AFFORDABILITY, FOOD & HOUSING ACCESS TASKFORCE
Real Solutions to Real Challenges

Monday, August 14, 2023
10:00AM – 3:00PM
Hybrid Retreat @ CCLC's Office

RETREAT SUMMARY

<u>In Attendance:</u> Dorothy Battenfeld, Rudy Besikof, Carie Camacho, Keith Curry, Marilyn Flores, Colleen Ganley, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, Andra Hoffman, Rebekah Kalleen, James Preston, Diana Rodriguez, Matt Wetstein. League Staff: Sadie Brown, Nune Garipian, Andrew Martinez, Lisa Mealoy.

- **WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW**
  - Co-chairs Tammeil Gilkerson and Matt Wetstein started the meeting by having each committee member introduce themselves followed by answering an ice breaker question.
  - Real College California Coalition SWAG has been purchased (t-shirts, crewneck sweaters, reusable utensils) and will be disseminated to committee members after the retreat. Sadie Brown will mail SWAG to committee members not in attendance at the League's office. Sadie Brown will also send SWAG to Erwin Quiroz as a "thank you" for his work on the logo redesign and to add to his professional/academic portfolio.

- **BASIC NEEDS SURVEY REPORT AND DISCUSSION**
  - Tammeil shared that the Chancellor's Office approved the $50,000 grant to support the Basic Needs Survey Report and that they have been invoiced for the amount due. Lizette Narvarette submitted a [PO](#) to the League and confirmed that payment should be received soon. With additional funds to support the survey, the committee elected to opt in to the RP Group's additional services outlined in Option B on the [proposal](#) (page 4).
  - The committee reviewed the [confidential draft of the Basic Needs Survey Report](#) and discussed the below highlights:
    - 66,000 students from over 88 California community colleges participated in the survey, "revealing that two out of every three CCC students grapple with at least one basic needs insecurity. Nearly half of CCC students are food insecure, almost 3 out of 5 are housing insecure, and about 1 in 4 are homeless."
    - RP Group sent participating college contacts (researchers) their aggregated data the week of August 7. Statewide data will be made available to all CCCs upon the release of the report on September 11.
    - The below edits/additions will need to be made to the report:
      - Page 8 - Male and female percentage data will need to be switched

- Page 13 - Add figure with regional definitions and label dots
- Pages 24 - 27 - Add the below opportunities (suggestions from committee members):
  - Opportunity #2 (Rudy Besikof): Within the communication/coordination efforts, analysis should be done to further disaggregate conditions for students over 25, as they constituted 45% of the response sample in the study. Doing so will provide more information and -ultimately – support for part-time students and those who may also have dependents. Further, among respondents, unit load should be brought into consideration to determine likelihood students falling in age groups will attend full/part time. Doing so will also establish conditions among students not receiving financial aid.
  - Opportunity #3 (Rudy Besikof): While much of policy and perception around housing seems to be designed to meet needs skewing toward the full-time, no-dependent student, amplifying resources and partnering will community partners will create networks of support more likely to serve all students, especially attending school past the traditional ages of 18-21. Given realities such as inflation and continued cost of living increases, our system should expect more students returning to school to advance in the workforce or begin a new career path, especially since 67% of respondents in the sample suggest that 2 in 3 students attending community college are at least 21 years old.
  - Opportunity #4 (Matt Wetstein): The data on food and housing insecurity identified in this report suggest that federal and state financial aid policy has failed students in the CCC system. In some parts of the state, the maximum Pell Grant covers only two or three months of rent for a two-bedroom apartment. Among students receiving Pell grants, 26% still report being homeless and 2/3rd report levels of housing insecurity. Cal Grants for CCC students only cover tuition for courses, leaving housing and other related costs of living at the disposal of students. These figures echo earlier research by Nicole Restmeyer (2018) that demonstrated that the combination of state and federal financial aid programs make it less costly to attend CSU and UC campuses. While the State Legislature took steps to enact state financial aid reforms in 2022, the dollars to strengthen CCC financial aid have not been delivered.
    - Two policy recommendations: 1) Advocate for increases in the Pell Grant in Congress, such as the "double the Pell" initiative in the current Congress. 2) Advocate for increases in Cal Grant in line with 2022 legislation that allows CCC students to receive funding to cover the full cost of college attendanceNicole Restmeyer. 2018. College Ready, Hungry, and Homeless. Sacramento: Speaker's Office of Research and Analysis. https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/images/college-ready-hungr

y-and-homeless_assembly_office_of_research.pdf

- Page 35 - Update Andrew Martinez's title to "Senior Director of Government Relations" and Nune Garipian's title to "Senior Policy Advocate"
- Page 36 - Update Martha Garcia's title to "President & CEO" and add accent to i in "Río Hondo College"
- Next Steps to Publication:
  - Collect edits and add to draft report
  - Send updated draft report to RP Group
  - Final edits and approval
  - Send final draft to CCLC communications team to complete publication
    - Soft copy to be released September 11
    - Hard copies available by September 25
  - Webinar to present the data on September 26
  - Present on the survey at the following conferences
    - Student Success Conference: October
    - CCLC Annual Convention: November
- Request from CCLC communications team for CEOs to send Lori Bachand (lori@ccleague.org) pictures and student contacts who will provide testimonials to include in the report as well as social media posts. Tammeil and Lori will connect regarding details about the press release (Keith Curry mentioned that EdSource will likely pick up the report and write a story on the basic needs efforts).

- **BASIC NEEDS SUMMIT**
  - The Basic Needs Summit will take place on Friday, December 8.
  - The committee discussed rotating the conference between northern, central, and southern campuses, potentially moving to an event venue if the attendance grows beyond campus capacity.
  - Host Campus:
    - Evergreen Valley College - 2023 host
    - West Hills College Lemoore - 2024 host
    - Río Hondo College - bid for 2025
    - Compton College - 2028 host (10 year anniversary)
  - Cabrillo College agreed to support marketing efforts and to create the printed program for the 2023 summit..
  - The committee designated the following individuals to serve on the Basic Needs Summit sub-committee:
    - Diana Rodriguez, Matt Wetstein, Tammeil Gilkerson, and Martha Garcia (Martha only to meet with host college CEO to help onboard)
    - The sub-committee will need to address the following immediate needs:
      - Registration open date (typically September)
        - $200 non-members
        - $150 members
        - $25 students

- Call for Proposals open date (typically September)
  - The [2022 Summit](#) included 3 general sessions and 3 coaching session blocks with 6 concurrent sessions each.
- Conference Theme
- Keynote
  - Dr. Daniel Walker (Diana suggestion)
- Sponsorships (Keith to support this effort)
- Local hotel to host room blocks and Thursday Reception
  - Estimate 50 - 100 rooms in the block
    - 50-60 rooms were contracted for the 2022 summit

- **REAL COLLEGE CALIFORNIA COALITION**
  - Tammeil Gilkerson provided the below status update on the Project Manager position:
    - 15 applicants total
    - 7 finalists chosen; interviews scheduled for 8/18 and 8/22
      - Tammeil, Keith, Marilyn, and Sadie on interview panel
    - The Project Manager will work on the following goals:
      - Plan and coordinate the Basic Needs Summit
      - Plan and coordinate 2 regional convenings
      - Build and expand the Real College California Coalition membership
        - Goal of 100% participation from CCCs
      - Build and support an Advisory Committee
  - The committee discussed the below items regarding an **Advisory Committee** to support the Real College California Coalition as well as the Project Manager.
    - The goal is to form an Advisory Committee composed of diverse groups who can advise the taskforce and Program Manager on their needs.
      - Advisory Committee to include the following representatives:
        - 2 CSSOs
        - 2 CIOs
        - 2 Students
        - 2 Taskforce Members
        - 2 Community Partners
        - 3 Basic Needs Coordinators (1 from each region)
        - Colleen Ganley (Chancellor's Office Rep)
        - FCCC Rep (potentially)
    - The committee will announce the Advisory Committee and its members at the Basic Needs Summit.
  - Regional Convenings
    - The committee determined that there would be no charge to members to attend the regional convenings and discussed that it would be best to follow the CSSO meeting schedule so that the convenings align with student services. The Program Manager will work to build and coordinate these convenings. More information to come upon their hire

and onboarding.
- Proposed Coalition Taglines
  - The below taglines were sent via email after the retreat.
    - Real challenges, Real Solutions….Real College California
    - Real problems, Real Solutions, Ret Real…Real College California
    - Real College, Real Help
    - Real College, Real Advocacy
    - Real College, Real Results

- **GOAL SETTING**
  - The committee reviewed the below 2022-2023 goals.

2022-2023 GOALS REVIEW	SUB-COMMITTEE	PROGRESS	NOTES
Reimagining the #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition ● Contract system-wide survey	Keith Curry, James Preston, Marilyn Flores	**COMPLETED**	Continue to update taskforce webpage and revamp materials with new logo; determine coalition benefits and plan future convenings; staffing discussion to continue **Highlight: the coalition represents 80% of California community colleges!**

Resources and Access (possible brief)
1. Zero Cost Textbooks
   a. How will $115M be spent?
2. Broadband Access
   a. Revisit 2021 CEO Survey for feedback
   b. Technology focus
3. OER
	James Preston, Rudy Besikof (broadband)	**INCOMPLETE**	Will address possible brief in Summer 2023; starter kit & best practices; potentially offer a session on this topic at the Summit, CCLC Annual Convention, Legislative Conference, and or at the regional convenings, making sure to target CSSOs; consider this topic as a theme for the Summit, "What does it mean to be burden free?"

Free Meals for Students on Campus ● Legislative goal ● EBT and requirements for campus-based vendors ● Recommendations for contracts and updated board policies ● Report on how campuses do their services (in-house vs. contract out) ○ Survey campuses for data; potential brief next year	Andy Martinez, Colleen Ganley	**INCOMPLETE**	May prioritize Free Meals goal in the Summer/Fall to coincide with Federal advocacy efforts surrounding a potential amendment ensuring that restaurant meal programs would be eligible to CC students
Financial Aid | Cost of Attendance (possible brief) ● #DoubleThePell ● State and Federal Advocacy ● Webinar series for CEOs ● Session at Legislative Conference	Matt Wetstein, Rudy Besikof, John Hernandez, Adrienne Grey, Colleen Ganley (interested to learn more)	**COMPLETED**	Link to brief; general session at CCLC's Annual Trustees Conference
Housing 2.0 (possible brief) ● Implementation ● Affordability & Sustainability ● Restate cost of living (regional focus) ○ Chief Financial Aid Officers to be included in conversation; partner on writing and advocacy	Andra Hoffman, Rebekah Cearley, Carie Camacho, Dorothy Battenfeld, Nune Garipian, Lisa Mealoy	**COMPLETED**	Link to brief; GR team completing Student Housing handout; session at CCLC's Annual Legislative Conference

○ The taskforce determined the below items as goals for the 2023-2024 year.

2023-2024 GOALS (4 Goals)	NOTES

Basic Needs Report Release
● Present at conferences
    ○ Trustees & CEOs, CSSOs, Practitioners
    ○ Dedicated effort to submit proposals for CCLC and other conferences
● Research insecure student groups "why?"
● Compare new data from brief to previous briefs
● Advocacy around report	

Build & Grow Real College California Coalition ● Develop infrastructure ● Basic Needs Summit ● Hiring Program Manager ● Build Advisory Committee (see below) ● Schedule regional convenings/meetings (tie in briefs and new report) Build Advisory Committee - Invite different categories of students, staff, associations and community partners to participate in the advisory committee ● **Goal: 100% participation for CCCs (member engagement)** ● Highlight services, resources, and funds available on campus (develop basic needs network and encourage participation statewide)	
Advocacy & Legislature ● Advocacy on all briefs (housing 1 & 2, transportation, food, financial aid, basic needs report) ● Schedule regional meetings	Consider brief on childcare (or childcare to remain as an emphasis in housing and financial aid briefs) Partner with CCPRO to award a basic needs champion (Matt to reach out to CCPRO board)
"What does it mean to be burden free?" ZTC & OER ● $20,000 released to each college ● $90M left ● Burden Free Taskforce ● CCCCO is doing a lot of work in this area; how do we avoid duplicating efforts? ● Advocacy as opposed to best practices toolkit ← ○ Legislature interested in updates on where we are with ZTC, OER and Broadband access	Potential brief to support advocacy efforts

- **2023-2024 MEETING SCHEDULE & CLOSING REMARKS**
  ○ The committee selected the below meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 year. The schedule will loosely follow every 4th Friday of the month, 7:30am - 8:30am. CCLC will send out calendar invites for each meeting by the end of the week.
    - Friday, September 29 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, October 27 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - November | Break
    - Thursday, December 7 | 3:00pm - 4:30pm | Hybrid
    - Friday, January 12 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, February 23 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, March 29 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, April 26 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, May 31 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - Friday, June 28 | 7:30am - 8:30am | Zoom
    - July | Break

- - August | Retreat | TBD
  - Sadie Brown accepted a new position in the UC System and her last day at CCLC will be Friday, August 25. CCLC's executive team will work to appoint a new/interim staff person to support the taskforce and will follow up with the co-chairs and committee with that announcement.
  - Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.

Real College California