

**SUN Service System Coordinating Council
System Integration and Alignment Workgroup Meeting**

September 12, 2008
Multnomah Building, Room 625
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Joanne Fuller (Chair), Krista Larson, Barbara Kienle, David Koch, Juli Beck, Mary Li, Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Molly Keating (facilitator for Aug. 21 Economic Self-Sufficiency Conversation, Lori Kenney (staff)

Economic Self-Sufficiency Conversation

Group members discussed the Economic Self-Sufficiency conversation and had the following input:

Positives/Enthusiasm	Considerations/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good energy• There were people in the room we'd never seen before and who had no prior interaction with SUN• Resource fair is a good idea; a few already going on (A&D providers, Employment/Vocational)• Having DHS information at all schools is good!• Direct service staff liked hearing about when a family is ready to talk about the future.• Learned about available resources not previously aware of• DHS group met with Diana; selected child welfare as next area of focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some providers felt they didn't learn anything new; not sure of benefits to them• How do we get kids in the juvenile system connected?• Some thought there was too much feedback• Interest in more depth of information; possibly provide more background information, even prior to the event• Dangers of grouping sometimes mean things get bundled that are quite different• How do you know when to begin moving people into practical self-sufficient action? Sequence of steps differ for different folks.• Some good things happen at individual schools – how to we make those things systemic?• Can DHS kids go out of District?• Confidentiality/information barrier between SUN and schools for DHS involvement (MOU group to address)

Peggy Samolinski reminded members that the meeting was designed broadly, to give newcomers a basic understanding of SUN and to identify possible opportunities for alignment. Molly Keating, Facilitator, noted that although some participants wanted more depth, desired outcomes were met.

Desired Outcomes for the Conversation on Self-Sufficiency:

- Develop shared understanding of SUN Service System and economic self-sufficiency strategies
- Create enthusiasm and excitement for this work
- Form relationships
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment

Work group members reviewed ideas generated during the Conversation, paying particular attention to those that generated the most energy and enthusiasm by the group or were regarded as “low hanging fruit.” Their suggestions for follow up are listed below including the full list of ideas.

Long-Term Connections

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tie our legislative agenda for the City and County to these issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCHS will talk with other partners (City, etc.) to make sure SUN and Self-Sufficiency are tied to the legislative agenda ❖ Seize Mayor-elect Adams' drop-out reduction energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair has an upcoming meeting with Mayor-elect Adams ○ Adams has spoken with PPS; need to help connect him with other school districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Merge dollars; Talk system ❖ Create long-term vision ❖ Engage business; specific; targeted ❖ Explore opportunities for joint funding ❖ Expand the "Oregon Solutions" model at 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

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Self-sufficiency liaison at all sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having an identified contact at each site is already under discussion with DHS ○ Have a single point of contact at child welfare and self-sufficiency (possibly someone at the system/provider level), available 24/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fully utilize existing federal resources (EITC, etc.) ❖ 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

Increasing Assets

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establish a goal of having all SUNSS participants "banked" (have a checking and savings account) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Move financial literacy forward as an agenda for SUN Community Schools; Involve regional sites as well for better integration ○ Wells Fargo might be able to help develop a more systemic connection with banks ❖ More outreach on Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (<i>low hanging fruit</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with the Commission on Children, Families and Community ❖ More outreach on Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) ❖ Financial literacy event or gala with ways to work, neighborhood fund, CASH, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organize an event to for region to learn about all the different resources at the provider or program level ○ Provide training on SUN and mental health for school counselors ❖ Use SUN CS sites for Oregon CASH tax preparation sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct a pilot this year with sites ready for this linkage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All SUNSS participants get Oregon CASH information ❖ Prosperity planner ❖ Establish point of contact between SUN sites and work source ❖ Work with State Treasurer to pilot educational IDA for current PCPS families

Shared Information and Relationships

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ DHS and other flyers at school open houses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will discuss this at MOU group ○ Could send out to representatives at each school district; they could send out to the program level ❖ Share/combine training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use this as a guiding principle ○ Post in a central location ○ SUN staff could attend DHS meetings; make a commitment to meet with the branch ❖ Be ambassadors: We are all part of the same team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask Coordinating Council to think about how to move joint ownership to the staff and program level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 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 ❖ 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 ❖ Identify “natural” partners; connect at the front line

Broaden Connections

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Designate liaisons within organizations, and create a mechanism to replace/maintain that connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similar to idea under “DHS Resources” but for broader group of partners ❖ Move families from rent assistance to the next step. Intense conversation between contractors in emergency systems (regions) to the self-sufficiency steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long-term philosophical approach ○ Need funding for this ○ How can the system best help families progress to the next level of prosperity, rather than just focusing on taking care of immediate needs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 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 ❖ 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 ❖ Families call all the agencies for rent assistance/fuel. Increase information sharing to minimize calls. ❖ 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

Service Coordination

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Coordination of joint services provision❖ Comprehensive wrap-around services❖ Coordinate the family as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Link GED with juvenile justice and school counselors❖ PPS to partner with early childhood education to get ready for school❖ Institutionalize holistic assessments❖ Expedite enhanced services to folks “through one door”

Community and Client Information and Support

Energy/Low Hanging Fruit	Additional Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Improve consumer leadership<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Long term strategy for leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 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❖ Use non-traditional methods for outreach❖ Access for people in crisis

Report to the Coordinating Council on September 19th

Our report to the Coordinating Council will be delivered by Krista Larson and Peggy Samolinski and will include an overview of our initial charge, the several areas we identified as having the most potential for alignment, and then discuss the highlights from our first sequential conversation on Economic Self-Sufficiency. The System Integration and Alignment workgroup plans to follow up on those areas that generated the most interest and energy as follows:

- Moving families forward to taking the next step toward a place of self-sufficiency, as well as addressing their current need
- Embracing as a fundamental way of thinking: *Coordinating the Family as a Whole*.
- Tie our legislative agenda for the City and County to these issues
- Seize Mayor-elect Adams' interest in reducing the drop-out rate
- Work with the Commission on increasing assets, starting with a pilot
- Increase financial literacy of families to increase the number of families who are “banked” [Consider having Sponsors talk with Banks (Wells Fargo and others) to support this effort]
- Designating liaisons within economic self-sufficiency and SUN organizations and working to building relationships.

Staff will ask Jerry Burns if he would be willing to provide a brief overview on the SUN/DHS partnership work as an example of another great alignment effort. In addition, we will share our thoughts about working toward making Every School a SUN Community School.

Upcoming Meeting

Agenda items for our next meeting will include the following:

- Every School a SUN School
- Mental Health (our next area of focus)
 - What format is best for this area: A conversation such as the one on Economic Self-Sufficiency or a series of meeting such as those taking place with SUN and DHS?

Friday, October 10, 2008

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Family Service Board Room

1808 SE Belmont (18 blocks east of the Morrison Bridge)

Street parking is readily available