
Financial Empowerment Advisory Team
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Team Members Present:

- State Treasurer Tobias Read, Chair
- Vicki Berger, Former Legislator
- Julia Carlson, Fin. Freedom Wealth Mgmt. Group
- Scott Cooper, NeighborImpact
- Carlos David Garcia, Neighborhood Partnerships
- Bill Ihle, CEO & ED, Consumer Credit Counseling
- George Katsinis, Accredited Financial Counselor – OR Military
- Raven Manta, Nixyaawaii Community Financial Services
- Prem Mathew, Oregon State University
- Erin Moore, Fin. Ed. Prog. Mgr., OnPoint Community Credit Union
- Jennifer Satalino, The College Place – Oregon
- Bandana Shrestha, AARP Oregon
- Chabre Vickers, Community Development Officer, Wells Fargo

Technical Advisors- OR Agencies:

- Ellen Klem, Department of Justice
- Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education
- Joel Metlen, Department of Human Services
- Codi Trudell, Department of Revenue
- Craig Vattiat, Department of Consumer and Business Services
- Juan Baez-Arevalo, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Speakers:

- Cara Kangas, 211
- Kate Benedict, ED, Financial Beginnings-Oregon

Treasury Staff:

- Amy Bates, Communications Director
- David Bell, Deputy Director, OTSN
- Meredith Coba, Legislative & Outreach Coordinator
- Ryan Mann, Legislative Director/Deputy Chief
- Renzo Meza, Outreach Manager
- Michael Parker, Director, OTSN
- Missy Simpson, Executive Coordinator, OTSN
- James Sinks, Financial Education Program Manager
- Stephanie Swetland, Plan Specialist, OTSN
- John Valley, Policy & Outreach Director, OTSN

Treasurer Read called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Remarks

Treasurer Tobias Read welcomed the members for the inaugural meeting of the Financial Empowerment Advisory Team. This meeting will be focused on discussing the recommendations that were created by the Financial Education Advisory Team and the annual award for people who are doing the work that this team wants to support across the state. Cara Kangas from 211info who is partnering with Treasury will share the website that is being used to help Oregonians with information on general programs and resources.

Agenda Item 2 – Financial Empowerment Award

Treasurer Read discussed the two awards that will be given in the first year. The first award will be the Financial Empowerment Educator of the Year, for \$1,500 and an additional \$500 to their school. In addition, some students at their school selected in random will share \$500 in scholarships to the Oregon College Savings Plan. The second award will be the Financial Empowerment Community Champion, given to an organization, association, business, and education enterprise that is making a positive difference when it comes to financial wellness. That organization will receive \$2,000 and they'll be able to pay it forward by selecting another organization or effort to receive an additional \$500. These awards will be announced through news releases and social media, and nominations will be accepted on the Treasury website now through March 1st. The winners will be announced at the April meeting during financial literacy month.

Agenda Item 3 – Introductions

Members of the empowerment team and technical advisors introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

Agenda Item 4 – Summary of Recommendations from Financial Education Advisory Team

Kate Benedict, Executive Director of Financial Beginnings summarized the recommendations that came from the Financial Education Advisory Team and quickly discussed the top examples under each of the seven areas. The full 15-page report is posted on the Treasury website.

Ms. Berger stressed her concern about having too many recommendations for this big of a group. Treasurer Read mentioned there may be subcommittees that meet in between the quarterly meetings to discuss these recommendations further and asked the committee to share at the next meeting ideas about how this committee moves forward with prioritizing and dividing these recommendations.

Agenda Item 5 – Financial Empowerment Resource Partnership

Cara Kangas, 211info, updated the team on the partnership 211info has with Treasury. A MOU has been signed to share programmatic information across the state of Oregon. One of the resources that 211info has on their website is COVID-19 vaccination information, and that contract will be extended through 2022. Their website, which Ms. Kangas shared with the team, provides information on general programs and resources with a link for social service providers. Their website also provides a public facing dashboard where the public can check out demographic information about people who contact 211 needs that are being requested and referrals that are being provided.

Agenda Item 6 – Looking ahead / Goal for 2022

Treasurer Read discussed goals for 2022, one being data that has been discussed or finding the data to support the priorities and policies this group wants to advance and creating an Oregon specific report card or wellness check of some kind.

Carlos Garcia gave a quick event update that is in collaboration with Meyer Memorial Trust to discuss advancing economic justice and the challenges and opportunities for dismantling oppressive systems and building new ones that promote economic well-being. The event is scheduled for Monday, November 29th at 9am. Mr. Garcia will send the registration link to James Sinks to share with everyone.

Treasurer Read adjourned the meeting at 2:26pm.