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P-20W Advisory Council Report- December 1, 2015

The P-20W Advisory Council met once as a whole during the quarter and two subcommittees of the Council each met. Below is a summary of the Council meetings.

Summary of October 2 Council Meeting

Nevada's SLDS, called NPWR- Nevada P-20 through Workforce Research Data System, is governed by three state agencies- the Department of Education (NDE), the System of Higher Education (NSHE) and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). The three agencies have drafted a cooperative agreement to manage priorities and the strategic direction of NPWR, establish a research agenda, and establish policies and procedures concerning data governance. At the meeting, it was reported that the agreement was awaiting final signatures from each of the three agencies.

At the meeting, NDE reported that the state had applied for a \$6 million grant from the federal government to expand NPWR and was not successful. However, all parties felt that Nevada's application was competitive and would put the state in a better position to secure federal expansion funding in the future. The state was in the process of receiving and analyzing feedback from the grantor.

In order to explain the purpose of NPWR and how data is secured, the three agencies have developed a series of short explanatory videos targeted at an audience unfamiliar with longitudinal data systems. The videos will play an important part in the group's stakeholder outreach and education efforts.

At the previous meeting, the Council asked the three agencies to provide more in-depth information about NPWR and create a list of possible research priorities for the Council to approve. At the October 2 meeting, NSHE gave several examples of reports NPWR is able to provide, such as wage data by program of study. NSHE presented a list of research priorities for the Council created in partnership with NDE and DETR. The goal of the reports produced by NPWR is to inform policymakers' efforts with data to achieve Nevada's goal of 60% college attainment. The research priorities, attached below, were approved unanimously. Staff from the three agencies were asked to return to present the results of the first reports on workforce supply and demand, college readiness, and math pathways.

Following the presentation, the Council identified two topics in need of a more in-depth discussion and voted to create two subcommittees to discuss and bring recommendations to the full Council at its December 10 meeting: one subcommittee would address early education transitions and the second would discuss stakeholder outreach. A more detailed accounting for the subcommittees' actions is below.

The Council also heard a presentation from Mr. Richard Laine, an education expert from the National Governors Association. Mr. Laine spoke about the importance of standards in preparing students for college and career, the use of data, building strong partnerships between education and employers, and the need for asset maps to most effectively use resources.

Summary of Stakeholders Subcommittee Meeting

Given the potential value of the information contained in the reports to audiences beyond the three agencies involved with NPWR, the Council charged the Stakeholders Subcommittee to work with the three agencies to establish a policy regarding NPWR report formatting and distribution for the benefit of NPWR's stakeholders.

The Subcommittee, made up of members of the Council, met with representatives of the three agencies and the public and discussed the steps NPWR researchers should take ensure outside stakeholders are engaged with each report. After a discussion, members of the Council asked NPWR researchers to develop a policy regarding stakeholder outreach to be followed after each report is finalized. The following is a list of elements Council members suggested should be included in the policy:

- Identify parties which would potentially be interested in the information contained in the report, i.e. local governments, economic development agencies, school districts including school counselors, university researchers, researchers at other state agencies, local workforce development boards etc. The public information officers of NDE, NSHE, and DETR should be involved in this process.
- Create stakeholder focused executive summaries of each report and draw sample conclusions that answer potential questions of interest and demonstrate the value of the report.
- Proactively send the report to stakeholders rather than just posting it on the website.
- Schedule demonstrations of the report with interested stakeholders and provide assistance with questions.
- Keep track of data derived from the report that is cited by the media.

NSHE, NDE, and DETR committed to developing a formal policy for presentation and approval at the full Council meeting on December 10.

Summary of P-3 Subcommittee Meeting

The P-3 Subcommittee was charged with researching and providing recommendations on ways to improve transitions from early grades (preschool through third grade) to later grades and set a strong foundation for early learners. In addition, this subcommittee also explores what P-3 data is currently available for inclusion in the state longitudinal data system (SLDS) and what additional data should be collected in order to guide future policy decisions.

The P-3 Subcommittee met with invited early childhood education experts and representatives from the Nevada Department of Education regarding national best practices, Nevada's current status, and recommendations the P-20W Council should consider. The conversation regarding data concentrated on linking Pre-K data with the SLDS, future research questions to ask of the SLDS data, and recommending new data elements that might not exist. The subcommittee and meeting attendees also discussed data limitations and the possibility of collecting data across agencies and forging partnerships. The subcommittee then entered into discussion best practices and research regarding transitions from early grades (P-3) to later grades including family engagement, assessment, vertical and horizontal alignment of standards, language and communication, and interagency collaboration.

The P-3 Subcommittee will meet again on December 4, 2015 to further discuss these topics and develop recommendations to present to the full P-20W Council on December 10, 2015.