# SUN™ Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

July 6, 2012

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

# MEETING NOTES

## Attendance

**Members Present:** Joanne Fuller (Co-Chair), Bill Scott (Co-Chair), Gerald Deloney, James Hiu, Joshua Todd, Roberta Phillip, John Richmond, Susan Myers, Lisa Pellegrino, Lee Po Cha, Rick Nitti, Mary Richardson (alt), Samir Raad (alt),

**Also Attending:** Peggy Samolinski, Linda Castillo (alt), Diana Hall, Emanuel Price, Matt Morton, Morgan Barry, Rolando Cruz, Sonali Balajee, Lori Kenney

Alt = alternate member

## Updates/Announcements

* James Hiu has been named Deputy Superintendent for the Gresham Barlow School District. Congratulations James!
* Nichole Maher Nichole will be the new CEO and president for NW Health Foundation, beginning August 6th. We wish Nichole the best and are glad she will continue to be a presence in the community.
* Council Seat Changes Linda Castillo has been named the alternate for Lee Po Cha’s seat representing the Coalition of Communities of Color. Welcome Linda!

* Mott Diana reported that Mott Foundation’s Student Success Network will be bringing a team of representatives from four states to Portland next week. SUN will host them at Faubion, with Barbara Kienle, Lisa Pellegrino and others involved with the visit.
* SUN Article for Federal Reserve Bank The San Francisco branch of the Federal Reserve Bank has a community development focus and recently contacted Diana, asking if she could write an article for publication about SUN Community Schools. They see community schools as part of their promotion of community economic development. This unlikely source of national recognition and visibility for SUN underscores the economic viability it brings to our communities. The publication will also feature an article about STRIVE by Jeff Edmundson.
* SUN Outreach Visits The next round of outreach visits will begin next week with visits to the Reynolds and David Douglas School Boards. Additional visits will be set with all school boards and the staff of City and County commissioners. Please let Lori Kenney know if you are interested in being involved in any of the visits.
* Anti-Poverty System Assessment Josh let members know that as the County’s community action board, the Commission on Children, Families & Community has just completed an assessment of anti-poverty services delivered through the SUN Service System and will be publishing a report on lessons learned. Josh offered to bring this to the September Council meeting.
* County Auditor The auditor is completing her report on the SUN Service System and will be back at our September or October meeting to share an overview.

## Lead Agencies Selected for New SUN CS Sites

Peggy reported that there was a group interview of the current regional Lead Agency and all interested culturally specific providers about four weeks ago for the three new SUN sites. The interview panel included representatives from all three schools/school districts. Roberta was present for the interview process as a representative of the SUN Council and said the process went well, with providers taking the opportunity to share stories and talk about data points. Out of that interview process, the following agencies were selected:

* El Programa for Wilkes Elementary in Reynolds
* MFS for Highland Elementary in Gresham Barlow
* Self Enhancement for Prescott Elementary in Parkrose

This interview process was adopted by the Council for this year’s selection and will be used for any additional SUN sites between now and the new RFP.

## Every School a SUN Community School Work Group

Bill provided an overview of the June 27th Every School Work Group meeting. The work group focused on identifying additional outreach needed to take this effort to the next level. One of the groups identified is the faith community, both in terms of connecting their constituents to needed services and also for them to have easy access for a way to put their resources to work locally. Churches and some network groups are already connected with SUN, the Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative and schools, but not in any systemic way.

Barbara Willer, the County’s new Interfaith Coordinator attended the work group meeting and discussed how she and her partner Raffaele (who has 10 years of faith organizing in NYC with immigrant and other difficult to reach groups) are making connections with the County’s faith communities. They have mapped 750 faith sites throughout the County (250 in East County) and have basic information about the services they provide and those they need. Barbara and SUN Staff will be developing a list of 5-10 faith networks or groups ripe for outreach and we will begin making those visits this fall, with either Barbara or Raffaele joining us.

The work group will also be looking at the characteristics of the 80 remaining schools that are not SUN sites, with particular focus on the next 20 or 25 on the poverty index list. Bill also referred to a funding matrix shared by Hartford Community Schools at the San Francisco Community Schools Forum. This matrix may be useful to show funding sources for each community school, with some standard core funding from system sponsors, and the rest related to local resources. Bill encouraged more participation on this work group from culturally specific providers.

## Equity Framework Opportunity

Joanne prefaced a presentation by Sonali Balajee on the County’s Equity Lens by reviewing last month’s Council conversation on equity. Not only does the SUN Council want to have an agreement about equity that we can use to guide and monitor our work (including the determination of equitable distribution of resources); we also want to have our discussion be connected to the community definition of equity so partners in the community are working with the same understanding.

Sonali has led the development of the County’s Equity Lens as a tool for framing decisions at all levels in the organization. The tool is in its finalization and piloting phase. Roberta and Josh are both involved as coaches and trainers for this new Lens. Eventually, the County will adopt the lens for use across all County Departments and efforts.

Sonali presented a basic overview of the Lens (full slide show is attached). At its core, the County’s Equity Lens is really about quality improvement. Sonali explained that this lens will help guide people to address the root causes of inequity. Because most equity lens efforts have begun in County health departments, “health” is being reframed in a more global sense for this work. Sonali said she was pleased to find that SUN’s outcomes are also social determinants of equity (inclusion, collaborative and integrated across agencies, jurisdictions and funders) and SUN’s vision is in line with the lens on a national level.

Systems tend to conserve and keep things the way they are. Organizations have a tendency to hold onto what they have always done because there is so much invested in the status quo, even the things that don’t work well. Equity is both a goal and an ideal – where we are headed. We certainly won’t get there quickly but we can make progress and movement toward our ideal. The County is aligning their equity efforts to those of PPS and the Urban League. The lens calls out both equity and empowerment. Empowerment needs to happen at the individual, community and organizational levels.

Key questions in the equity lens are as follows:

* Assessment of what is already being done and ties to social equity (mission, etc.)
* Democratizing the data. How is data being gathered, transformed and made accessible?
* Connection to people. Who benefits positively and negatively from your work?
* Connection to place. Geographic and economic conditions; hiring practices; environmental.
* Connection to processes. What brings about inclusion or exclusion of communities of color?
* Track the flow of resources.
* Identify the barriers – emotional, political, financial, legal.

Joanne said the County is taking a lot of care to avoid developing a formal policy too quickly and without being well grounded. There can be a tendency to push forward to develop a policy that is just empty words. Gerald advocated for building capacity so those with the most issues have a chance to work on them and we can begin to see movement. This work will need to happen in stages. Joanne confirmed that this needs to be about empowerment instead of others trying to “fix” it for them. In the context of equity, Gerald voiced a concern about staying conscious of ensuring that the move to Every School a SUN community school could end up diluting resources available to the most needy communities and take us in an unintended direction.

Sonali said that the equity lens process is very organic and not necessarily linear. It is easy to create a policy and even a structure with a person representing equity, but all six elements are needed for this to work:

* Shift in social/cultural norms
* Strengthened organizational capacity
* Strengthened partnerships
* Strengthened base of support
* Improved policies
* Changes in social impact

Racism is only relevant when you have power to make decisions that impact yourself and others. When dealing with racism in the political setting, you must engage unlikely partners.

Bill asked members how they wanted to move forward with the equity conversation. Members were in agreement that the Equity Lens will provide a good structure to go deeper into understanding equity in a sustainable way. There was a suggestion to set aside a longer meeting to get a full picture of the equity lens. Gerald stressed the importance of having an agreed upon definition that everyone uses to do their work.

*Next Steps:*

* *Staff will poll members about possible times to hold a 4-6 hour retreat on the Equity Lens this fall.*
* *There will be more discussion about equity at the August SUN Council meeting.*
* *Peggy will bring an RFP timeline to the August meeting that indicates key decisions needed and timelines for those decisions to be made.*

## Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative

The Communities Supporting Youth will have its sixth meeting next Friday, when we will be seeking endorsement of the Charter. Next steps for the collaborative will be to develop a goal and then strategies and action plans.

The Council has already seen the Description and Problem Statement and we wanted to have the opportunity to review the draft Scope and Mission as well. At the June collaborative meeting, several collaborative members spoke about engagement (cognitive, emotional and behavioral), attendance and discipline, and a panel of youth spoke about their experiences with school. Collaborative members resonated with engagement as a priority for the initial scope. Because measures for engagement such as the Health Teen Survey are not consistently available across districts, the collaborative is suggesting that enrollment, attendance and completion serve as measures of engagement at this time. Attachment was mentioned as a possible measure of engagement. Josh suggested that discipline referrals are also a good proxy. Josh also asked that language be changed in the Problem Statement to reflect that discipline often happens for “subjective reasons” rather than “for minor infractions.”

Joanne said that Sonali’s visual of the connection to root causes of racism is very relevant to scope development for the collaborative since we want to change the way we do business by moving upstream.

*Next Steps:*

* *Josh will send an email to the Communities Supporting Youth contact, Eliz Roser, about SUN Council input to the Charter.*
* *The Council will brainstorm potential actions for the collaborative at the August Council meeting.*
* *Lori will share the equity visuals with Kira Higgs, facilitator for the collaborative.*

## Upcoming Council Meeting Dates/Times:

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| **Coordinating Council:**Friday, August 3, 20128:30 – 10:30 am Multnomah Building, Room 112501 SE Hawthorne**Future Coordinating Council Meetings**\*: *(\*All are from 8:30-10:30 a.m.)*Friday, September 7, Room 112Friday, October 5, Room 112Friday, November 2, Room 112 |  | **Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative**Friday, August 10, 20128:30 – 10:30 a.m.Location to be determined **Every School a SUN CS Workgroup**Wednesday, July 31, 201210:00 – 11:30 a.m.Multnomah Building, Room 635 |  |