

**SUN Service System Coordinating Council
System Integration and Alignment Workgroup:
A Conversation on Economic Self-Sufficiency**

August 21, 2008

Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Great Hall

8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Ideas/Input for Collaboration and Alignment

Participants broke into six small groups to brainstorm ideas for how better to collaborate and align their work around economic self-sufficiency. Thanks to the facilitators who helped with those small group discussions. Ideas generated by the groups are listed below. Ideas that participants saw as having a lot of opportunity and enthusiastic energy are shown in **bold** below.

Long-Term Connections

- ❖ **Tie our legislative agenda for the City and County to these issues** *(In process)*
- ❖ Merge dollars; Talk system
- ❖ Create long-term vision
- ❖ Engage business; specific; targeted
- ❖ **Seize Mayor-elect Adams' drop-out reduction energy** *(In process)*
- ❖ Explore opportunities for joint funding
- ❖ Expand the "Oregon Solutions" model from Humboldt
- ❖ "No silos" ; Staff work for system rather than their one agency
- ❖ Build on SUN – plug new services and resources into SUN
- ❖ Talk about taking the system to scale
- ❖ Target economic self-sufficiency strategies

DHS Resources

- ❖ Fully utilize existing federal resources (EITC, etc.)
- ❖ **Training team self-sufficiency liaison at all sites** *(Will be discussing with DHS)*
- ❖ Employment related day care is under-utilized
- ❖ Health programs are available to cover all low income kids
- ❖ On-line applications for food stamps
- ❖ Change TANF rule: School work with TANF benefits
- ❖ DHS and Regional Center: single point of contact
- ❖ Create a liaison team with DHS for on-line applications
- ❖ On-line: information for counselors about TANF and other benefits
- ❖ Expedite TANF access at sites
- ❖ Regional planning session on self-sufficiency
- ❖ All SUNSS participants get Oregon cash information

Increasing Assets

- ❖ Link Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program to anti-poverty case managers
- ❖ **Establish a goal of having all SUNSS participants "banked"** *(Work with Commission)*
- ❖ **More outreach on Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)** *(Work with Commission)*
- ❖ Prosperity planner

- ❖ **SUN site financial literacy gala with ways to work, neighborhood fund, CASH, etc.**
- ❖ Establish point of contact between SUN sites and work source
- ❖ Work with State Treasurer to pilot educational IDA for current PCPS families
- ❖ **Use SUN CS sites for Oregon CASH, tax preparation sites** *(Work with Commission)*

Shared Information and Relationships

- ❖ **DHS flyers at school open houses – where in the schools does this happen** *(Use existing connections)*
- ❖ Foster willingness relationships
- ❖ More cross training between SUN and Child Welfare
- ❖ Become acquainted with people in the system
- ❖ Increase staff and families' knowledge of resources
- ❖ Foster and enhance relationship building at all levels
- ❖ **Share/combine training opportunities** *(Discuss further)*
- ❖ Bring information to where parents are
- ❖ Use social capital and advocate for each other
- ❖ Communication: Who is doing what?
- ❖ Youth employment – parks and rec
- ❖ Strengthen connections between school district homeless liaisons
- ❖ Make use of facilities, relationships and infrastructure
- ❖ Increase information to immigrant and refugee communities (food stamps, etc.)
- ❖ This group should meet quarterly
- ❖ **Be ambassadors: We are all part of the same team** *(Attitude)*
- ❖ Identify “natural” partners and connect at the front line

Broaden Connections

- ❖ Earlier and closer connection of community colleges with SUN
- ❖ Get information about SUN out to more people
- ❖ Communication and information sharing
- ❖ Identify and clarify existing services
- ❖ Expand SUN to wider community; Build on success
- ❖ Service mapping
- ❖ **Designate liaisons within organizations, and create a mechanism to replace/maintain that connection** *(Discuss further)*
- ❖ Clarify available resources (WIKI, website?)
- ❖ Share strategies to make services accessible
- ❖ Consider alternative web-based communication tools (MySpace, You Tube)
- ❖ SUNSS awareness education through the schools
- ❖ **Move families from rent assistance to the next step. Intense conversation between contractors in emergency systems (regions) to the self-sufficiency steps. Funding for this connection.** *(Work with case managers, providers)*
- ❖ Families call all the agencies for rent assistance/fuel. Increase information sharing so families don't need to call all.
- ❖ Use the same procedures for all agencies to dole out assistance (rent/food/fuel)
- ❖ It's not one size fits all
- ❖ Increase flexibility for people to get the exact service they need

Community and Client Information and Support

- ❖ Establish internship with local business and current SUNSS participants
- ❖ Resource fair for all the services for at-risk youth
- ❖ Improve system design by including “clients”

- ❖ Help skeptics by including parent mentors
- ❖ Decrease stigma attached to support systems
- ❖ **Improve consumer leadership**
- ❖ Use non-traditional methods for outreach
- ❖ Access for people in crisis

Service Coordination

- ❖ Link GED with juvenile justice and school counselors
- ❖ PPS to partner with early childhood education to get ready for school
- ❖ **Coordination of joint services provision**
- ❖ Institutionalize holistic assessments
- ❖ Expedite enhanced services to folks “through one door”
- ❖ **Comprehensive wrap-around services**
- ❖ **Coordinate the family as a whole**

Additional Comments:

- Mary Li noted that many of the alignment ideas were broad and could apply to any partners. It seems important to not lose sight of the unique opportunities for SUN SS and economic self-sufficiency providers in particular to connect.
- Lynn Knox noted that many systems are already at capacity. There are a number of additional alignment opportunities that could be included if we were looking at new and/or additional resources.
- Abdul Majidi from PCC shared that this was a helpful conversation and that there are a number of other partners he can think of to include in the next meeting. In a future meeting, everyone should be encouraged to identify what commitments they can make. Convening the conversations and resulting work should not all fall on the County.

Event Evaluation

Participants offered the following input on what they liked about the “conversation” and considerations for the future:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of participants • Low hanging fruit identified • Interactive design • Information provided at the beginning of the meeting • 3 hours in the morning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mechanism for addressing low hanging fruit • More information sharing • More conversation regarding long-term goals • Bring in more people • Changing economics/trends • Shorter • Be realistic • Involve community members • Who are the crucial partners? • Timeline for accountability

Participants

- Joanne Fuller, Chair, System Integration and Alignment Workgroup
- Julie Beck, DHS Child Welfare
- Madeleine Mader, City of Portland, BHCD
- Miriam Green, DHS Child Welfare

- Nathan Teske, El Programa, Catholic Charities
- Rose Bak, DCHS
- Seth Lyon, DCHS, SCP, Housing
- Rebecca Parker, Youth Employment Institute
- Ian Finch, Portland Impact
- Jerry Burns, DHS
- Lorena Campbell, East County Schools
- Judy Strand, MFS
- Dave Austin, DCHS
- Godwin Nwerem, DCHS
- Jaime Johnson, Human Solutions
- Sandra Cohen, NARA
- Tawna Sandy, NAYA Family Center
- Howard Klink, United Way
- Janet Hawkins, CCFC
- Patricia McLean, HIS
- Liesl Wendt, Mayor's Office
- Bill Scott, Zipcar
- Patty Doyle, DCHS
- Alison McIntosh, NPF
- Deena Corso, Mult. County Dept. of Community Justice
- Bennie N. Boggan, Youth Employment Institute
- Betty Schallberger, MCMHASD
- Susan Stoltenberg, Portland Impact
- Jean DeMaster, Human Solutions
- Lynn Knox, BHCD
- Renata Wilson, Portland Impact
- Jill Daniels, MCHD, SBHC Program
- Frank Brown, Mt. Hood Community College
- Willie Poinsette, PPS
- Lisa Turpel, PP&R
- Mary Li, DCHS
- Charles Clay, PPC STS
- Peggy Samolinski, DCHS
- Diana Hall, DCHS
- Barbara Kienle, David Douglas
- Rick Nitti, Neighborhood House
- Robin Benedict, DHS
- John Gardner, WSI
- Elaine Wallick, DHS
- Nick Gollo, DHS
- David Koch, DCJ
- Abdul Majidi, PCC
- Pam Hester, SE Works