability as students may not be in school 6 hours a day. ii. DWS Contract with USU/Mark Innocenti. Ms. Phillips noted the pending contract between DWS and USU as the independent evaluator of the Pay for Success transaction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Per state procurement rules, this contract was awarded to Mr. Innocenti as he is in a unique position to continue this work moving forward and two state entities can enter into a contract without a procurement. In the past, USU also had an agreement with GOMB and United Way to conduct the PPVTs as part of the Transaction. Mr. Innocenti has an existing data sharing agreement in place with USBE through the remaining years of the Transaction to receive special education data for the purpose of analysis to support calculating the 	<p>Mark Innocenti to report data on transactions, Special Ed., and trends over time to compare with last year's data.</p> <p>Mr. Sorenson called for a vote to allow DWS to enter into a contract with USU. Amy Terpstra motioned. Debbie Hanson seconded. Ms. Thronsen motioned that the Board (1) review the procurement process to ensure it is aligned with State Law and (2) determine whether the analysis can be conducted internally at USBE. Ms. Terpstra seconded the motion to reconvene once DWS researches the items in question. Motioned carried. Board to reconvene, to review procurement process and vote.</p>

	<p>Transaction. Ms. Throndsen proposed an alternative to USU analyzing the data, stating that it can be evaluated internally at USBE and may be a cost saving measure to do so. She also raised concerns that the evaluator was selected without a competitive procurement. The Board discussed concerns that it may be a real or perceived conflict of interest to have USBE conduct analysis of their own data. Ms. Phillips noted the language in code stating an independent evaluator is needed to analyze the data for the Transaction, which is interpreted as someone external to DWS and USBE.</p>	
<p>COVID Impact on SY19-20 Grantees (Emma Moench)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As a result of soft school closures and health and safety concerns, PEEP Exit assessments were suspended, as were ECERS-3 observations. b. Many grantees (LEA's and Private Providers) continued to provide meals to students and most shifted to provide online preschool instruction. c. Grant monitoring and external coaching was conducted remotely in the last few months of the grant year. d. Grantee End of Year Reports have been submitted; the results of which will be summarized for the Board in the fall. a. At the September Board meeting, Ms. Moench will report to the Board on grant administration changes in light of the ongoing pandemic. This includes processes related to monitoring, observations, coaching, and professional development. 	
<p>Budget Changes (Kim Beck)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms. Beck reviewed anticipated budget cuts to state general funds supporting this initiative and explained how these will be offset using federal Child Care and Development Fund dollars from OCC. An additional \$3M supplement appropriated in the 2020 legislative session is expected to be cut as well as significant portion, if not all, of the base budget with only a portion remaining to repay investors as part of the Pay for Success Transaction. CCDF funds will be used to make up the loss and ensure the Becoming Quality and Expanded Student Access grants will continue in SY20-21. Final legislative decisions have not been made. 	
<p>SY20-21 Grant Recommendations (Nune Phillips)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ECERS-3 observations could not be conducted in classrooms. To adjust to the situation, minimize administrative burdens, and ensure best outcomes for programs serving preschool students, DWS and USBE propose to move forward with all 20 current Expanded Student Access grantees and continue to fund them for the number of preschool slots they were awarded in SY19-20. Logan School District will be the only grantee to receive an increased cost per student. b. After careful consideration, the Becoming Quality grant application was posted with a 1-month application window. Of the 8 programs that applied, 5 received the score necessary by the scoring committee to be recommended for funding. Programs submitted a budget request on what they felt reasonable and to build on their quality, with a maximum classroom rate of \$17, 000. DWS and USBE propose that this grant fund 5 programs with 23 classrooms to build quality in SY20-21. c. Ms. Phillips presented the proposed SY20-21 School Readiness Initiative budget to the board. 	<p>Mr. Sorenson called for a motion to approve the recommended budget, including the two grant programs, administrative and coaching expenses, and the Pay for Success investor repayment set-aside. The budget line item for Mr. Innocenti's work will be addressed at the next meeting. Ms. Dubno motioned to adopt budget with exception of funding for Mr. Innocenti. Ms. Throndsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

Other Business	a. Ms. Phillips will poll the Board with proposed times to reconvene in a week or two to address the USU/Mark Innocenti contract. A meeting is also scheduled for September	
Adjournment		Mr. Sorenson adjourned the meeting.