

SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

February 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 June Maher, Lisa Pellegrino, Jim Schlachter

Alt = alternate member

Also Attending: Hector Roche, Maxine Thompson, Lee Po Cha, Robbie Weber, Jane Ames, Peggy Norman, Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Lori Kenney

Public Comment: (none)

Updates

Education Cabinet: Diana Hall, Lorenzo and Jane Ames provided a brief update on the work of the Education Cabinet. While the Chair and the Mayor are still co-chairing the Cabinet, the Mayor has asked Chair Wheeler to take a more prominent role in moving forward their joint agenda. Three initial short-term strategies have been identified: developing 9th Grade Counts; connecting youth to academic and mentorship support for a strong transition between 8th and 9th grade; a youth corps that provides job experience and internships; and scholarships/tuition waivers and assistance with job placement. The next meeting of the Education Cabinet is set for Monday, February 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the 1900 Building at 1900 SW 4th in Room 2500A.

PPS Council Alternate: Willie Poinsette announced that Robbie Weber, Director of Strategic Partnerships, will be replacing Dunya Minoo as the alternate for PPS on the Council.

SUN Service System Resourcing

Partner Budgets/Shortfalls Lorenzo noted that although budgets are fluid, the Council would like to keep tabs on the fiscal picture of the system. As we move forward, we would like to stay aware of partner shortfalls that impact SUN so we can avoid unintended consequences and plan accordingly.

County

- Joanne reported that the General Fund shortfall will be \$36.5 million for next year; \$45 million the following year, if no cuts were to be made this year.
- Departments were asked to submit their constraint budgets of a 12% reduction to the Chair with thoughtful reductions (not flat 12% cuts to everything). This 12% reduction is not enough to meet the 36.5 million shortfall. In the County's process, departments produce budgets and submit those to the Chair. The Chair will develop an executive budget, to be presented to the County Commissioners on April 23rd.
- Because this is the 8th year of budget cuts in the County, these decisions are being made on the heels of prior deep cuts, leaving no good choices. In the DCHS budget, a difficult decision was made to eliminate Parent Child Development Services (PDCS). This was especially difficult

because it is a very effective program, provided by a mix of regional and culturally specific providers. Both Social and Support Services for Educational Success (SSSES) and PDCS are funded largely by General Fund monies and there was an interest in preserving SSSES. The department has been informally notifying staff and providers who may be impacted by this.

- In addition, due to district reductions in budgets, three out of the eleven Touchstone positions will be eliminated, as well as eliminating a supervisor (given the reduction in staff).
- There will be public hearings for input on budgets. The first will focus on community priorities for human services and will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 2nd at the Multnomah County East Building, Sharron Kelley Conference Rooms A & B, 600 NE 8th Street, Gresham.
- The Chair has indicated a desire to protect the County's investment in SUN Community Schools.

CHIF

- Lisa Pellegrino reported an unprecedented volume of applications for CHIF grants.
- It would be helpful for the Council to support CHIF funding any SUN Community Schools grants at the same level as SUN CS in the System.
- There are leverage funds set aside within the Fund again this round; this will not be addressed until later in the spring after the grants are awarded and contracts are issued.
- CHIF Allocation Committee will have one more meeting before the funding meeting; it would be good to talk about SUN issues/interests at that meeting in addition to having one-on-one conversations with committee members.

City/Parks

- Lisa Turpel reported that Parks will be holding three public hearings seeking prioritization of services. This will be accomplished through small group discussions rather than a traditional hearing. One was already held in North Portland; a second prioritization session will be held Tuesday, February 24th on the west side.
- The Mayor's proposed budget will be out at the end of April.
- Because the Teen Services Program will not get one time funding this year, Commissioner Fish has asked Parks to apply for \$500,000 in CHIF funding to sustain the program. Although the program is not currently considered part of the SUN Service System, it collaborates closely with SUN Community Schools.
- With the Parks General Fund reduction, they will need to eliminate one SUN CS site. Since Metropolitan Learning Center is in the 4th quartile of the poverty index, this seems like the logical choice. However, there have been no discussions with school principals yet and Lisa reiterated that they wanted to make this decision in collaboration with the Coordinating Council once budgets are final.

DHS

- Jerry Burns reported a big case load increase in Self Sufficiency.
- Last month represented the single largest month in cash requests in the agency's history, with food stamps not far behind.

Gresham-Barlow

- Jim Schlachter noted that if there are lots of requirements for use of Title 1 funding, that will make it more likely the funds will be used in partnership with SUN. With fewer requirements, the Title 1 funding will likely be used for personnel.

David Douglas

- Barb Kienle shared that David Douglas is looking at Title 1 funding in the stimulus package as a possible funding source for after school programs.

PPS

- Willie Poinsette noted the irony of being grateful for a \$13 million shortfall, compared to the other possibilities they were preparing for. \$4.2 million will come out of reserves; they are working on where the other significant cuts will be made.

Providers

- Krista Larson reminded members that providers will be among those most impacted by all the shortfalls. United Way received 150 proposals for their second round of funding.
- Nichole Maher noted that all providers are experiencing a great deal of pressure, particularly since all are seeing reductions in their contracts and are competing for the same funds. Large numbers (500-600) of people are seeking assistance from their agency on a daily basis. On a positive note, all the communities are working together and deepening relationships in a spirit of support.
- Lee Po Cha reported that Congress is reducing financial support for immigrants and refugees from 8 months to 4 months, but is not limiting immigration proportionately. There is no additional support available for the expected increase in immigrants.

Staffing for Council Lorenzo asked members to discuss how we might work toward mutually providing resources to staff the Council. Bill Scott said the Leaders Roundtable sees contributing as appropriate and is currently discussing what level of funding would be sustainable on an ongoing basis. The Roundtable would not be able to fund half of the \$45 K, but could make a meaningful dent. The Executive Team will need to sign off on any decision regarding funding. He asked the group to think about a model of shared responsibility for this funding as well as considering whether there are changes to the staffing model that would focus the work less on the County and make it easy for everyone to participate in supporting the Council in one way or another.

Next Steps:

- *The Resource Group will discuss alternate staffing and financial models and will report back to the Council at the March 20th meeting.*

Grants Meeting Diana reported that the Resource Group held a grant meeting so partners could discuss and be informed about who is writing for available grants (see Grant Meeting summary for details). The primary focus was on CHIF grants; those will be awarded/announced in late May. The Council reviewed what grants are being planned to help sustain SUN Community Schools that have reducing or expiring grants in FY10. Group members discussed several considerations/concerns:

- Although Council agreed to develop a new poverty list every 3 years, CHIF would like an updated poverty index listing for 2008-09 to compare with the current list. PPS said their information will be from October and cautioned that families may have moved considerably since then.
- A question and concern that grants were being written for schools that don't have the highest poverty was raised and discussed. The grant policy, which attempts to address this and other issues around pursuing grants, was mentioned and discussed later in the agenda.

Next Steps:

- *SUN staff will update the poverty list, using data available now.*

Title 1 Funding Lorenzo is continuing discussions with all districts regarding a pilot for contributing Title 1 funds to existing SUN CS to free up general fund monies that would be used within the district to sustain or expand SUN Community Schools. The MOU Group will meet on February 26th and will discuss this at that time as well as in continued conversations.

Connecting with the CHIF Board Diana will be pulling together a group of folks to agree on Council's objectives for meeting with the CHIF Board and plan a meeting or meetings with individual Allocation Committee members. Broadly, we want to discuss bringing CHIF in as a Sponsor, talk about who the Council is and about aligning with SUN System values.

Next Steps:

- *Lorenzo, Diana, Bill Scott, Maxine Thompson, Nichole Maher will meet to agree on objectives for meeting with CHIF and organize that meeting.*

Representing SUN in all Agency's Budget Processes Lorenzo asked members to keep Council informed about critical conversations/meetings in the next couple of months so we can be sure the Council is represented.

Resource Group Update Diana reiterated the charge of the workgroup – to address resource issues for SUN Service System and the Council, to keep partners informed about shortfalls and grants, and to develop policy around grants. Bill Scott reported that the group has developed a set of grant recommendations, keeping in mind our intention of having a pervasive system with SUN in every school. While not trying to redo the Allocation Methodology and our intention to move funding toward poverty, we want to continue to recognize the value of having services available in all geographic areas and that there is value in not dismantling existing programs. The recommendations represent recognition that implementation of a community school will only be successful where there is adequate will and capacity. In that light, we want to leave the door open for those schools that are highly motivated but may not be highest on the poverty list; but not prioritize public funding or pursuit of grants by System partners for them. He presented the policy and general agreements below, noting that ultimately we will want Sponsors to agree that these should drive our funding decisions.

Grant Policy Recommendations:

The following grant policy applies to partners applying for a SUN Community School:

- ❖ The Allocation Methodology developed by the Coordinating Council, along with the poverty index, will guide application decisions – including which schools to include in grants.
- ❖ If partners are writing grants for SUN Community Schools, they must commit to fully using the SUN CS model in order to use the SUN name.
- ❖ For grants that meet the allocation criteria, all partners in the System will assist in addressing sustainability issues upon expiration, as budget considerations allow.
- ❖ The System will attempt to provide gradual phasing out of expiring grants, rather than an abrupt cut (allowing the school community time/opportunity to raise the funds themselves).

General Values and Agreements:

- There is value in pursuing grants/resources that last from 3-5 years, even if there is not a guaranteed sustainability plan or funding source.
- There is value in pursuing grants to sustain our investment in existing SUN CS sites and support poor populations, even if the specific schools are not the highest ranked in terms of poverty overall.
- In the spirit of partnership, we (particularly providers/contractors) will inform one another and the Coordinating Council about proposed grants and discuss and coordinate as best we can our plans for grant applications and placement of sites.

- As much as possible, our policy and action around grants will be tied to our shared collaborative/community goals.

The following comments and input were offered about grant policy:

- There seem to be mutually conflicting statements/values in the recommendations and the values/agreements.
- We should stick to the Allocation Methodology in focusing on schools with the greatest poverty.
- These statements are really more “guidance” than clear policy with clear parameters about action to be taken.
- The statements need a framing statement that clarifies we are attempting to reconcile and balance conflicting values of using public money to support the highest poverty while moving toward “Every School a SUN School.” Within that context, we want to leave room for discretion.
- We need to develop criteria to help us evaluate whether a site has the capacity to implement a SUN Community School, even if they are not receiving county funding.
- Expansion should be driven by those who have capacity **and** are willing to comply with the model.
- SUN Community Schools name should be trademarked.
- The group agrees with the top 4 (Grant Policy Recommendations) bullets but would like to add context/clarification and change the title.
- Who decides and interprets what schools should be placed first?

Next Steps:

- *Rename the “policy” to something like “Guiding Principles” and add clarification about the context of balancing several values.*
- *Develop a criteria for using the SUN CS name and a packet of information on the model that clarifies what a SUN Community School is, and lays out requirements and criteria*
- *SUN Staff will look into trade marking SUN*
- *The Resource Group will meet on March 6th to address the above listed resource issues*

Reconvening with Sponsors Lorenzo asked for input on whether we should be planning to reconvene with Sponsors in the very near future to influence budget decisions, or whether we should meet after budgets are resolved to clarify where we all stand.

- Leaders Roundtable meets March 31 and May 26. These represent opportunities for us to connect with the Sponsors – we would need to extend special invitations for that portion of the meeting to Commissioners Fish and Saltzman.
- There may be value in meeting personally with Sponsors to discuss budget decisions and to let them know what budget outcomes will mean for them (impact). We need to be clear beforehand what message we are sharing and what we are asking or advocating for.

Agreement and Next Steps:

- *Talk to Chair Wheeler about tying into the upcoming Roundtable meeting (inviting Commissioners Fish and Saltzman) to address SUN resourcing issues*
- *The Resource Group will determine specifically what Council is asking or recommending from each of the following partners: the County, schools, CHIF and parks.*
- *The Resource Group will draft a Sponsors agenda for that portion of the Roundtable meeting (to include Title 1, Grant Policy, Parks site reduction, Jurisdiction’s budgets and the impact on SUN)*
- *The Resource Group welcomes Council members to attend a 2 hour meeting on Friday, March 6th at 8:30 a.m., Room 625, Multnomah Building.*

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.

Upcoming Council meetings are as follows:

- March 20, 2009
- April 17, 2009

Next Meetings

Full Council:
Friday, March 20, 2009
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building,
Room 112
501 SE Hawthorne

Resource Workgroup:
Friday, March 6, 2009
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Room **625**

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

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