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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

DATE:

TO: Jeffrey Renk, Senate Chief Clerk
Patrick E. Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk

FROM: Eloise Anderson, Secretary

RE: **2017 Annual Read to Lead Development Council Operations Report**

S.48.53(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires the Read to Lead Development Council to report annually to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature on its operations. This report will also address the recommendations from the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Legislative Audit Bureau Report. This report is being provided for your information only. No action is required.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. The report is attached for your consideration.

Attachments: 2017 Annual Read to Lead Development Council Operations Report

CC: Governor Scott Walker
Senator Luther Olson, Senate Committee on Education Chairman
Representative Jeremey Thiesfeldt, Assembly Committee on Education Chairman
Senator Chris Larson, 7th Senate District
Representative Sony Pope, 80th Assembly District
Barb Novak, Department of Public Instruction Designee



WISCONSIN

Read To Lead

2017 Annual Operations Report

Council Meetings

The Read to Lead Development Council met a total of two times in 2017. The dates and topics covered include:

1. March 6, 2017 1:00-3:00
 - A presentation on the Ready4K text message program was given by Tiffany Graham of ParentPowered. Ready4K is text message program for parents of young children that offers facts and tips to facilitate literacy skill growth.

2. July 13, 2017 9:00-11:00
 - A presentation was given by Chloe Gibbs from Notre Dame on a potential study design to partner with the Ready4K text message program roll-out in Wisconsin.

Grants

There were no grants issued in 2017.

Legislative Audit Bureau Report

The Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released their annual report on November 28, 2017. This report recommended that the Department of Children and Families (1) follow its standard grant award procedures in awarding future grant funds, (2) encourage the Read to Lead Development Council to develop a formal position on soliciting funding to support literacy grants, and (3) develop and implement a plan to recruit new Read to Lead Development Council members and ensure there is a sufficient number of members to achieve a quorum.

At the May 8, 2018 Read to Lead Development Council meeting a motion was unanimously passed to approve the formal position that the Read to Lead Development Council would not fundraise and would rely solely on the funding and resources provided from the legislature.

In August of 2017 a significant effort was started to recruit new Council members and ensure that a quorum of engaged members with meaningful expertise in a related content areas would be present at each meeting. Each applicant completed an application and submitted a cover letter along with a current resume. If the applicant was someone unknown to the Department of Children and Families a brief informal phone call was scheduled to learn a little extra about the applicant. This effort occurred in two major phases.

The first phase started on August 1, 2017 an email was sent all current Council members, explaining that all three year appointments were coming to an end. Council members who had been attending and were interested in early literacy were asked if they would like to continue on the Council for another three year term. The deadline for response was August 5, 2017. A response was received from all, but two members. Follow-up communication was sent and only one member never responded.

Starting in October of 2017 recruitment letters and an application were sent to a few individuals that the Secretary thought would be interested in joining the Council. Five new members were appointed from this effort.

At the March 5, 2018 Council meeting the Council members were asked to share the application with anyone they thought would be interested and make a good addition to the Council. They were also asked to share any names so that applications could be sent out. As a result the second major recruitment effort was started in March of 2018 and 6 additional new members were appointed.

Read to Lead Development Council Members as of May 15, 2018

Secretary of the Department of Children and Families

Eloise Anderson

Designee of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Barbara Novak

Chair, Senate Committee of Education

Senator Luther Olson

Chair, Assembly Committee on Education

Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt

Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee of Education

Senator Chris Larson

Ranking Minority Member, Assembly Committee on Education

Representative Sony Pope

Practicing Educators

Jill Riley

Suzette Preston

Kelly Luedeke – elementary education

Vacant – secondary education

Philanthropic Community Representatives

Jill Hoiting

Wanda Montgomery

Rowan Childs

Business Community Representatives

Jeff Roepsch

Mark Tyler

Vacant

Literacy Organization Representatives and Others

Michele Erikson – Wisconsin Literacy Association

Lynda Kohler – SHARP Literacy

Brooke Newberry - Wisconsin Library Association

Craig Albers - Research Community

Dipesh Navsaria – Reach Out and Read

Tammy Tillotson - International Dyslexia Association

Wisconsin State Reading Association

Wisconsin Reading Coalition

Organization that has its mission to service children with various types of disabilities