

SUN Evaluation Work Group

Meeting Summary

August 18, 2008

Attending: Diane Dorfman, Meg McElroy, Peggy Samolinski, Sik Chan, Lisa Pellegrino, Mary Richardson

The group focused on the grades and standards variables. We agreed that we want to keep collecting data on the number and percentage of program participants who meet or exceed reading and math benchmarks. CHIF could probably drop collecting the same information for the previous school year since it's not proved very informative. We also tentatively agreed that we want to track the number and percentage of participants who moved to a higher performance category in reading and math between the previous school year and the year in which they participated in the program. The county does not currently track this information, but people generally agreed that it's helpful to understand whether participants are making progress even if some are still not meeting benchmarks. CHIF currently gets this information from PPS, Centennial, Reynolds and David Douglas.

We also discussed the utility of tracking whether high school participants earned an average of 6-8 credits during the year they participated in the program. The county noted that it's difficult for the districts to obtain this information for some reason, and that they are only tracking it for kids who are receiving social and support services for educational success, not all kids who are participating in SUN school programming. The group thought it might be better to use this data as an indicator than as an outcome since programming may not directly impact whether a child earned course credit.

Everyone wants to continue tracking the FRL rates for participants. The group discussed demographics and concluded that each funder would continue to track demographics but that we might want MESD to disaggregate other data by demographic categories that the districts use.

The group also discussed the data collected by the county on those participants who are referred to programming because they are at risk of academic failure. While the county will continue to collect this information for its own use, the group agreed that it would not be asking MESD to track this.

The group agreed to meet again on September 10 from 9:30-11.