

SUN Data and Evaluation Work Group

Meeting Summary

October 27, 2008

Attending: Dunya Minoo, Diane Dorfman, Maxine Thompson, Lisa Pellegrino

Sponsor Meeting Debrief

The group discussed the recent meeting of sponsors of the SUN system which included superintendents, the county chair, current mayor and mayor elect, Parks and CHIF commissioner, and ESD superintendent. Those who attended noted that no objection was raised by the superintendents or others regarding our data proposal. Some questions were raised on the evaluation side; Mayor Elect Sam Adams made some comments about the need for child/client outcomes and questioned whether SUN was the best way to “fix” families. Some superintendents noted the possible use of Title funds for after-school programming given the likely cuts at the city and county this year. Parkrose used its increased Title I money to run after-school programming when its 21st Century funds ran out this year. [Side question: were these 21st Century school not part of the SUN system? – I don’t remember the ending of funding coming up on our radar screens for Parkrose schools]. Ted Wheeler was supportive of directing evaluation efforts toward quality measurement and/or an analysis of whether the system is achieving its objectives. Not much concrete movement on the joint responsibility side. Report on system alignment progress was well received.

Data Specifics

The group began discussing the specifics of what we would need the ESD to do in the way of data in preparation for a meeting with the ESD superintendent and an ESIS data person to discuss what might be possible. We discussed possible needs for tagging students as recipients of services in ESIS. PPS is working with the county to provide student ID numbers for all students in a SUN school to the SUN coordinator to ease identification of PPS students who participate in the program. PPS will then have a record in ESIS of who is participating in SUN. MESD may be able to use these groups to identify who in PPS participated in SUN. It’s unclear how this would work in other districts. Would they want to send lists of participants’ names to MESD and have them tag the students in ESIS or would they be able to tag the students at the school level? For CHIF program participants, MESD would have to do the tagging since some providers of services operate in the community not at a school, and some operate at schools without SUN programs. It’s also likely that for CHIF at least, there will be some students who participated in programs, but for whom the provider does not have an ID number. This would require MESD to search the database and identify the student based on name, grade, DOB etc. submitted by the provider.

We also discussed the issue of releases and noted that if no information on individual students is given to the funders, it shouldn’t be necessary to secure releases of information from the parents of all participants in order for the MESD to provide aggregate data. This should hold so long as we are not asking for disaggregated data on groups with very few participants (e.g. Native Americans who participated in a SUN program at X school and met reading benchmarks). CHIF may need to become a party to the IGA between the county and school districts [upon reflecting

on my notes, it isn't clear to me exactly what the current IGA permits – does it allow the school districts to give the county ID numbers which the county can then give to its contractors b/c the information is necessary for the contractors to do their work? Not sure how exactly this would work for CHIF].

Key questions that will need resolution are:

- Who tags the student by funder: MESD personnel or someone else? Will this be consistent across school districts? MESD would have to do it for CHIF participants.
- When are students tagged? Will this be influenced by who is doing the work? Participants must meet some minimum standards of participation before they are tagged for outcome tracking so there has to be a control there somehow to assure that someone is checking for the participation rate before they are tagged.
- What are the capabilities of the ESIS data base? If districts already have groups created in ESIS for SUN participants, can the MESD use these groups and aggregate these groups with other groups that it selects for analysis of particular results?
- What are MESD's and districts' requirements on releases? Do we understand the legal requirements adequately? Would names have to be omitted from information sent to MESD if releases are not required? How would we then deal with participants for whom the provider does not have an ID number and only has a name?

Collaborating with Connected by 25

We discussed where CX25 was at with approaching MESD around data to see if there was any chance to further consolidate data requests. The initiative has a new ED and a new manager in charge of it so it's probably too hard to tell exactly where they are headed with data and what they will be seeking to measure on the students who are identified as at risk for dropping out. We agreed to all try to stay in conversation with CX25 as they progress and look for opportunities to align.