

SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

March 7, 2008
8:30-10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Lorenzo Poe (Chair), Krista Larson, Lisa Turpel, Joanne Fuller, Lisa Pellegrino, Bill Scott, Barbara Kienle, Nicole Maher, Dunya Minoo (alt)

alt= alternate member

Also Attending: Jim Schlachter, Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Lori Kenney

Funder's Letter Mailed

Diana Hall reported that the letter had been sent to funders along with the contribution information and updated poverty index. Council members have not heard any feedback to date from Funders.

RFP Update

Peggy Samolinski reported that the SUN Service System RFP is out. The first pre-proposal meeting was March 5th, with another scheduled for March 12th. Rating begins on April 4th with seven panels of 40 raters. Raters are being kept confidential.

Community Schools Forum: April 30th – May 2nd

Peggy Samolinski provided information on the Community Schools Forum:

- All are encouraged to sign up by March 21 [subsequently the early registration rate has been extended until April 4th.]
- An email has been sent out regarding the group discount at \$285/person -- call Peggy if you need the code for registration
- Leader's Symposium on Wednesday, from 2:30-5:30 p.m. after "The Portland Story" Plenary Session (1:00-2:15 p.m.) will be a high-level invitation only group from across the state. Invitees include the Mayor, Superintendents, City and County Council members and candidates. **Let Peggy know of others you would like to see invited.** Invitation letter will be out by March 21st. Warren Simmons will facilitate a conversation on different ways to engage communities and families. It may be possible to sign up for this session only.
- Friday, May 2nd, Closing Plenary Session will be Vicki Phillips with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Website: www.communityschools.org (Click on "Forum") -- also linked to the SCP website - www.co.multnomah.or.us/dscp

Increasing Accessibility for Youth/Parent Input

Joanne Fuller provided an overview of a proposal she and Lori Kenney developed for increasing accessibility of youth and parent input to the Coordinating Council:

- Go to them, rather than ask them to attend our meetings
- Work with providers (SUN Community Schools, Regional Center, anti-poverty, parent/child services and culturally specific groups in different geographic locations) to identify opportunities to have dialogue and a structured focus group with separate groups of parents and then of youth, to share information and also to solicit input
- If possible, link these with events already happening
- Council members would be invited to attend
- Lori Kenney could serve as a neutral facilitator
- Hold 4-5 of these annually
- Downside of this method is not having a regular informed group to rely on for input
- PPS is already conducting focus groups at 21st CCLC sites and can bring that feedback to the Council
- IRCO and the Urban League are working on a project to get input from youth and families
- Council will get clear on the kinds of questions/information they want. We need to manage expectations with participants who may regard this as a commitment to meet needs.

Next Steps:

- Develop one opportunity this year for dialogue and focus groups with parents and youth.

National Association of Black Elected Officials Event on Youth Leadership

Lorenzo Poe provided a brief overview of an upcoming event underwritten by Bob Johnson to encourage leadership amongst youth of color. On April 15th, 2,500 black elected city officials will be coming to the Convention Center to talk about leadership. Portland will be sending 200 young people to this event, possibly attended by Barak Obama.

21st CCLC Grants

Joanne Fuller provided a summary of the workgroup that met to understand partner intentions about grant applications and to work on sustainability. The meeting was considered a first conversation on this issue. Initial agreements from that workgroup are:

1. Use 21CCLC grants to deepen the work and programs at existing SUN Community Schools, in accordance with best practices/research identifying the benefits of regular and prolonged exposure.
 - Deepen category(s) of services at non-21CCLC sites
 - As much as possible, tie grants to identified gaps (homework assistance, reading, academics)
2. Utilize Department of Energy (DOE) Funds for expansion into high poverty schools

- County would want to take direction from the Coordinating Council and use Poverty Index; Schools at top of Poverty Index and currently without SUN CS are in David Douglas and Reynolds school districts (Ron Russell and Reynolds Middle Schools)
- Offers flexibility to address East County school districts in a move toward equalization of services

An exploratory discussion with the work group included the following:

- Anyone not part of the SUN system can apply for grants outside the SUN CS model
- 21CCLC grants are fully funded the first three years, then lessen each year
- DOE funds are up to \$500,000 for 5 years
- Joanne expressed her belief that it would not be advantageous to have multiple DOE grants from the Portland area since we are known for our partnership
- Intent letter for DOE grants must be sent March 17th. Pre-proposal meeting is March 12th. Applicants must be school districts.
- The NAYA Academy and alternative schools are considering applying for the DOE grant as well – need to coordinate with them to avoid competing proposals from this area
- Possibility to apply with other proposers and agree on the amount for each school.
- A key issue is whether we can find sustainable funding after the grant. The two new schools would become a part of the SUN CS model and the County would then try to sustain them.
- The SUN CS model is likely to get priority in grant awards since the County was the main advocate for the funding.
- Since case management, attendance and mental health cannot be funded under 21CCLC, could we consider using DOE funds to deepen existing grants?
- Joanne advised the original intent of the DOE funds was to fund new sites rather than layering services.
- Some council members feel that we need to look at new east county sites to be equitable.

Next Steps:

- Joanne will set up a meeting with those who are considering applying for the DOE funds to coordinate applications, possibly setting the meeting on March 12th after the pre-proposal meeting.

Gap Priorities

At the February 15th meeting, Council members reviewed the feedback and initial gaps recommendations made by the work group in order to develop an initial set of joint priorities that helps us make progress on addressing the gaps this year. The notes from the 2/15 meeting were distributed again. Diana underscored the context for the list of gaps currently being considered. This list came out of the Fall work on minimum service levels for a first set of services (those to be procured as part of the SUN RFP). The Council expressed a desire to attempt to address some of these gaps as a beginning place for moving forward, particularly this year. It is anticipated that in the future, as the Anti-Poverty providers further define the Low Income System of Care and mental health and health are focused on, that an expanded list of gaps will be defined.

Prioritization/Input from the following groups was offered to inform the discussion:

Metropolitan Youth Comm.	SUN SS Users	SUN SS Focus Group Input	SAI Focus Group (not in rank order)
1 Internships, Jobs 2 Tutoring, Mentoring 3 Case Management 5 Life Skills Devel. 6 Homework Assistance 7 Summer Programs	1 Case Management 2 Life Skills Devel. 3 Tutoring, Mentoring	Referrals come friends, family, community-based staff (relationships) Mental health is difficult to access More life skills, anti-poverty education Importance of anti-gang services Immigrant/homeless participants use multiple services at higher rates	Mobility is significant factor in school success Supports to help children transition & connect to new environments. Services that work on social and emotional issues Basic needs Housing Engaging and supportive parents A & D services

Members voiced concerns and suggestions about the gaps and the process to prioritize them:

- There is a huge gap in culturally specific services and this should be considered since many groups are not comfortable with school-based services.
- We could remove school-based/school-linked designations from the gaps.
- Purpose in prioritizing is not to come to a formal agreement but rather to have a collective perspective on what would make the biggest impact if funding becomes available and to guide our joint work.
- Prioritization should be based on what we've heard and what we understand about the system.
- Members clarified that in this setting, our commitment was to the System, rather than the specific organization each member represents.

The decision was reached to remove the adjectives "school-based" and "school-linked" from the gap names. The intent of the prioritization was to consider broad service types as opposed to individual programs and this adjustment was consistent with that aim. The Council also decided to add culturally specific services as a gap area, acknowledging that all the services on the list would include culturally specific services.

The Council concurred with the workgroup's decision to remove SUN Community Schools and Transportation from the list since these were gaps that pertained to a specific fiscal year or individual district. These should be considered separately from this more general list of gaps.

Council Gap Priorities:

Gap Ranking	Score	Funding Priorities/Possibilities
1. Case Management	5.2	High: Providers, County, Cultural Groups Medium: PPS, David Douglas Low: Business/Private, City
2. Attendance Support	4.0	High: DD, PPS
3. Culturally Specific Services, Achievement Gap	4.0	High: City, County, PPS
4. Summer Programs	3.12	High: City, PPS, Cultural (through s's)
5. Academic Support/Skill Development	2.4	High: Schools (difficult to fund in community setting)
6. Homework Assistance	2.1	High: PPS, DD, City, Providers

Council members discussed the outcome of their prioritization process:

- Focus on the top two, with a special emphasis on culturally specific
- The first two drive everything else. All other programs can't reach kids unless kids get to school. We need to educate others about the importance of case management to everything else.
- Need to educate elementary parents about the importance of attending school. Middle school is too late.
- Counselors, case managers and after school programs do a lot of attendance support.
- Need to think about the best way to systemically address attendance support issues
- Do we need to rethink how we do attendance support? Do both programs work on addressing barriers?

Chair Poe emphasized Chair Wheeler's interest in setting a meeting with the funders to discuss how we move forward.

- Joint ownership needs to be clearly defined
- How are we going to leverage resources to address case management and other gaps?
- What can each partner bring to the table? What might the City of Gresham bring to the table?
- These conversations need to happen now while everyone is still in the budgeting process and could still have some influence on the 2008-09 budget.
- Need to clarify Chair Wheeler's specific interests for funder's meeting agenda
- Need to identify the joint ownership issues that need to be addressed

Next Steps:

- Staff will develop a set of joint ownership issues/questions that need to be resolved.
- The Council will come back to ownership issues at the March 21st meeting to clarify what should be taken to the funders

PR Piece

Diana briefly announced she is working on a tri-fold PR piece that will represent all partners, hopefully to be ready by the national Community Schools Forum.

Communication/Take Aways

- Joanne will work with other 21CCLC grant applicants to coordinate applications
- Agenda items for 3/21/08 meeting:
 - Joint ownership Issues

Next Meeting

Friday, March 21, 2008
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building, Room 315
501 SE Hawthorne

