

SUN Service System Coordinating Council System Integration and Alignment Workgroup Meeting

June 27, 2008
Multnomah Building, Room 635
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Joanne Fuller (Chair), Godwin Nwerem, Juli Beck, Jim Schlachter, Deb Takach, Willie Poinsette, Krista Larson, Diana Hall, Bill Scott, Mary Li, Lori Kenney (staff)

Our Charge and Scope of Work

Joanne began the meeting by reviewing the workgroup's overall charge as set forth by the SUN Service System Coordinating Council:

Identify the strategic opportunities, both small steps and large-scale changes, which will integrate all systems under the SUN umbrella, thereby enhancing success for all. This includes fully understanding who all the partners are and how they are involved; and including all those key partners in decision making about how the system runs, how services are linked and how resources are allocated.

Joanne let the group know there is good momentum for this alignment work. A conversation last week with the Chair and all County department directors included questions from the Chair about how other departments could forge better links with SUN. Lorenzo Poe, Chair of the Coordinating Council, has also had conversations with Chair Wheeler about Council's interest in making all schools "SUN Schools."

Understanding of the SUN Service System

Recognizing that many system partners still don't have a full grasp of the SUN Service System, members agreed we need to develop materials to help convey critical information and understanding about SUN:

- What we are accomplishing; numbers served
- Simple diagram showing the linkage of school based services, school-linked services (including SSSES), and other services
- The larger SUN Service System as defined currently by the county services, including how SUN Community Schools encompass other partners
- Roles and relationships between partners and organizations, including outside forces that influence service delivery, such as funding streams and Federal/State requirements
- Description of the culturally specific piece – who, where, how
- Definition of anti-poverty, description of the County's anti-poverty goals and effort, how it fits with partners' priorities and how the business community can engage with the effort
- Information on how the SUN Service System interacts with other County departments
- Critical information about key SUN partners, DHS, Mental Health and Juvenile Justice and the kids they serve

Goals and Purpose for System Integration and Alignment Workgroup

1. Get political buy-in up front. Articulate why different entities would want to integrate. Lessons from Annie E Casey from their effort to get the right level of leaders to focus on a specific topic included the need for political alignment and staff to support the alignment. Share data and outcomes to help bring folks together.
2. Hold sequential conversations to address fruitful opportunities, particularly in the following key areas:
 - Mental Health
 - Department of Human Services
 - Attendance
 - Anti-Poverty/Housing/Homelessness
 - Schools & Educational Resources/Funding
3. Expand integration beyond County departments
 - Example: Create release forms for use between SUN partners including the County and DHS
4. Identify benefits for all from engaging with the system
5. Identify issues of relevance at the systems level; identify barriers to alignment
6. Consider what it would take to make every school a SUN Community School. Develop a strategy to broaden stakeholder commitment to making all schools SUN schools, staying with the fidelity of the SUN model
 - Describe the price tag plus benefits of full SUN Schools and having a SUN CS Site Manager in each school (based on the Progress Board model): one system for interventions; links with all services; SUN CS Site Manager at each school; Affluent schools could possibly “buy” a SUN School
7. Stay with the fidelity of the SUN model and use it as a laboratory
8. Develop strategies for more efficient use of resources
9. Identify manageable action items to enhance alignment and integration

Desired Outcomes

Members identified the following suggested outcomes, noting the importance of involving all partners in the process of developing overall outcomes that are also beneficial to their organizations.

1. Increased school success in the forms of attendance and graduation
 - Attendance impacts drop-out rate
2. Poverty reduction

Process

1. Consider using attendance as the central measurable outcome and focus on the barriers to attendance in the following areas:
 - Behavior, Mental Health and Juvenile Justice
 - Basic needs
 - Family functioning (layering of agencies and services)
 - Foster care
 - Homelessness
2. Link with Mayor-elect Adams' interest in reducing the drop-out rate with the "Every school a SUN School" goal. Build on the fact that school is an important structure for kids.
3. Hold conversations very soon with Chair Wheeler, DHS, and superintendents about our goals.
4. Engage people below the political level in organizations who have the knowledge and influence to make things happen.
5. Understand the full range of existing resources.
6. Have conversations with school districts regarding how to use existing funds most effectively.
7. Build relationships with key partners, such as DHS.
8. Incorporate SUN SS into the Anti-Poverty conference in October.
9. Develop better CHIF linkages and connections.

Workgroup Membership

Participants agreed to extend specific invitations to major partners for each of the areas identified above. They also agreed to invite someone from Mayor-elect Sam Adams staff to participate in our work.

Next Steps

- DCHS staff will create some figures for what it would take to have a SUN CS in every school. Consider what school-linked resources would also need to be enhanced to support the school sites. The workgroup will discuss these at the next meeting.
- Joanne will approach Chair Wheeler to discuss ideas generated at today's meeting and what actions are needed in order to move alignment forward in time for budgets.
- Incorporate SUN Service System and alignment topics into the planning for the Anti-Poverty conference. Mary is part of the planning for this event.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, July 9, 2008
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Multnomah Building, Room 625
501 SE Hawthorne

Thursday, July 24, 2008
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Multnomah Building, Room 625
501 SE Hawthorne

