

SUN™ Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

February 6, 2015

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Bill Scott (Co-Chair), Lorenzo Poe (Co-Chair), Eileen Argentina, Kara Carmosino, Gerald Deloney, Rene Duboise, James Hiu, Rick Nitti, Lisa Pellegrino, Aaron Ridings, Pat Ryan, Zeke Smith, Liesl Wendt

Also Attending: Sandi Blackwood, Amy Corbett, Caroline Fitz, Emily Gilliland, Diana Hall, Kendra Johnson, Gina Kim-Fulston, Lisa Kulkarni, Peggy Norman, Walter Robinson II, Peggy Samolinski, Rachel Spigal, Jill Weir

Introductions/Announcements

Bill welcomed Pat Ryan back from her successful knee surgery. Attendees introduced themselves.

Updates

Attendance Work

Planning for an expansion of the Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative's attendance model is underway. It is possible that the attendance work could be expanded to a total of 30-40 sites next year. An expansion workgroup has been formed and held its first meeting on January 12.

These are the takeaways from the January 12 expansion workgroup meeting:

- The model (critical minimums) is sound
- We need to understand the impact of DHS and attendance workers and integrate them into the practices
- Training new sites is very important
- Need a strong person in the district to champion the work

This will be a time-limited workgroup. SUN staff will send out future meeting dates to Council members.

We have some early information about the attendance caseworkers. The three new caseworkers this year have served 360 kids to date; 61% of which are kids of color. 54% of the kids served improved their attendance in the last five months.

Discussion:

- Districts are integrally involved in the attendance expansion planning
- Engaging kids and family is critical; it's important to reach out to the community
- We are tracking and categorizing the deeper issues behind attendance problems
- This major expansion is great news
- Although Synergy's reporting of attendance data is still problematic, it's clear that attendance at demonstration sites has improved markedly

Community Transformation Grant

Multnomah County's \$1 million set-aside to address racial disparities was allocated to United Way in alignment with its Community Transformation Grant (\$3.75 million over 5 years). Successful Families 2020, a coalition of providers comprised of SEI, IRCO, NAYA, Latino Network, Albina Head Start, and Metropolitan Family Service was awarded the Community Transformation grant. The goal of the work is to validate and spread culturally specific practices. Related findings from the Multnomah County Health Department's disparities report card will be added to the original scope of work.

The \$1 million was awarded to organizations in amounts ranging from \$30,000 to \$250,000; it will expand work awardees are already engaged in.

Discussion:

- The co-funded services will be available county-wide, and are targeted to Rockwood and North Portland
- We need to serve the whole child; wrap-around services are important
- Please share grant information with Oregon Department of Human Services staff

Early Learning Multnomah Update

Zeke Smith distributed a handout describing the vision and components of Early Learning Multnomah (ELM) that was established in May (embedded below). ELM is the Multnomah County early learning hub, part of a new state-wide system that replaced County Commissions on Children and Families. The system is charged with kindergarten readiness, family stability, and service alignment/coordination. The service foci are kids in poverty and kids of color. United Way is the lead agency and project manager. Multnomah County provides program development as well as service procurement, contract management, and monitoring.



ELM Basics

ELM's work to date has emphasized building its infrastructure. Several grants are already coming through the hubs; the intent is to have them be an allocation mechanism for more State resources. One investment to date is using community health workers to deliver education modules as part of their home visits.

Finding the kids that need early learning services is difficult. These children are at home or in family/community child care; it is difficult to identify the target population. The Department of Human Services may be a helpful partner.

Zeke displayed and passed around two new tools for engaging children in activities that promote early learning: a paper spinning wheel, and a booklet of exercises and ideas. Both tools have different versions that are tailored to be culturally specific. They were designed with the help of community based organizations. Having community organizations in on the design of tools like this is a change in practice that is as important as the tools themselves.

SUN Community Schools Year-end Evaluation Results

Carolyn Fitz introduced herself as a new member of the SUN staff, and used a Power Point presentation (embedded below) to share the highlights of the SY 2013-14 SUN Community Schools evaluation. (Copies of the full evaluation report were distributed after the presentation.) Highlights included:

- SUN is doing an excellent job of serving racial/ethnic populations (SUN 30-day enrollees exceed district average for all racial groups)
- Over 70% of SUN enrollees improved their reading and math OAK scores from last year
- Chronic absence among SUN enrollees is 9.2%, well below the district average of 14.4%.
- High school students earned 6.82 credits on average (6 credits are needed for on-time graduation)



SUN CS FY14
Outcomes

The Council also discussed an anomaly in four-year high school graduation rates for SUN in 2013-14 and other follow-up information to pursue.

SUN is currently also working with an outside evaluator to conduct a matched pair study of demographically similar elementary and middle school youth, and an examination of the connection between length of service

and academic outcomes. This is similar to the quasi-experimental high school study conducted several years ago. Results of the study are expected in March.

SUN System RFP Update

Peggy Samolinski reminded members that the SUN System RFP was postponed; the planned release is this fall. Staff are proceeding with the program area changes presented at the December Council meeting.

There are two remaining areas to be resolved before the RFP: the definition of culturally specific organizations and the culturally specific services allocation level. The definitional question is being addressed by an internal, county-level group headed by Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer for Multnomah County. The county faces this question in several departments and decided to take a county-wide approach. We expect them to issue guidelines in June. Liesl Wendt is leading a conversation about the appropriate percentage of allocation to culturally specific services. Additionally, we will collect soft data on engagement.

SUN staff will keep the Council informed of the forthcoming recommendations.

Sponsor Meetings and Related Work

At their December 16 meeting, SUN sponsors reviewed the *Next Step Options* handout that was distributed to meeting attendees (embedded below), and spoke about which areas of expansion they were interested in. They proposed an interim meeting in February that was subsequently cancelled; budgets were not firm enough to make decisions. Chair Kafoury will be meeting individually with superintendents to explore ways to increase depth together and to discuss her mental health proposal.



Next Steps for
Sponsor Consideratio

Diana Hall reviewed the *Sponsor Meeting Update and Next Steps* handout (embedded below). All Sponsors have agreed to implement a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for SUN Community Schools. While there was strong agreement in principle, Sponsors will not move forward on differentiated core funding levels this year. It will be important for differentiated funding to be addressed for FY17 budgets. While Early Kindergarten Transition is part of the SY 15-16 package, it is not yet listed on the next steps documents.



Sponsor Meeting
Update & Next Steps