

SUN™ Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

September 6, 2013

8:30 – 10:30 am

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Lolenzo Poe (Co-Chair), Bill Scott (Co-Chair), James Hiu, Josh Alpert, Pat Ryan, Lisa Pellegrino, Nate Waas Shull, Rick Nitti, Eileen Argentina, Lee Po Cha, John Richmond, Zeke Smith, Kathy Keim-Robinson, Susan Myers

Also Attending: Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Matt Robinson, Linda Castillo, Nabil Zaghloul, Greg Belisle, Kamesha Robinson, Jill Wier, Brian Detman, Mary Li, Rachel Spigal, Lori Kenney

Alt = alternate member

Updates/Announcements

SUN Council Staffing Transition Bill announced that Lori Kenney will be leaving SUN, having supported the Council for over five years in a contracting role. The County will be interviewing candidates this coming week for the new half time Council staffing position.

New SUN Community Schools Diana reported that Centennial School District wrote two new SUN sites into their 21st Century Grant, which was granted. They now have SUN at Centennial High School (also has a school-based health center) and Lynch Meadows Elementary. Lead agencies were written into the grants and are Metropolitan Family Service for Lynch Meadows and Impact Northwest for Centennial High.

Provider Selected for Lincoln Park David Douglas used the process endorsed by the SUN Council last year to make the decision to select Metropolitan Family Service as the lead agency for Lincoln Park.

With the three new SUN community schools, Diana said we now have a total of 70 SUN Community Schools, with 13 schools still in the top two quartiles of the Equity Index that do not have SUN.

Reynolds Area Boys and Girls Club Closed Students receiving services from the Rockwood Boys and Girls Club that recently closed have been redirected to three local SUN CS schools: Harley, Davis and HB Lee.

Early Learning Hub Zeke reported that the State has released their Early Learning Hub Demonstration Project request for proposal. Multnomah County and United Way are applying together and will be engaging many partners to be part of the Hub. Conversations are already underway with Mark Holloway at Social Venture Partners and Nate Waas Shull of All Hands Raised to ensure alignment and avoid duplicative efforts. Zeke said the hope is to establish a Hub in Multnomah County through the first round of proposals. Susan confirmed that SUN, Kindergarten Counts and all the County's early learning programs will be connected with the Hub. Details will need to be worked out generally, including about how SUN will fit into the Hub's governing body or advisory council. Bill noted that connecting early learning with SUN marks a significant milestone. Lolenzo expressed gratitude for the role United Way is playing in establishing a Hub. Bill asked for an update on the status of the Hub at the October Council meeting.

November Sponsor's Meeting Lori reported that a Sponsor's Meeting has been set for November 19th, 3:30 – 5:00 pm. A "Save the Date" will be sent out shortly, with more information about the meeting details and location to follow. Two more meetings will be scheduled, in February and June of 2014.

Amanda Fritz Meeting At the June Sponsor's meeting, Commissioner Fritz offered to convene a group to discuss immediate and long-range SUN Community School funding, including how to pursue the vision for every school to be a SUN CS. A group met with Commissioner Fritz in August to discuss developing a framework for major SUN stakeholders to fund expansion of the system. The Commissioner offered to have a conversation with the Mayor first before moving forward to convene a larger group that includes the City, County and school district representatives.

Communities Supporting Youth Peggy said the collaborative has published an extensive tool kit that will support work to reduce chronic absenteeism at the six demonstration sites. Working as a volunteer, Alicia Hazen put in over 60 hours formatting and organizing the toolkit in a very short time frame. Peggy said that the collaborative is looking for volunteer champions to serve as the link between the sites and the collaborative. Because SUN is taking on additional responsibilities at the six demonstration sites, efforts are underway to get additional funding to support the increased workload. Demonstration sites will be looking at attendance data regularly to determine which students are missing more than 10% of school days, beginning in late September.

World Café Themes

In July, SUN hosted a World Café event to solicit input around three areas: System Structure, Integrating and Aligning Services and Unmet Needs. The event drew 75 participants total; 12 people served as table hosts and 55 people attended who were not hosts or County SUN staff. It was a good opportunity for dialogue in mixed groups, with some folks who knew a lot about SUN and others who knew only a little. The event itself raised awareness of the SUN Service System, its strengths, opportunities and areas for growth.

Diana walked members through a summary (attached) of the issues raised. Regarding system structure, there was general agreement that the system is strong and is a great foundation upon which to build. The culturally specific aspect of the system is unique. Lorenzo raised the issue of balancing culturally specific services with maintaining the system-wide backbone. Access is generally good; there simply are not enough resources to meet all needs. Pat raised the need for county-wide access to services, given the mobility of users from year to year. She also asked what flexibility is in the RFP to respond to that geographic shift of populations over the lifetime of the RFP.

Café participants also discussed integrating and aligning services, including the implication of "no wrong door." Is there a possibility to have a single point of entry? One result of "no wrong door" is that East County resources are not used only for East County residents. Zeke asked whether it is an issue of not enough resources or a lack of coordination. Diana concurred that there is much more need for resources, and there are also places where we could benefit from greater alignment and coordination. Diana noted the need for balance between addressing immediate needs but also working toward getting people out of poverty. SUN is looking at using a trauma informed approach to service delivery. There was a suggestion to focus on increasing awareness of available services and determining which organizations tend to have better access to services.

Another strong message at the Café was the need to get additional input from users of the systems and folks who need the services but aren't currently users. One idea was for SUN to hold a World Café-type event for users and members of the communities most impacted by poverty and educational disparities. Staff members are already following up on issues raised at the July event. Next steps will include discussing access on a program by program basis, talking with both providers and others who are knowledgeable about best practices. Bill suggested that we work with United Way and All Hands Raised to be more holistic in the community. See the attached World Café Summary and Next Steps document for full details.

Next Steps:

- See next steps in the attached "World Café Input Summary and Next Steps" document

SUN Service System Model Discussion

In preparation for the new RFP, SUN staff members are taking a close look at the System Model, to think about needed change in each area of the system. Peggy distributed a draft table of all the areas and issues being reviewed, including the goal, key questions, who will lead the review, proposed role for the SUN Council and timeline for each area/issue. Generally, the County will lead the work, seeking input and counsel from the SUN Council at appropriate junctures. Community meetings will be held for each of the program areas, seeking input on needed changes. Peggy's draft detailed the areas the Council would be asked for input and/or formal recommendations. More time will be allotted to reviewing the draft at the October Council meeting.

Next Steps:

- *Review Program Model Planning document at October SUN Council meeting.*

Children's Levy Input

The Children's Levy passed again this spring and Lisa briefed the Council on the issues she wanted them to be thinking about to prepare for a more robust discussion at the October Council meeting. The Levy has been conducting input with a lot of groups, with one more large-scale public input meeting scheduled for September 24th, 1:30-3:30 pm at the Downtown Central Library. Lisa invited folks to contact her if there are other groups that want to give input. A [survey](#) has been posted on the Levy website in multiple languages, seeking input about the next funding cycle.

Lisa shared a document about the Levy (attached) and briefly overviewed the services and programs supported by Levy funding: Early Childhood, After School & Mentoring, Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention, Foster Care and Hunger Relief (beginning in July 2014). Programming is focused on children in poverty and two thirds of the children currently served are of color. Extensive detail on who is served is available on their website at www.portlandchildrenslevy.org.

In FY 2012 and 2013, Levy revenues declined by 35%. The Levy Allocation Committee adhered to its prior commitment to fund SUN Community Schools at the minimum level established by the County. This led to significant cuts for other after-school programs. When the Levy faced additional revenue declines in FY 2014, the County agreed to assume funding for eight Levy-funded community school sites to avoid further service cuts.

The Levy primarily does responsive granting, giving funding to those who apply. They collect data on risk factors rather than on poverty and collects data on program outcomes, available on their website. While the Levy currently asks grantees to report multi-racial/ethnic participants as "multi-racial," the trend is to move toward also tracking a duplicated count of all races served. While this results in a total of percentages more than 100%, it gives a clearer picture of all races being served. The Coalition of Communities of Color has the best description about this type of data use in their [An Unsettling Profile](#) report. Peggy offered to share the new race and ethnicity definitions and structure that the SUN Service System recently implemented as part of a larger effort in DCHS to respond to the recommendations of the Coalition of Communities of Color for appropriately gathering data on race and ethnicity.

Levy funding guidelines must be set this fall, so time is of the essence in getting input to the Levy on funding priorities and strategies. Lisa distributed a list of four questions she will ask the Council to discuss at the October meeting. Bill noted that a big discussion point is the merits of funding the backbone of the system (SUN Community Schools core funding) versus specific programs.

Next Steps:

- *Discuss Levy questions at October Council meeting and make recommendations on funding priorities and strategies.*

Program Presentation: Anti-Poverty

Mary Li, Community Services Division Director, presented an overview of the Anti-Poverty/Prosperity System of Care including those elements that are contracted through the SUN Service System. The County is the designated Community Action Agency for Multnomah County. Total funding for that system of care is \$13.2 million, from County General Fund, Community Services Block Grant, HUD, LIEAP and OEAP. Their two charges are to *ease* the conditions of poverty and *end* the conditions of poverty. The handout she distributed is attached.

One of their primary strategies is to focus on economic development as the development of human capital. Pilot projects in the recent three years have allowed the Division to partner with Home Forward and WorkSystems Inc to strengthen partnerships and ensure families who are homeless have access to the range of supports that promote success. Use of the Assertive Engagement model has deepened connections between nonprofit direct service staff and program participants; AE emphasizes meaningful engagement and goal setting on a regular basis rather than on traditional case management services.

Mary emphasized that “rapid re-housing” has become the focus so that folks can become stable in their living situation, and then work on other issues they may have. This is in contrast to previous models where families would often have shelter first, transitional housing, and then move to permanent housing. Safe and stable housing becomes the foundation upon which “all else is possible.”

Mary outlined an emerging planning process, “Coordinated Entry Access,” that is taking place to re-organize how all housing services are delivered. The process emphasizes greater coordination across all providers. Sessions have been underway for two months, and will continue for several more. Overall, the conversations have been positive and stakeholders are fully engaged. It is her intent that this re-designed model will be fully folded into the SUN Service System RFP next year.

Regarding program data, members asked for information on the average length of service and the number of clients that exit each year. Mary pointed out that funds allocated to anti-poverty have not increased despite a goal to increase the number of SUN CS sites with staff available to assist families seeking access to existing anti-poverty services.

Mary raised several interesting policy issues that she would welcome discussing with the SUN Council; she extended the offer to the Council to engage in such discussions over the coming months.

Next Steps:

- *Discuss anti-poverty policy issues in more depth at a future meeting when Mary can join the Council.*

Update on Evaluation of SUN Community Schools

Peggy reported on her research into what kind of an evaluation would be feasible for \$50,000, focusing on existing data. With the purpose of the evaluation being to validate the benefits of SUN Community Schools, Peggy is recommending a quasi-experimental evaluation of how youth fared in elementary and middle school, designed with a matched pairing of youth who engaged in SUN and those that did not. She would like to have the evaluation conducted in the next 6-8 months. Member input included asking what is known about the profiles of students for whom SUN seems to be working best, and understanding the impact of not only length of participation in SUN, but the type of participation.

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates/Times:

Next Coordinating Council Meeting:

Friday, October 4, 2013
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building, Room 112
501 SE Hawthorne

Future Coordinating Council Meetings*:

*(*All are from 8:30-10:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise)*

Friday, November 1, Room 112
Friday, December 6, Room 112
Friday, January 3, Room 112

Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative

September 20, 8:30 – 10:30 am
8:00 am newcomer orientation
Marshall High School, Room B39
3905 SE 92nd Avenue, Portland 97266

Every School a SUN CS Workgroup

The group is on hiatus while Sponsor level discussions take place.