

Meeting Scribe: Jenni Amado

Item	Discussion
<p>Gavel-in, Welcome, & Roll Call</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Interim Chair</i></p>	<p>The Advisory Group Chair began the meeting with a group welcome then moved on to roll call.</p> <p>Members Present: Renee Anderson, Kellen Akiyama, Chemika Bolden, Veronica Dujon, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, LaNae Johnson, Marcus LeGrand, Whitney O'Connell, Princess, Osita-Oleribe, Damien Pitts, Cynthia Richardson, LavertRobertson, Kali Thorne Ladd, Lawrence White, Marsha Williams</p> <p>Members Absent: Brian Detman, Carmen Brewton Denison, Iris DeGruy-Bell, Joyce Harris, Shira Long-Strand, Dominique Newton, Kent Wilson, Earlean Wilson-Huey</p> <p>ODE Staff Present: Bryce Coefield, Torrey Sims, Miriam Neidhardt McPhee, Jenni Amado</p> <p>DOJ Present: Jake Hogue</p> <p>Meeting Agenda: 2.19.2025 AABSS Advisory Public Agenda.pdf</p>
<p>Icebreaker/ Community Building</p> <p>9:10 a.m.</p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Vice-Chair</i></p>	<p>The Vice-Chair opened the icebreaker and community builder question</p>
<p>ODE Welcome & Updates</p> <p>9:15 a.m.</p> <p><i>Torrey Sims, OEDI Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <p><i>Bryce Coefield Ph.D., AABSS Program Coordinator</i></p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nichole Watson is no longer with us at ODE, she has taken on a new position at Portland Public Schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ODE is currently in the process of finding a replacement • ODE is currently working to address the 'Dear Colleague' letter that was released by the Federal Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ More information to come during the next month's meeting. • March's monthly meeting will be held in person at the Public Service Building in Salem, Oregon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The agency will be holding an in-person meeting so we can use the Executive Session to meet with the Department of Justice. ◦ Please reach out to Torrey Sims if you have any specific questions or concerns that you would like addressed during this meeting.

*Miriam Neidhardt
McPhee, OEDI Team
Lead*

*Stephanie ChenWu
Gluck, Senior Research
Analyst*

OEDI Team Lead:

- We are still in the onboarding process for the 21 new AABSS SSP Grantees.
 - Roughly half are through the contracting process with executed agreements.
 - The other half are still working on completing insurance requirements, etc., in order to fully execute their contract.
 - One big step forward is that documents can be worked on asynchronously so that the process to get grantees under contract is as effective and efficient as possible.
 - No programs were fully funded at their full request. ODE decided to proportionally decrease all grantees as it was the most fair and efficient process in order to move forward in the funding process.
 - Member feedback that making sweeping proportional cuts is not a fair way to redistribute funds as it affects smaller organizations more heavily.
- As far as resource development, it is now a grant requirement for all grantees to create some sort of deliverable that will be posted online for other programs and future cohorts to use and build off of.

Program Coordinator Updates:

- How can we ensure accountability?
 - There is not a Civil Rights reporting requirement with ODE. That is all accountable at the community level where a complaint would be filed with the district.
 - ODE cannot initiate a complaint if it has not first gone through the local community channels.
 - Q: Is it legislatively mandated that organizations report who they are hiring as coordinators to their community, why don't they report to ODE? What are the barriers to make them accountable to ODE?
 - A: There is no reporting on who specifically these coordinators are, how they're being hired or if it's a responsibility being added on to an existing individual's role. As far as districts escalating reports to the state we'll refer to the Department of Justice (DOJ) when we meet with them next.
 - Q: With this new accountability bill that's coming up, how will that accountability be monitored or tracked?
 - ODE is still working to learn more about how these systems will be developed and implemented.

Research Analyst Updates:

- The Student Success Outcomes: 2023-24 Participant Survey came out in January, 2025
- 84% of survey respondents reported successfully connecting their learning at the Grantee Organizations with school activities.
 - 517 Participants from 3rd-12th grade
 - 30 unique home languages represented
 - Outcome: Grantees are fostering environments and activities that are leading to positive student outcomes.
- Each Student Success Plan is built off of six pillars which create a common framework to categorize the strategies of each plan.
 - The 6 Pillars are:
 - Culture, Identity and Language Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic Success ■ Service Learning ■ Family Engagement ■ Coordinated Systems of Care ■ Leadership Development ● Overall the feedback that was received really showed a strong correlation between the sense of belonging, trusted adults and academic support that they were receiving from the grantees. ● Is there a way to track the implementation of African-American Studies mandate starting this fall?
<p>Conversation with DOJ</p> <p>9:51 a.m.</p> <p><i>Jake Hogue</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The goal today is information gathering, what has been heard from ODE, and what are some questions or inquiries that this group may want to bring forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There might be times when conversations or topics today are referred to a written memo to the group or conversation for a later date under Executive Session when the group is not meeting in a public space. ● Member feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is the first time we've been able to speak directly with the DOJ and everything has been filtered down through ODE. We're glad to speak directly to the DOJ today finally! ○ The group has been hearing that there is information being withheld or not correctly disseminated to the group. It's great to finally get to hear directly from the source. ○ One major challenge we've faced in trying to help our community and students across the state. The group has heard a lot of you can't say, and not what we're able to say. This leads to everything getting watered down, and we wind up with grantees that aren't actually serving our community youth. ○ It feels a lot like everyone lives in a committee world while we lose out on the ability to talk about the real issues when we're constantly in public spaces, and it's in direct opposition to our goal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Why were so many grantees from the previous grant cycle not funded, when they are actually serving community youth, but other grantees were selected that are not serving our community? ■ Are we just being hit over the head with policy, or is this a space for voice and power? ○ This work has been difficult even before the last few months, but it is continuously getting harder. What can be done? How can we support people who continue to do the work in the face of those who may be delighted to not continue to push these efforts forward. ○ Is there any foundational basis from the bill this program is written in to find strength in serving community specific youth? Is it possible to lean back into the legislature as grounds to pull back funds if grantees don't fulfill their requirements of serving the community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In a members' experience there is very little technical experience or technical assistance, and the process in itself is generally a barrier whenever we want to file a complaint. It typically takes a full year for complaints to be escalated to the necessary level in order to reach an acceptable outcome. ■ The question is, In the DOJ's experience, what can we do to help overcome these barriers, and better understand the process? ○ When it comes to commitments to equity and diversity in state legislation, lots of entities are really relying on that and the lead of the state. Is this how we should be operating? Or do Federal guidelines take priority? We need clarity on this as it will

	<p>impact everything. Is the Student Success Plan at risk, what could the impact be and what can we do to be proactive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It's been difficult for the members to not be able to speak directly to the DOJ, or even each other due to Public Meeting Law. It's led to a feeling of disenfranchisement and the group feels very behind the ball. ○ Do 'Dear Colleague' letters hold any form of legally binding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DOJ Answer: Generally a letter of this sort holds no immediate legality, however it's seen as a strong indicator of how Federal law may be applied or interpreted in the future. ○ The group's sentiment is to not be passive and sit back, but use Oregon's voice to push forward and fight back for the equality that we've already achieved. ○ Would it be possible to get the Governor to attend with the DOJ during our next meeting? This was her bill, and we're seeing other states stand up for their ideals, we'd like to extend that invitation if she could attend. According to Oregon Law, the Governor is the highest individual at the top of the Department of Education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ODE will extend the invitation ● There are lots of responses to these inquiries that we would like to share, but would likely need to come through an intentional written response. ● DOJ recognizes that no matter how you look at it this is a difficult time as this group is working to fulfil its mandate through the legislature, while we also navigate this unprecedented time we find ourselves in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The entire agency is working to find the balance between creating a candid space and also protecting the programs and work that is being done.
<p>Legislative Updates</p> <p>10:26 a.m.</p> <p><i>Bryce Coefield Ph.D., AABSS Program Coordinator</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reminder, during the Legislative Session public servants cannot use their position to advocate or campaign in any way. ● OEDI is tracking bills that would have an impact on this office and our programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new Bill 'RubyBridges Walk to School Day' is getting a lot of publicity right now and would be worth looking into if it is of interest. ○ Quite a bit of funding for the SSP's is funded through the Corporate Activity Initiative which is the topic of several reduction bills ○ New bill Momnibus and Doulas SB692 regarding maternity outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maternal morbidity is three times higher for black women ■ Infant mortality is twice as high for black infants ○ HB2398 - Direct Admissions ○ SB396 - Common App ○ SB312 - Electronic Database
<p>AG Workgroups</p> <p>10:34 a.m.</p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Vice-Chair</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening a conversation about how to recruit members for this group, and manage burnout fatigue for those who have been in the group for quite some time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow up email to be sent out regarding interest. ● Charter review to be broken down into 3 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment & Selection: What are the specifics of this process? ○ Onboarding: How can we support new members for them to be the most successful? ○ Roles & Responsibilities: What are the rules and regulations for attendance and participation? How long do we keep seats open before going back to recruitment? ● Information to come regarding more in depth participation for Charter and bylaws. ● Members Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would particularly like to revisit the fact that grantees were removed from the group, and members felt that knowledge was lost when this happened. Also, it's not

	<p>consistent with what’s happening in other ODE Advisory groups. Would challenge the group to change it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Another member raises the opinion that this work should be prioritized behind the required work that we are trying to complete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sentiment echoed by another member. ■ The Vice-Chair clarifies that due to the bylaws there are many members on this board that should no longer be, and that needs to be clarified and ‘house cleaned’ before we can move this work forward or bring on new members. <p>○ It’s been expressed that this group doesn’t feel that grantees are serving adequate numbers of community youth, however it’s important to remember that this group can affect that outcome. If it is incorporated into the bylaws we can work to mitigate that risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ODE would appreciate any information regarding grantees not accurately representing the numbers of community youth. Leadership will be carrying out site-visits and will be reporting back regarding these outcomes. ■ Advisory group members would like to participate in site-visits as a board member. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The outcomes of this program need to be evaluated by the community to increase accountability and results. ● ODE will reach out to the Advisory Group with more details regarding the site visits. <p>○ During the Advisory Group Retreat, data was shared that the percentage of AAB students being served through this SSP grant was extremely low, which was very disturbing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We need to get a clear understanding of what an AAB student is. In our current system if a student checks both ‘AAB’ and ‘Hispanic’ then they are categorized as ‘Hispanic’. ■ Another question for DAS: ‘Who is black?’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How students are identified is highly affected by resource distribution. Students can have multiple identities, but how can we phrase that question to ensure they’re still getting the resources? ● The ‘Multiracial’ category needs to be desegregated in order to better represent various communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How the survey is designed is a part of the problem. It’s a structural problem. ○ If folks are diluting websites and data due to fear, how can we stay in alignment to either encourage them to post data safely, or keep encouraging them if it becomes controversial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Entities across the state are looking to us to set the tone or tempo for how to move in this new time we’re finding ourselves in. <p>○ Recruiting the right members for this group is highly important and possibly by doing these site visits we’re able to bring in incredible new members to push this work forward.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p> <p>11:03 a.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January Meeting Minutes to be approved during the March meeting.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2025, 9:00 - 11:00 am in person at Public Service Building in Salem, Oregon.