
**Financial Empowerment Advisory Team
Meeting Notes
November 8, 2023**

Team Members Present: State Treasurer Tobias Read, Chair
Julia Carlson, CEO, Financial Freedom Wealth Management Group
Scott Cooper, Director, NeighborImpact
Margaret Doherty, Former Legislator and Educator
George Katsinis, Accredited Financial Counselor – OR Military
Prem Mathew, Associate Dean, Oregon State University
Josie Molloy, Director, Grants Pass Josephine County Chamber of Commerce
Erin Moore, Government Relations Director, OnPoint Community Credit Union
Guillermo Sandoval, Vice President, Financial Inclusion, Umpqua Bank
Bandana Shrestha, Executive Director, AARP Oregon

Technical Advisors- OR Agencies: Ellen Klem, Department of Justice
Amit Kobrowski, Oregon Department of Education
Joel Metlen, Department of Human Services
Codi Trudell, Department of Revenue
Craig Vattiat, Department of Consumer and Business Services
Lane Thompson, Department of Consumer and Business Services

Speakers: Theresa Cross, PEBB/Oregon Health Authority
Amaury Vogel, Oregon Values and Belief Center

Treasury Staff: Ashley Daigle, Strategy and Program Director
Caitlen Laue, Operations Director
Ryan Mann, Executive Director of OTSN
James Sinks, Financial Education Program Manager, OTSN
John Valley, Policy & Outreach Director
Peter Rector, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
Missy Simpson, Program Coordinator, OTSN

Attendees: Stacey Triplett, AARP

Treasurer Read called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Remarks

Treasurer Tobias Read welcomed the members of the Financial Empowerment Advisory Team and the public for the committee’s final quarterly meeting of 2023. This is the second anniversary for the Financial Empowerment Advisory Team. He thanked team members and technical advisers for their commitment and efforts across Oregon when it comes to improving the visibility of financial wellness, financial empowerment, financial inclusion and financial education, and noted that the heightened attention to the need for financial education was instrumental to the passage of Senate Bill 3 by the 2023 Oregon Legislature. He also thanked the Department of Education for holding a listening session in the

August meeting of the Financial Empowerment Advisory Team, and also for agreeing to be part of the agenda going forward as the agency implements the graduation requirements of a personal finance and lifeskills class.

Agenda Item 2 – Personal Finance Education / Senate Bill 3 Implementation

Beth Wigham, implementation lead for Senate Bill 3, and Amit Kobrowski, social science standards specialist, from Department of Education (ODE) discussed early steps toward the implementation of the graduation requirement and curriculum standards. The agency now includes the new requirements on their web page for the Oregon Diploma which lists the state's many graduation requirements, additional resources, and high school equivalency program. ODE created a Senate Bill 3 overview document, and it was sent out to the school districts, ESD's, and public charter schools. With the passing of Senate Bill 3, ODE is seeking a Program Analyst 3 position which will help to coordinate content standards panels and public engagement. The next steps will include assembling both a rulemaking group and advisory content panels to help evaluate other states' standards, career and readiness standards, and then build the administrative rules and standards for the Oregon courses. They described the difference between content standards and criteria, which will help guide how districts would obtain curriculum and instructional materials, and the timeline for districts and public charter schools to implement. The agency solicited feedback. In response to a question about teacher professional development, Wigham said the agency has not yet identified who will be able to teach the class and what sort of learning might be required. A copy of the PowerPoint is part of the records for this meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Roundtable Discussion

Treasurer Read asked the team to talk highlight Oregonians who have been doing great things in their respective communities or business sectors. Treasurer Read began with mentioning the good work the Unclaimed Property at Treasury does. Unclaimed Property receives money from a variety of sources when the owner of the assets cannot be located. It received \$133 million, which is a 45% increase from 2022 with 40 million shares of stock and 700 safety deposit boxes. \$65 million was returned back to owners last year. \$10 million of the \$65 million was part of a new program called Checks without Claims. Instead of waiting for people to initiate the claim, Treasury verifies a person's identity and sends money directly to them.

Bandana Shreshtha shared that AARP Foundation tax volunteers completed 18,000 returns helping Oregonians file taxes for free and helping them access the earned income tax credit.

Scott Cooper gave kudos to his team in Central Oregon for the account growth in the tax credit funded program that has been seen with the partnership with neighborhood partnerships. Because of its popularity, people have to get in through a lottery process.

Representative Doherty praised 211 and the work they are doing for people who have no money and helping them to transition into housing and getting them off the streets.

George Katsinis stated that HB 2071 passed affecting military pay when in state service. George is talking with service members to try and figure out the amendment process and get money back in their pockets from their service to our state.

Josie Molloy gave a shout out to Jeff Voigt who is a financial planner for Primerica and donates his time to local high schools and teaches a financial well being class. She said business owners and financial planners offer a great opportunity to tap in and help lead some high school classes.

Erin Moore shared the work of Portland Workforce Alliance, connecting young people in the region to a career and learning opportunities, including financial education as part of the experience.

Prem Matthew is continuing work on expanding student services under the Center for Advancing Financial Education umbrella that OSU, with a hope to begin connection with more people through county extension offices.

Juan Baez gave praise to all the financial aid and college access officials across the state, who are both helping to spark an increase in applications for state grants and private scholarships for next fall, and also are helping prepare for the launch of the new and better FAFSA federal financial aid system in December.

Ellen Klem praised the Elder Abuse team at the Oregon Department of Justice, who put together a pocket guide for law enforcement that offered resources on what to do if you showup to a scene and somebody has for example, wired money to their grandson in Mexico, or purchased crypto currency. It was unveiled at the 17th annual Elder Abuse Conference and there's interest in getting more copies into the hands of local law enforcement statewide.

Craig Vattiat highlighted Cori Mielke who was previously the director of Outreach and Learning for FactOregon. She is now with the Salem-Keizer School District but has built a fantastic financial empowerment program at FactOregon.

Lane Thompson gave a shout out to Rebekah Bassett with CASA of Oregon, and the work she has done with home ownership, housing, counseling and the IDA program.

Joel Metlen highlighted that open enrollment for health insurance is going on right now, so DHS has had a high volume of calls for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Joel also wanted to state that there are other ways to access OHP, like going online or coming into their office to save time waiting in a queue on the phone.

Codi Trudell recognized her colleagues at the Department of Revenue is gearing up with the huge kicker coming out and mentioned the Oregon kid's credit. Codi also praised Vita Clinics, AARP for helping with low-income tax clinics, and 211 for their free tax services to taxpayers. She also suggested that members could volunteer to help prepare taxes.

Agenda Item 4 – Spotlight: Financial Wellness for Oregon Teachers and Public Workers

Teresa Cross, wellness manager at the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) and the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB), gave a presentation on the programs and resources that OEBB and PEBB members have available to support their financial well-being. A copy of the PowerPoint and samples of their newsletters is part of the records for this meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Raising visibility: 211info partnership review and looking ahead

James Sinks presented an update on the two-year-old Treasury and 211info partnership which included the traffic, highlights, and 2024 goals for the statewide financial wellness resource hub. Craig Vattiat included detail about how BankOn Oregon's efforts to better connect Oregonians with accounts could be enhanced by adding information about institutions to 211info. A copy of the PowerPoint is part of the records for this meeting.

Agenda Item 6 –Benchmarks and data: Financial Wellness Scorecard polling and update

Amaury Vogel and Prem Matthew shared the benchmarks and data from the polling of the Financial Wellness Scorecard that took place October 18th through the 26th. A copy of the PowerPoint is part of the records for this meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Advisory team business and advance calendar

Treasurer Read reminded the advisory team about gathering nominations for the Financial Empowerment Awards for 2024. Also, he reminded the team that if they have classes or events that are geared towards the mission of improving financial wellness, to please let staff know so that they can include it on Treasury’s statewide calendar.

Agenda Item 8 – PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.