SUN™ Service System Coordinating Council Meeting
March 7, 2014
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Bill Scott (Co-Chair), Lolenzo Poe, (Co-Chair), Eileen Argentina, Brian Detman, Gerald Deloney, James Hiu, Kathy Keim-Robinson, Susan Myers, Rick Nitti, Lisa Pellegrino, John Richmond, Linda Ridings, Pat Ryan, Zeke Smith, Nate Waas Shull

Also Attending: Matthew Bartolotti, Joshua Green, Matthew Robinson, Peggy Samolinski, Jill Weir, Nabil Zaghloul, Diana Hall, Lisa Kulkarni

Introductions/Updates/Announcements

Eileen Argentina introduced Josh Green, her new SUN Council alternate.

The All Hands Raised fundraiser was a great success.

Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative
- Collaborative is very active: the new Youth Engagement, Motivation, and Development subgroup is exciting. The group is exploring what joint effort around academic mindset attributes youth development groups would like to pursue together.
- Two of the six demonstration sites have held Community Engagement Team meetings. Both went well; each had a distinct flavor.

Theory of Change
- The new SUN Theory of Change was adopted in January and the final formatted version is out
- The Theory is being incorporated into our SUN Program Review sessions
- The Council discussed how to disseminate the report. Ideas included using the list of agencies that applied in the last RFP to distribute it

Unsettling Profile Report Release – African-American Community in Multnomah County

Gerald Deloney shared these highlights from the report;
- Race is the primary determinant of success
- The high misery index today is a continuation of historic exclusion from channels of advancement like education, and home ownership
- Racism is institutionalized; governments have a duty to use their economic power to begin to change this
- Disaggregating data, especially results from mainstream organizations, is important
- Equity must be reflected in budgets

A short discussion ensued:
- What does progress look like? How do we assess and measure if we are moving forward?
- The Portland Children's Levy incorporation of cultural responsiveness into its proposal process is an example of progress
- An intentionality for equity has developed among SUN partners; we are working together for change
- We need to build support for change; there is always a backlash when we change

- The Coalition's self-assessment tool is powerful tool; but it doesn't measure progress

United Way Stratgic Plan

Zeke Smith used the handout *United Way Move with Us!* to explain the strategic plan United Way adopted last June. After a strategic planning process that included extensive community input, United Way decided to shift from being a passive grant maker to taking an active role in community engagement. It is also explicitly emphasizing children in poverty, naming it as a community challenge.

United Way is using three strategies to meet its goals:
1. Community Safety Net – flexible funds for existing systems meeting basic needs (e.g. rent assistance via 211)
2. Community Strengthening – three years of general operating support for proven, child-related programs
3. Community Transformation – five year investment of $750,000 per year for one collaborative

Zeke described five top applications for the Community Transformation funding, four of which are located in Multnomah County. A decision will be made May 19. United Way is committed to seeking support for the four proposals it does not select. Once funding decisions are made, United Way will have more certainty about its work for the next few years and a more explicit conversation about alignment with the SUN Service System can happen.

Sponsors Meeting Report Out & Follow-Up

Bill noted that the Sponsor's have met twice since the Council last meeting; once in mid-December and once in early March.

At the December meeting, Sponsors reviewed information on SUN Community School funding considerations including those sites with unstable funding as well as the high poverty schools that are not yet in SUN (see handout attached). Sponsors expressed the desire to support SUN Community Schools as well as avoid last-minute budget wrangling. Sponsors reported stable budget forecasts. The City and County agreed to lead an effort to develop a joint budget proposal.

At the March meeting Sponsors reviewed, and enthusiastically endorsed, a FY2015 Joint Funding Proposal that ensures permanent funds for the ten SUN schools with unstable funding and adds ten new sites. Under this proposal City funds largely stabilize existing schools while County, District and Children's Levy funds support the expansion. This proposal needs support from the City Council, County Commissioners, and school board members. City Council support is tenuous and needs attention. SUN staff will develop an information sheet on the FY15 funding proposal for SUN partners and the public. Folks are already getting communication from parents and community members interested in the proposal and how they can communicate with elected leaders.

A discussion about developing a long-term funding model for SUN was initiated at the March meeting. This discussion will be continued at the June meeting. The June meeting will also include discussion of the RFP process.

Bill invited other Sponsor meeting attendees to add their comments:
- The Chair's State of the County address emphasized that the joint City-County responsibility for SUN
- DHS has embraced the idea of placing caseworkers in the six SUN schools serving as demonstration sites for Communities Supporting Youth
- The State's achievement compacts are driving forces for change

System Review Update & Schedule

Peggy explained that the desired outcome today is for this Council to start to develop a deeper understanding of the allocation issues in the upcoming RFP process. The Allocation Review workgroup is being organized and oriented; its recommendations will come to the Council for consideration. The SUN Equity Index will not be changed for this RFP process.

Peggy reviewed the rationale for the current six regions, and presented information on demographic changes using a Power Point presentation (attached), and a handout of census projections. Given this information, what are questions or considerations that the Allocation Review workgroup should consider?

These discussion points were raised:
- The number of kids qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch is a better (and more expansive) measure of poverty than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) used in the census
- Regions should still be organized around school catchment areas
- How does the importance of cultural responsiveness impact this discussion?
- Race is an important consideration regardless of income level
- Geographic equity is a consideration; what is the proximity to other services?
- When is a region too small or too large?
- Do regions need to be contiguous?
- Mobile access to services is increasing; how might this impact regions?

Peggy will bring these questions and comments to the Allocation Review workgroup. Additional allocation issues will be presented at future Council meetings.

NEXT STEPS
- ***SUN Staff will prepare and distribute a fact sheet on the FY2015 SUN Funding Proposal***
- ***Council members will consider actions to advocate for the adoption of the FY2015 SUN Funding Proposal***

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates/Times:

Next Coordinating Council Meeting:
Friday, April 4, 2014
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building, 112
501 SE Hawthorne, 1st floor

Future Coordinating Council Meetings*:
(*All are from 8:30-10:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise)
Friday, May 2, Room 112
Friday June 6, Room 112

Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative
Friday, March 21, 2014
8:00 am Newcomer orientation
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Marshall High School B39/41

Every School a SUN CS Workgroup
Group is on hiatus pending sponsor conversations about sustainability and expansion