

## **SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting Notes**

**November 2, 2018**

9:00am – 11:00am

MESD, 11611 NE Ainsworth Circle

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **Attendance**

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Members and Alternates: Frank Caropelo (Co-Chair), Judy Strand (Co-Chair), Berk Nelson, Tony Hopson, April Olson, Durelle Singleton, Nicole Buchanan, Joy Wallace, Lee Po Cha, Eileen Argentina, Ben Baldizon, Dunya Minoo,

Guests and Staff: Gudeta Wak-Woya, Irina Rudenko, Lisa Sin, Maria Velez, Gina Kim-Folston, Peggy Samolinski, May Cha, Diana Hall, Jeff Blackmer

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

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Frank welcomed everyone to meeting, asked for introductions around the room. New members attending included Nicole Buchanan, Policy Advisor to Chair Kafoury, and Berk Nelson, representing Mayor Wheeler's office.

Peggy Samolinski spoke to organizational changes in YFS. Mentioned Diana Hall's new role as Senior System and Policy Analyst for SUN and YFS and introduced May Cha, who will be stepping in as SUN Service System program supervisor.

Frank did an overview of the agenda for the day, mentioned IRCO presentation and guest speakers.

#### **Community Building**

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Diana opened a community building activity: Our collaboration is only as strong as the connections, understanding and trust that we have with each other across organizations. She asked members to gather in groups of three to speak to a phrase or value that they brought through from younger life into present work, or life.

#### **Youth Voice: Faces of IRCO**

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Diana introduced three youth advocacy colleagues from IRCO, who came to share about several youth voice events and structures within IRCO where they hear what is important to youth from many culturally specific communities.

- Gudeta Wak – Woya IRCO Africa House Youth programs supervisor
- Irina Rudenko – IRCO Youth Program Assistant
- Lisa Sin – Lead Youth Program Coordinator

IRCO recently has gathered youth input through: Youth focus groups, Africa House Youth Council, Faces of IRCO: Youth event. Some take aways from these activities that were shared

- Youth are aware of and feel the climate ("We are woke")

- One challenges youth share is around navigating interpersonal relationships – in person and online.
- Africa House Youth Council offers a community to the youth and leadership opportunities, Youth listen to each other more than to adults. The council takes on specific projects/issues such as domestic violence and cyberbullying.
- Faces of IRCO event focused on youth and they shared successes and challenges in US education system; culture through music, dance and food; and hopes, dreams and future aspirations
- Youth commonly share a desire for more leadership opportunities.

The guests showed a video from the Refugee and Immigrant Student Empowerment (RISE) group.

Themes includes:

- What does RISE mean to you? Family, support, safe place, relationships, caring, helping, advice in personal areas, tutoring, love, friendship, conversation, openness
- Showing you care promotes acceptance of help by students.
- Don't be too serious. Don't ask prying questions that cause discomfort.

Group discussion included the following points:

- Specific to SUN, youth appreciate when adults stand up for them and empower them
- When asked how students want adults to stand up, IRCO staff replied: They want someone to develop a place that feels like a home (that they are safe and belong) and listen to their concerns in every area of their lives not just academics. It's all connected.
- Youth want to feel human and that they belong.
- IRCO has staff training on how to stand up.
- How do we ask students how they want adults to stand up for them?
- Immigrant and refugee students act differently. Adults need to understand their experience and culture to understand their behavior and support them.
- RISE tutors are volunteers from community, retired teachers, college students, and others who want to get involved. Tutors trained in approach, communication, culture, establishing trust.
- It will be important to share how to navigate telling a student's truth when it is different than the adults' truth who is receiving the information.

## **Decisions for Emerging Issues**

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Judy led discussion of a proposal that she and Frank as Co-Chairs brought on the Youth Experience Action Area, sharing the evolution of the activity ideas from the retreat and last meeting. Comments included:

- Eileen shared that the proposed work aligns with where Parks is – it would be useful and she will take it back to discuss with colleagues
- Dunya suggested that it would be helpful to define a measure of the effort – what change we are expecting to see for youth.
- Tony asked for clarification of the term “adults in SUN partner organizations” – is that just the nonprofits or also the schools, county and city? It was clarified that the intent was in all system partner organizations not just nonprofits.
- Growth or improvement in youth feeling safe, connected and a sense of belonging was a suggested measure, with a note that we should ask youth what success looks like)

- Involved youth in a big way
- We can't do it all, and not all at once. Make "the" difference at a few sites first.

A workgroup was formed to create more operationalized proposal for the council's consideration in January. April, Tony, Joy, Durelle, and Dunya volunteered. The meeting time will be shared with all council members and folks are encouraged to participate.

### **Telling the SUN Story**

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Discussion was led by Frank, who spoke to where we have come from on this topic and progress made over the course of the past year. Matt Kinshella, from the Strategic Engagement Team at DCHS led discussion of a new communications tool for SUN that uses the Gantz "Story of Us, Me, Now" frame.

Stories of communities:

- Story of Us: Uniting aspects of SUN
- Story of Me: Personal story, either yourself or someone who impacted you
- Story of Now: Call to action, leadership

Matt passed around worksheets with new talking points and prompts to generate ideas in the Story of Me area and for how to use these talking points. Each person took a few minutes to read through the Story of Us and think of their Story of Me and then paired off with another council member to practice. Matt asked how structure and approach worked for people, led discussion of people's interactions and responses. Feedback included:

- Individualize the 'Story of Us,' but cover the idea of uniting.
- Frame was useful
- Community Frame might be good vs Human Potential
- Name non-profits instead of "community organizations"
- Include more on relationships in the Story of Us.

Wrap up on discussion by Diana, who shared the focus for scheduling fall and early winter outreach visits:

- Superintendent Diaz
- Superintendent Lopes
- Superintendent Guerrero
- Mayor Wheeler
- Commissioner Fish

### **Emerging Council Action Plan**

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The draft action plan document will be reviewed at the January meeting.

### **Next Steps**

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Frank summarized discussion, gave closing remarks. Next meeting will be on January 11· 2019 because the regular first Friday may conflict with holidays and vacations. Intent is to meet at David Douglas District office for the remainder of year.