

## SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

September 18, 2009

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

### MEETING NOTES

#### Attendance

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**Members Present:** Lorenzo Poe (Chair), Joanne Fuller, Krista Larson, Jim Schlachter, Barbara Kienle, Lisa Turpel, Jerry Burns, Gloria Wiggins, Meg McElroy (Alt), Dunya Minoo (Alt)

Alt = alternate member

**Also Attending:** Hector Roche, Peggy Samolinski, Abby Ahern, Lori Kenney

**Public Comment:** (none)

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#### Updates

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SUN as Prevention Strategy for Public Safety: Joanne reported she is part of a workgroup formed by LPSCC to address prevention strategies around youth gang issues. Joanne is using the opportunity to increase understanding of SUN's activities as a fundamental prevention strategy. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a conversation about the intersection of schools and gangs and the importance of keeping kids in schools. To that end, they are seeking greater school representation on the workgroup.

New PPS Council Member: Chair Poe announced that there is a new Council representative from PPS, Cliff Brush, Director of Federal, State & Strategic Grant Programs who replaces Willie Poinsette. Willie is serving as principal at Humboldt this year.

Education Cabinet: Lorenzo briefed members on activities of Ninth Grade Counts and Youth Corps this summer. Those programs served over 1,500 youth through a network of community partnerships and the efforts of Worksystems Inc. In addition to receiving summer academic programming, some students job shadowed in local businesses and agencies, getting exposure to a range of professions. The Cabinet is now focusing their efforts on developing strategies to increase school completion by 50% and reduce the number of drop outs. The Strategy Team developed a number of recommended strategies. The five priority strategies selected by the Cabinet for further development and consideration are as follows:

- Improve program/policy planning and increase public awareness of the drop out issues by **identifying students** with an elevated risk of dropping out
- Respond to poor **attendance** in a consistent, timely manner
- Youth are connected to **supportive adults** – at home, at school and in the community
- Youth have additional learning & enrichment opportunities in **out-of-school time** that increase academic success
- Youth have opportunities for **career-post-secondary exploration and experiences** that promote school completion, matriculation into post-secondary institutions and job readiness

Chair Poe reported that the discussion about strategies included a lively conversation about including strategies to enhance the achievement levels for students of color. Chair Wheeler is advocating that any strategies be built on the existing platform of SUN and all its partners. The next Cabinet meeting is in November.

Race to the Top Grants: Lorenzo reported he has been asked to join a State advisory panel to help define what the Race to the Top Grant should look like. As a state-wide representative, he will be advocating for community schools and their value to academics.

Federal Stimulus \$\$: Peggy let members know that they are still waiting for specifications for the nationally competitive "What Works" grant. Karen Gray has secured an agreement from MESD to file an application on behalf of Multnomah County schools.

ARRA Funds for CSBG: Peggy reported that the SUN Service System Anti Poverty Services has received nearly 1 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding for case management, to focus on employment skills development through a partnership with Worksystems, Inc. This project, called Action for Prosperity, is part of what folks are calling the "3 Legged Stool" and includes housing supports, case management and employment services.

Community Schools Practicum in NYC: Peggy let folks know about the upcoming Practicum hosted by the Children's Aid Society at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York City, October 21-23. The focus of the practicum is "Every School a Community School". Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, will be the keynote speaker among other prominent voices in education. This is an opportunity to hear a powerful reenergizing message about recommitting to the value of community schools. In conjunction with the Practicum, some County staff are attending a meeting and site visit as part of the Early Childhood Community School Linkages Project. County staff will be attending the early childhood piece of the conference. Barbara Rommel attended and has been an advocate ever since.

Community Schools Coalition: The annual Community Schools Coalition Conference is in Philadelphia in April 2010. There is a call out for papers for peer focused dialogue on particular issues.

On another community schools note, Peggy took House Representation Mike Dembrow to Rigler Elementary and he was very supportive and offered some additional suggestions for folks we should connect with as part of the joint ownership outreach plan...

Early Childhood/Community Schools Linkages Project: Peggy reported that she had visitors from DC to discuss our local implementation of the Kellogg Grant. The three year grant, with the State Commission on Children and Families, includes two local sites and one in Siletz.

Government Hiring Issues: Lisa Turpel reported that she may need Council to testify at a future City Council meeting about an issue that has grown as economic woes have deepened, necessitating many lay-offs for many agencies. In her role as Parks Labor Relations representative, she is seeing an increase in labor groups contesting the use of volunteers, community service folks, youth interns and others, fearful that it impinges on jobs. Chair Poe suggested we give this issue some thought and discuss it at an upcoming Council meeting.

DHS: Jerry Burns reported on the addition of 90 staff in self sufficiency and 30 to child welfare in Multnomah County. Paradoxically, in a cost-cutting measure, plans are also underway to furlough 850 employees for one day per month. DHS is stepping up efforts to reduce the disproportionate number of African American and Native American youth in foster care. Their efforts will include watching kids' academic performance and doing all they can to keep kids at home. DHS is also forming a differential response team to assist families who are in danger of losing children due to financial issues.

STRIVE: Since both Maxine and Bill were absent, Lorenzo provided a very brief update. Discussions are underway about the best alignment of leadership groups in accomplishing several pieces of work.

## Every School a SUN Community School

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Following through on Council's request in June that a workgroup begin discussing how best to move forward on Council's vision of "Every School a SUN Community School", Joanne provided an overview of what was accomplished this summer. She and Bill saw a need to define what this means, so invited a group of community partners to a brainstorming session in late June. The group brought forth many ideas, some small and some large. At a minimum, Every School a SUN CS would mean a site coordinator at every school, as well as growing the other System's services at the same time. This would necessitate a broader funding base for SUN than is currently the case. Bigger ideas included the following:

- Schools as multi-functional/purpose facilities welcoming and engaging/connecting families to support academic achievement
- More funding partners
- Diverse partners delivering services
- Reach out to disengaged kids -- those not in school or involved in meaningful activities
- School achievement as an economic development strategy: SUN plus schools = economic development
- SUN as a model **and** system for service delivery; the possibility of community schools looking a bit different than they do now
- SUN embracing all ages (early childhood/elderly)
- Need to build up services at regional and culturally specific agencies (a site coordinator alone is not sufficient)

A core group met twice following the brainstorming session to synthesize input and identified missing stakeholders (private foundations, County legislators, CHIF, PPS, Early Childhood, Post Secondary Education, Education Advocates) and agreed to hold individual meetings with key folks to bring them on board. Because the Joint Ownership workgroup is planning to meet with many of the same individuals, the Every School group would like to link those two conversations rather than asking folks to make time for two separate meetings. Joanne spoke with Jane Ames about our vision. Given the Mayor is interested in education, Jane sees good alignment between the Mayor's vision and ours. We just need to bring them together. As we all go about our work, Joanne encouraged that we keep reminding people to use SUN as the vehicle to achieve goals rather than creating something new. With the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SUN and the reality that we have a higher percentage of community schools in Multnomah County than any other locale nationally, we have a great opportunity to advocate for our vision and continue to build on the platform offered by SUN. Even though we are struggling with funding overall, there was a net increase of 5 SUN Community Schools this year.

Joanne told the group she thinks Council needs to agree on a definition of what Every School a SUN CS is and what it means, so we have a core agreement about that. This vision will need to be brought to our Sponsors as a proposal for their discussion. Group input on Every School a SUN CS included the following:

- In the context of the current economy, this could be a difficult concept to grasp
- Could the Education Cabinet adopt this as one of their strategies?
- Continue to look inward at adapting and redefining how we accomplish SUN CS. At Gresham-Barlow, the district has redirected funding to cover what SUN could not fund.
- PPS now has an Office of Modernization, stressing that schools should be the center of the community. With so many new folks at PPS, there are only pockets of understanding about SUN. Since PPS is now talking about a high school community school model, our vision is very timely.
- Jerry Burns implored the group to move forward with this as more than a vision. He suggested the group pick a school or cluster and see what can be created with realigned and redirected resources and additional community partners, perhaps with DHS services (e.g. workers) outstationed at school sites, for example.

- Advocate for a model that addresses the entire family as well as academic achievement.
- Talk with schools about starting SUN-like schools; reshaping things to move forward
- Given all the political capital with the Mayor and high school completion, there seems to be readiness to focus on high school youth
- The community schools forum in New York may be a good forum for new ideas on how to reshape/redefine SUN
- We need to keep our work simple, our definitions simple. Because the system is complex, we need to define things in terms easily understood by outsiders and potential funders.
- Some of the Education Cabinet Strategies are SUN but aren't called SUN.
- Start with getting Sponsor agreement to pursue our vision and then move to the Education Cabinet.

#### *Next Steps:*

- *Joanne and Bill will convene their core group to develop a definition of Every School a SUN Community School so we can show people where we are headed. If it is ready, the definition will be presented at the October Council meeting.*
- *Dunya will take the lead on convening a meeting on "Experimental Expansion", to develop a plan for expanding SUN Community Schools through a realignment and redirection of resources and addition of community partners. Their work will include expanding services at existing community schools. In addition to Dunya, workgroup members may include: Jerry Burns, Peggy Samolinski, Krista Larson, Lorena Campbell and Mary Richardson. The group will provide an update on their process at the November Coordinating Council meeting.*

## **Joint Ownership**

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Lisa Turpel presented an overview of the Joint Ownership workgroup's progress. They met three times this summer to develop a Championship Building plan. In the process, they realized there was a need to fully understand the membership and roles of the leadership groups in the County as well as the several operational groups, all of which discuss inter-related issues. The workgroup identified that a number of leaders have expressed interest in considering reducing the number of meetings for leaders to attend and in understanding how the "dots connect" between the various operational and governance groups. To further understand how issues are currently addressed and work is accomplished, they developed several tools:

- List of membership for education-related leadership groups in the County, and for operational groups
- Description of the purpose of each of the operations/governance groups, when they were formed, their charge and who they report to
- A graphic showing the relationship of all the operational and leadership groups

Group members found the tools to be very helpful, particularly the graphic. Lisa also presented a draft Championship Building plan that identifies key individuals and targeted messages, depending on understanding and experience. The goal is to get to people this fall before budget processes are in full swing. When we go to school boards, principals and other folks from the SUN CSs in that district will be brought along to speak. We need a clear generic message and baseline packet for school boards; a different packet for potential funders. Our message needs to be taken to the Leaders Roundtable since there are many there who don't have much understanding of SUN.

A second priority for the Joint Ownership workgroup will be to determine the format of a written agreement for SUN partners.

#### *Next Steps:*

- *The Joint Ownership workgroup will set a meeting to further refine the Championship Plan and develop our message*
- *Subsequently, they will work with Every School a SUN CS workgroup members and possibly bring in additional folks to coordinate meetings with key individuals. (Krista offered to come along as a provider, if that would be helpful.)*

## **Fall Priority Work**

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With the directives for the three workgroups (Every School a SUN CS, Experimental SUN Expansion, and Joint Ownership) the group felt that work for the next month or two is pretty well defined.

### *Next Steps:*

- *SUN Staff will send out notices of the three upcoming workgroup meeting dates/times in the coming week*

## **Next Meeting**

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**Full Coordinating Council**  
**Friday, October 16, 2009**  
**8:30-10:30 a.m.**  
**Multnomah Building,**  
**Room 112**  
**501 SE Hawthorne**

**Future Meetings:** (all meetings are from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Multnomah Bldg. Room 112)

**Friday, November 20, 2009**  
**Friday, December 18, 2009**  
**Friday, January 15, 2010**  
**Friday, February 19, 2010**  
**Friday, March 19, 2010**  
**Friday, April 16, 2010**