

SUN Coordinating Council Evaluation Workgroup

Summary of Meeting on 6/20/08

Meeting Attendees:

Maxine Thompson, Leaders' Roundtable

Meg McElroy, CHIF

Diane Dorfman, MC DCHS

John Richmond, DHS

Lisa Pellegrino, CHIF

Data Reporting and Analysis

The group discussed the current system used by the County and CHIF to get data on attendance, behavior, and academic variables on children participating in the SUN system and/or CHIF programs. Right now the districts crunch the data and provide the stats for each system.

Discussed the possibility for negotiating with MESD and the districts to allow for MESD to report and analyze this data with the districts' permission. DHS just finished negotiating an agreement with DHS to allow DHS access to academic information on individual children in the DHS system so that DHS can report on educational outcomes pursuant to requirements of new law. John passed out the MOU that was signed to govern the access to and use of this information. John also suggested that the data set of DHS cases on whom DHS is pulling academic information could also be a source for a comparative analysis between the effects of receiving SUN system services and non receiving such services and Meg concurred that this might be a good subset to start with for a comparative analysis.

John suggested contacting Lorena Campbell who helped negotiate this agreement to help us do the same. Maxine suggested also possibly including Zeke Smith, David Mandell and Scott Stewart in the group. The group agreed that it needed another meeting or two to work on a "scope" for itself before inviting other members to attend partly because the scope would govern who was invited to join.

One of the first tasks for the group would be to decide on what information it is interested in gathering so as to minimize the different sets of data that are gathered for different jurisdictions.

Evaluation

The group also discussed what type of evaluation it might recommend the system try to fund and noted that a comparison study of children receiving SUN services and those who don't might be useful, if expensive. The group also noted that it might be useful to discuss evaluate how well the system is working, whether it's attaining the goals set forth in the County RFP and how that type of evaluation might be structured. The group noted that outside expertise will likely have to be sought out in order to work on these issues with any depth. The group also noted that it will not be designing or doing any evaluation itself, but rather may make recommendations for action steps toward developing some type of evaluation.