

## Whole Child Advisory Group

Dec. 8, 2022

### Minutes

#### Welcome and Today's Agenda

The Director of Whole Child Supports, Jennifer Vargo, welcomed the Whole Child Advisory Group and provided an overview of the agenda. Members participated in an icebreaker activity. Members reviewed the Whole Child Advisory Group Charge and the strategy for the 2022 –2023 school year.

#### Whole Child Implementation Supports

##### *SWOT Analysis Results*

The Whole Child Program Administrator, Hilary Stoll, presented on the results of the SWOT analysis the Whole Child Advisory Group conducted at the meeting in Sept. The presentation provided a summary of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified by the group. Hilary discussed how the results of the SWOT analysis will be used to inform future efforts of the Whole Child Advisory Group and the Department's internal Whole Child Framework Implementation Team. Some of the points noted were:

- Strengths:
  - The Whole Child Advisory Group is comprised of a diverse group with multiple sectors represented.
  - The Whole Child Framework provides a comprehensive vision for the state.
  - The Whole Child Network has opportunities for state and local partners to network and share best practices.
- Weaknesses:
  - There is a need for additional reach and communication of whole child resources and successes.
  - An orientation is needed for new members of the Whole Child Advisory Group.
- Opportunities:
  - There is a need for additional resources on how to leverage funding for whole child supports.
  - Professional development would support education professionals in planning, implementing and evaluating a whole child approach to education.
- Threats:
  - There are some misunderstandings of a whole child approach.
  - Burnout of staff and community partners from the pandemic is an ongoing challenge.
  - There are disparities in funding.

Next steps include a new member orientation in Sept. and a member of the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center engaging the group at the next meeting.

##### *Whole Child Framework Implementation Team Highlights*

The Assistant Director of Health, Attendance and Family and Community Engagement Supports, Brittany Miracle, presented on the Whole Child Framework Implementation Team (Whole Child FIT). The Whole Child FIT helps with the alignment of the Whole Child Framework. A recap of the team's work from last year included:

- Launching Ohio's Whole Child Network;
- Populating content on the Department's website, including a community partner toolkit; and

- Creating a start-up guide that aligned Ohio's Whole Child Framework with the entire implementation process.

The purpose of the group is to make connections and align resources. The group kicked off two weeks ago and meets bi-weekly with three workgroups:

- *School Improvement* – The purpose of this group is to connect federal funding to the whole child. The group will be producing a guide that tells how school districts can leverage federal funding for the whole child work.
- *Communications* – This group's work is focused on spreading the whole child message through means such as the Department website and Ed Connection newsletter.
- *Content Development* – This group will be identifying content for the whole child podcasts and webinars and identifying opportunities for professional development around the whole child.

## Whole Child Knowledge and Skills

*Pre-Service Whole Child Efforts: Jennifer Vargo*

In 2020-21, the Department had the opportunity to participate in a multi-state, in-service collaborative focused on whole child learning and development. We need to change the schools' mindset around implementing and incorporating whole child into their practice. The Learning Policy Institute looked at the psychology and neuroscience of how children learn and develop and how can schools use this information to teach children. Ohio's team consisted of the Ohio Department of Education's Offices of Licensure and Whole Child Supports, Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio Association of Colleges for Teachers Education (OACTE), State University Education Deans (SUED) and the Ohio Association of Private Colleges of Teachers Education (OAPCTE). The group met quarterly with other states to hear what they were doing about best practices.

Due to the work of the team, there are now changes in the Ohio Revised Code 3319. 237. In 2019, HB 310 was passed and requires programs to provide PBIS, social emotional development and the impact of trauma and toxic stress on learning behavior. The team discussed how we can find out what schools are doing and enhance that by providing resources.

The OCTEO (Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations) conference was organized around the theme of preparing future educators to meet the needs of the whole child. It is a large conference at the beginning of the year for the university faculty. Jennifer DePaoli of the Learning Policy Institute was a presenter and spoke on how to fit in whole child education into higher education requirements and integration into the curriculum. Faculty spoke about how they are doing this. Jennifer Vargo was also a keynote speaker at the conference. There is a high burnout rate for teachers – especially those working in areas with high poverty and lack of resources. This causes stress so if we can give them the mindset, resources and tools, will keep them in the profession.

## Whole Child Tools and Resources/Whole Child Collaboration

*Professional Development Initiatives*

The Whole Child Program Administrator, Hilary Stoll, discussed current professional development initiatives. Within the Whole Child Network, there are multiple cohorts of community of practice groups. One community of practice group recently wrapped up for student support services staff. Currently, there is recruitment for two additional cohorts, one for teachers and one for administrators. The community of practice consists of a team of about 30. The team defines a problem of practice, performs a root cause analysis and comes up with a theory of change. There are multiple pilot project opportunities. The Department is running a professional learning pilot school program with ASCD. There will be 20 total pilot sites, with ten per each school year. There

will be an opportunity for ESCs with Turn Around for Children. The focus is more on a systems-based approach. The Office of Teaching and Learning also has an opportunity for professional development. In conjunction with Knowledge Works, the Department launched the Ohio Personalized Learning Network and will be offering OnDemand resources for Ohio schools and districts.

#### *Collaborative Activity*

Whole Child Advisory Group Participants participated in a collaborative activity to identify current professional development opportunities for Ohio educators and gaps in professional learning. Advisory Group members worked in groups and posted their responses on chart paper on the wall. The full group participated in a gallery walk to view the responses from other groups.

#### **Closing and Next Steps**

The Ohio Co-Coordinator from Region 8, Rose Buckley, and Senior Executive Director of the Ohio Department of Education's Center for Student Supports, Jessica Horowitz Moore, presented Jennifer Vargo with a certificate and a token of appreciation on behalf of the Advisory Group, for her work on developing the Whole Child Framework and getting the Whole Child Network established. Jennifer will be leaving the Department in January to work more directly with students.