

SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

March 20, 2009
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Lorenzo Poe (Chair), Joanne Fuller, Krista Larson, Barbara Kienle, Bill Scott, Lisa Turpel, Jerry Burns, Gloria Wiggins, Willie Poinsette, Nichole Maher, Lisa Pellegrino, Jim Schlachter

Alt = alternate member

Also Attending: Mary Richardson, Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Lori Kenney

Public Comment: (none)

Updates

Education Cabinet: Lorenzo reported that the March Education Cabinet meeting was well attended, with the group approving three short-term strategies presented by the Strategy Team:

1. 9th Grade Counts: a support structure that will be in place this summer for students transitioning to high school
2. Multnomah/Portland Youth Corps: a program offering mentors, exposure to jobs and the labor market, job shadowing and summer enrichment options to 500 students (includes 8th graders)
3. Scholarships for students of the Class of 2013 for higher education

The Strategy Team is currently focusing their energies on these strategies. In addition, EcoNorthwest has been asked to conduct an inventory of all work currently being done to address drop-outs. The Coordinating Council will get a copy of that report when it is complete. WorkSystems Inc. will be providing jobs for students ages 16-24 this summer. The Stimulus Package will be bringing additional workforce development funding to serve 250+ young people. Nate Waas Shull at the Portland Schools Foundation is in the process of packaging all of this into a cohesive "ask" for businesses and providers. The Coordinating Council is loaning some of Lori Kenney's staff support time to the Cabinet for the next three months, while Kali Ladd is out on maternity leave.

Minnesota Visitors to Community Schools: Peggy announced that some folks from Minnesota will be visiting Portland April 15-16 to see how our community schools function. They will be visiting Lane Community School on April 15 from 2:30-3:00. Peggy requested that Council representatives come and speak about the role of the City of Portland in our partnership.

Grant Recommendations

Joanne Fuller let the Council know that the Resource Group had refined the Grant Guideline recommendations specifically for community schools at their March 6th Resource Meeting. Lisa Turpel presented the guidelines, noting they were no longer being called "Policy." The group also developed a set of talking points on the "implications" for the Guidelines to answer the "What do these mean to funders and partners?" question. The implications include the attempt to balance allocating funding to the

neediest schools while also moving toward our vision of “Every School a SUN Community School.” One implication is that providers not currently under contract “may participate as lead agencies for SUN Community Schools if they are chosen by the school district and meet expertise and capacity criteria.” Joanne suggested linking the Guidelines and implications to the previously developed document on Commitments and Benefits. Group members offered the following comments, questions and input:

- What month’s Free and Reduced lunch data will be used to update the poverty index? This document needs to state the date and how it will be updated. Diana answered that October is the month being used, as it is the one that ODE has consistently available across districts.
- The Grant Recommendations were developed keeping our vision of “Every School a SUN CS”
- Members expressed eagerness to begin developing a funding model for “Every School a SUN CS”

Next Steps:

- *Agreement: There was unanimous agreement to adopt the Grant Guidelines. These will be presented to Sponsors with a request for approval at our next Sponsor meeting.*
- *Council staff will create a document that links the Grant Guidelines, implications and Commitments/Benefits, and include the date for updating the poverty index.*
- *Council members agreed to use the most current data available whenever possible.*
- *Staff will add an agenda item to the next Council meeting regarding forming a group to develop a funding model for “Every School a SUN CS”*

SUN Service System Resourcing Issues

Agency Updates Lorenzo asked members to provide budget updates before discussing common messages we might want to convey to agencies as they move forward in their budget processes.

City

- Lisa Turpel reported that the City has held three community budget hearings, all well attended.
- Bureau budget presentations are currently happening. Commissioner Fish and Director Santner presented the Parks budget last Monday. There is a great deal of support for Parks with a potential result they may not sustain the full 5% cut, particularly the projected cuts of services to seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Lisa asked the Council for a statement of approval on their proposed site cut of MLC. The City has discussed the MLC decision with PPS and the district is in agreement. She passed out a document detailing key messages for the MLC community.
- If there is a possibility a site does not need to be cut, Parks plans to recommend funding another higher poverty site instead of MLC.
- A question was raised about what would happen in a situation when there is disagreement between the Council and the district about a proposed site cut. Every attempt would be made to come to agreement. The Allocation Methodology indicates that ultimately “funders, in consultation with affected partners include school districts and schools, shall decide whether to relocate or reduce funding for a site.”
- A \$35K pass-through cut is still likely; will need to address whether to cut another site since this cut will impact services.

Agreement:

- *If cuts are necessary within the Parks budget, the Coordinating Council is in agreement with the proposed cut of MLC, which is in alignment with the principles of the Allocation Methodology.*

County

- Joanne reported that the Chair is in the process of making budget decisions and will present his budget to the Executive Board on April 23rd. By April 17th, County staff will most likely be able to talk about the Chair's recommendations. He has a priority to keep SUN Community School sites open and funded as much as possible.
- The County is hoping that Parent Child Development Services can be restored, but the City and State budgets do not appear to be looking any better.

David Douglas

- Barb Kienle reported there will not be any cuts to staffing next year; they are making cuts in other ways.
- If middle schools around them begin to cut athletics, they will follow suit to be politically sensitive.
- Their biggest challenge is dealing with continuing growth but no room for expansion. They are trying to meet that demand within the financial constraints. There is a resistance to portables given the expense of permits and the fact that they never seem to be interim.

Gresham-Barlow

- Jim Schlachter reported that Reynolds is the only district cutting days. All other districts are making deep cuts for next year, and as more cuts are made, it becomes harder to fund SUN schools, particularly when general funds are being used.
- Gresham-Barlow has not used very much general fund, so their SUN CS are safer.
- The middle school's co-curricular activities (outside of the school day) may be the ones that get cut. This after school time is very important as it will leave many kids without things to do. Gresham-Barlow is talking with many agencies about helping with this. Jim noted this is another reason we need a long term funding model for working together.

PPS

- Willie Poinsette reported that Superintendent Smith has presented her budget, which does not include cutting any school days this year. However, there is significant belt-tightening. Many things have been shifted from the general fund to grants.
- PPS had been contributing \$200,000 to Touchstone but will not be able to sustain this. SUN will be losing three Touchstone positions in PPS due to this.
- Lorenzo has been talking with PPS (as well as other districts) about the possibility of contributing some Title 1 or other funds in SUN Community School sites, freeing up general funds. PPS is doing this as a pilot with non-Title funding, slowly working on growing, based on the spirit of a joint core mission. This is a particularly good year for this shift since some districts have large increases in Title \$. Another district has also set aside money and two more are considering. All of these funds will be kept within the district of origin.
- Joanne asked whether a group was needed to address how to handle the funds. Some districts might not necessarily produce enough to fund an entire SUN Community School.

CHIF

- Lisa Pellegrino said they are in the midst of organizing all the grant applications.
- A meeting has been set with the Allocation Committee for April 13th to allow time to discuss how grants/funding will be allocated. Lisa urged the Council to send a representative group to advocate for utilizing our Allocation Methodology for their funding decisions. After that meeting, people will know what to expect from CHIF's decision-making process.

Schools Family Housing

- Joanne reported on a conversation she had with BHCD – because of Resolution A, services are prioritized lower than bricks and mortar, so Schools Family Housing is in jeopardy. Some

stimulus money will be earmarked for housing and homelessness, although there is uncertainty whether it must be used for all new programs or can be used to backfill those being cut.

- Lisa reported that the new commissioner has given this a new name: School-Based Rent Assistance, however there has not been a decision yet whether to place this with the Mayor or a Commissioner.

DHS

- Since Jerry Burns had to leave early, Joanne provided a few details. The State is facing even larger revenue cuts than expected and has asked departments, including DHS, to take a 30% cut. This will have serious consequences for TANF and self-sufficiency.
- Ways and Means is considering whether to accept stimulus Medicaid because of a requirement for deep cuts to long term care for seniors. With those cuts, there would be little benefit to accepting the money.

Consistent Joint Message Members discussed what each agency needs in terms of advocacy:

1. Schools Family Housing (SFH)

- Superintendents are being asked to write letters of support, given the great outcomes. The County will provide a template.
- Since SFH is a prevention strategy, it is important to highlight results and how much can be leveraged with \$.5 million.
- Meeting personally with the superintendents and Chair Wheeler may be most effective, particularly with Commissioner Fish, since he works well engaging people.
- Letters are fine.
- May 21st public hearing may be the best place for personal stories about how a small amount of money helped avoid homelessness. There are families and landlords willing to testify.
- Follow up with the Mayor on this as a serious education strategy with a small price tag but big impact. The Mayor and Commissioner Fritz may have a positive influence on this issue. Commissioner Leonard is a big advocate of SFH.
- Data is available from PPS on retention and from other districts on the number of families protected.
- Joanne and Lorenzo will talk with Chair Wheeler about how this fits in with other conversations with the City.
- Bill offered to work this into his update (or possibly at a different place on the agenda where they address all that is vulnerable) at the March 31 Leaders Roundtable meeting.
- Messages regarding rent assistance should be coupled with messages about SUN Community Schools funding in the Parks budget.

Next Steps:

- *SUN staff will provide Bill with background information on SFH for the March 31 Leaders Roundtable meeting*
- *Joanne and Lorenzo will talk with Chair Wheeler about how this conversation fits in with other funding conversations with the Mayor*
- *District representatives will check with superintendents to see if they are willing to write letters*

2. Parent Child Development Services (PCDS)

- Have already had a lot of people talk about the value, including folks at the Safety Forum talking about how PCDS links to safety.
- If this is included in the Chair's budget, should be fine without more advocacy; if not, we should discuss at the April Council meeting.

3. Funding for Gangs

- Nichole and Gloria brought up the fact that gang services for youth are at risk in both the City and County budgets. They are not officially part of the SUN Service System, but are a critical partner service to SUN.
- Are trying to get grant funding for gang related issues to include other services in addition to outreach and enforcement. These support services are critical to the effectiveness of outreach and enforcement.
- Concern that the City waits for a shooting to allocate funding. Sends the message that a shooting is necessary before attention is given.
- Gang prevention folks are supporting the SSSES services.

4. CHIF

- Need Council representation from each sector at the April 13th public hearing with the Allocation Committee, 9-10:30 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.
- Lisa will make sure our issue is first on the agenda.
- An internal planning meeting with Lorenzo, Maxine, Bill and Nichole is scheduled for April 3, 1-2:30 p.m. to develop the message. All are invited to this meeting. Once the message is ready, Council staff will send it out to all.
- Contact will be made with the following individuals:
 - Dan Saltzman: schools (Barb); /county (Lorenzo or Joanne) get him to think of the system; may have to settle for a phone call given his busy schedule
 - Ron B.: PPS (Willie)/business (Bill); need to be really direct and on-point; his focus is the middle class
 - Alyssa: will respond well to all Council reps; County (Peggy and/or Joanne)/Provider
 - Adrienne: provider/?

Next Steps:

- *All who are interested are invited to a meeting to develop a message for CHIF: Friday, April 3, 2009, 1-2:30 p.m., Multnomah Building, Room 615*
- *Council staff will help coordinate individual contact meetings with CHIF and Council representatives as shown above, the week before April 13th.*
- *Council representatives to attend April 13th public hearing with CHIF Allocation Committee, 9-10:30 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.*

Grant Updates/Other Funding Opportunities

Diana provided a brief update that all sites with expiring grants have had a CHIF grant written for them. We are in the process of understanding what can be applied for with 21CCLC grants.

Peggy has been talking with the Coalition for Community Schools regarding ARRA (stimulus) funds. They have two potential pots of funding that provide opportunities for partnerships such as SUN: Innovation Funds and State Incentive Grants. Peggy has been researching whether either of these might be used for community schools or other services. Information will be sent out to Council members on these funds.

- Is it possible to coordinate efforts with Title 1 funding with the new stimulus \$\$?
- Possibility of using the SUN SS District Council as a forum to discuss this. Would want to have folks from districts responsible for federal programs at this conversation.
- Appeal to support the whole SUN Service System as well as community schools.

Next Steps:

- *The stimulus funding and opportunities to coordinate efforts will be discussed at the April 10th SUN SS Districts Council meeting at Midland Library, 10:30-Noon. District federal programs folks are invited to attend.*
- *Send contact information on district federal program contacts to Lori Kenney at lori.kenneyl@co.multnomah.or.us*

Distillation of Allocation Methodology

Peggy presented a distillation of the Allocation Methodology prepared by Diana, noting that the methodology balances poverty with some geographic equity throughout the County. Members reviewed the document and provided input:

- Group members recognized the Allocation Methodology was written at a specific time to address the needs of the SUN Service System RFP process.
- At the time this was written, in a collaborative spirit, Communities of Color agreed to not ask for portions of new revenue streams. They agreed on the County commitment to fund at least 30% toward culturally specific groups, even though they see their populations representing more than 30%. Communities of Color would like to revisit this earlier agreement as potential new funding streams come along. Members agreed this needs to be revisited.
- A paragraph should be added to describe the context of how/when this methodology was developed.
- The allocation specifics as written apply more broadly and consistently to community schools. A broader context is needed now to include the entire system beyond community schools.
- Include a new bullet addressing allocation with new resources.
- If United Way is funneling money through the system, would we ask them to follow the Allocation Methodology?
- Need to have this discussion very soon because of the immediacy of United Way and other funding streams.

Next Steps:

- *Diana and Lisa P. will work on revising this document and will discuss how best to address the issues raised, and whether we need a new group to work on this.*
- *Peggy or Joanne will communicate with Mary Li about the United Way process.*
- *Check in at the April meeting about the process for developing a broader methodology for new funding to services beyond the community schools.*

Council Staffing

Bill Scott briefly described that financial support for Council staffing this coming year will occur through the efforts of the Leaders Roundtable, the City and the County. Leaders Roundtable is prepared to make an on-going contribution, based on dues from members, and might consider taking on the role of contracting entity the following year by raising member dues to help support Council staffing. Diana has had some preliminary negotiations with the City, asking for future contributions given the loan of staffing support to the City over the next three months. Members are interested in making every effort to portray the joint effort the Council represents and talked about the possibility of relocating the website to the Leaders Roundtable and using a Council specific letterhead.

Upcoming Council and Workgroup Meeting Schedules

Evaluation Workgroup: Will meet again in April or May.

System Integration Workgroup: Joanne asked that the System Integration workgroup wait to meet again until the myriad budget/resource issues are resolved.

Resource Workgroup: No meetings scheduled.

Upcoming Council meetings are as follows:

- April 17, 2009
- May 15, 2009
- June 19, 2009

Next Meetings

Full Council:
Friday, April 17, 2009
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building,
Room 112
501 SE Hawthorne

Resource Workgroup:
No meeting scheduled

System Integration and Alignment: Meeting to be set after budget/resource issues resolved.

Data and Evaluation: Meeting to be set in April or May