

SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

April 17, 2009
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Lorenzo Poe (Chair), Krista Larson, Barbara Kienle, Bill Scott, Lisa Turpel, Jerry Burns, Gloria Wiggins, Willie Poinsette, Nichole Maher

Alt = alternate member

Also Attending: Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Lori Kenney

Public Comment: (none)

Updates

After School Advocacy Day at the Capitol: Krista reported on her day at the capitol with representatives from IRCO, MFS, Campfire and SUN. They talked to legislators, advocating for coordination of fragmented funding for after school programs. She said legislators were especially receptive once they understood no one was requesting money and indicated they would consider forming a task force next year to address after school funding issues.

Commission on Children and Families Leadership: Lorenzo reported that Wendy Lebow will be leaving her post as Director of the Commission. A search is underway for her replacement. A proposal to eliminate the State Commission has once again been raised by a legislator. It's still too early to know if this is a serious threat. It appears that if the State Commission were to be eliminated, funding would flow directly to the county commissions who would function as usual.

Hennepin County Visitors: Peggy described the visit with Mr. Opat, Chair of the Hennepin County Commission in Minnesota. Although Hennepin County has long been a model for Multnomah County around juvenile issues, they are very interested in developing a system like the SUN Service System in their county. Their visit included a stop at Lane Middle School and meetings with Chair Wheeler and members of the Council.

SUN Regional RFP: Peggy announced that the SUN provider awards have been made:

Region 1: Neighborhood House (MFS will no longer serve as a sub-contractor in this region)
Region 2: SEI
Region 3: NAYA, with IRCO as a sub-contractor (was Impact NW)
Region 4: Impact NW
Regions 5 and 6: MFS

If PCDS is funded, IRCO will provide PCDS and community schools in Region 3. In regions where the provider is changing, discussions are underway about whether the current staff stays. Every effort will be made to ensure that client records are transferred smoothly. These contracts will be in place for six years.

Education Cabinet: Diana reported that work is moving forward on 9th Grade Counts and the Youth Corps. The Portland Schools Foundation is coordinating a large effort that includes 42 Americorps members, 30 MAT students from Marylhurst, and many businesses and partners collaborating to provide college and career exposure visits. The plan is to serve at least 1,200 students, with a strong connection to SUN as a delivery system. Worksystems is aligning federal stimulus dollars to provide summer jobs for over 500 youth, ages 16-24. While many contributions have been made, this effort will require additional contributions from the community in both dollars and in-kind contributions. Lisa T. said a number of youth initiatives in several city bureaus have really elevated the level of coordination and collaboration taking place in the community. Lorenzo stressed that while we are building on the existing platform, we want to recognize the good work already happening. The next Education Cabinet meeting is April 27th, 8 – 10 a.m. in the Portland Building, Room C.

Leaders Roundtable: Bill debriefed portions of the most recent Leaders Roundtable meeting where issues relevant to the SUN Service System were discussed. Members provided information about programs that are changing or in trouble and worked together to avoid any unintended consequences. Pat Burk gave a report at the meeting on the education piece of stimulus monies, the largest amount of money available to education in our history. The stimulus monies are being used both to fill in gaps and develop new programs. Bill stressed the importance of working on rebuilding and using the current economic environment as an opportunity for change.

Chalkboard Study: Lorenzo reported that although Black students are making the same progress on average as White students, they start behind. Because they start behind, the cumulative results show a widening of the gap as they move through school. The most important news about this is that we can focus on addressing the issues earlier. Some schools are doing particularly well with African American students.

Gloria noted that although it may appear that dropout rates overall are down, that is not the case for Latino and African American groups. A framework needs to be developed for deeper analysis of graduation for specific populations. Once we confirm that something works, how can that be instituted across districts? Faculty and staff always have choice about what works best for their students. Often programs that are especially successful in working with students are related to gifted leadership.

Community ESL Program at PSU: Maxine announced that the Community ESL program at PSU recently received the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Award for excellent work. PSU began the ESL program 15 years ago when Latino students began talking about the challenges they face in our culture. The PSU president at that time mobilized the head of the Linguistics Department and the university provided instructors in the community. Once a site was established, they publicized the program, registered students and coordinated teachers and logistics. SUN did not exist when the program was first formed, but it has turned out to be the perfect delivery mechanism. The one site that is currently not a SUN site has lacked the consistency of the SUN sites. Maxine said there are many stories from both students and instructors regarding the transformational nature of this program for all involved. Members advocated that this story to be shared with the County Board.

Action Item:

- *Share this story as another example of a SUN partnership with the County Board.*

CHIF Allocation Meeting Debrief

Bill debriefed the group on the meeting with the CHIF Allocation Committee. Maxine, Bill and Gloria presented, with Lorenzo, Joanne, Willie, Barb, Jerry, Peggy and Lori there as support. Maxine set the stage, Bill described the Council's vision and Gloria asked the committee to adopt the Allocation

Methodology. After a brief discussion, the CHIF Committee expressed support for the alignment work of the SUN Service System Coordinating Council and agreed to adopt the Allocation Methodology. The presentations stressed that there are three main funders of the system (County, Parks and CHIF) and Parks and the County are using the allocation methodology. All four members (Chair Wheeler was unable to attend) seemed to really understand the importance of alignment and helping to support the system with consistent decision-making about funding.

Individual conversations also went well. Willie spoke with Adrienne about the importance of continuity; Dan expressed support of greater alignment efforts to Joanne; and Alissa indicated support of alignment and infrastructure development. Alissa expressed concern about the possibility of losing PCDS and the possibility of SUN Community Schools displacing other programs in the schools such as child care. Dan called Barbara Rommel after the meeting to express his support. Council members suggested asking Alissa to attend a future Council meeting.

Next Steps:

- *Invite Alissa to a future Council meeting.*

Resourcing the SUN Service System

Lorenzo spoke about the Governor's budget coming out much lower than district budgets and asked agencies to share any new information about their respective financial situations.

City

- The Mayor will release the City budget on April 28. Safety (police and fire) has not sustained the same level of cuts as other city bureaus. Since 5% across the board is still predicted, this means a bigger cut for Parks. Each percentage less of a cut for safety means an additional million cut for Parks.
- Lisa T. and Willie spoke with the principal at MLC about how to address the potential loss of SUN. He reported the significant role SUN plays and its value to the community. The partnership was clearly demonstrated with Willie, Lisa and Mary all going to talk with the principal together. Partners will be working together to bridge this transition, should it occur.

Multnomah County

- Chair's budget message will be delivered Thursday, April 23rd at 9:30 a.m. There will be an opportunity for public input at four budget hearings.
- The budget will clarify what is happening with Touchstone and PCDS.
- This budget will not reflect the state cuts, possibly necessitating revisiting the budget and making additional cuts mid-year.
- The union has agreed to freeze wages and COLA, freeing up funding to restore programming.

PPS

- Negotiations are still underway with the teacher's union.

Council Staffing

- Staffing will be covered this coming year with assistance from the Leaders Roundtable, Mayor's office, Parks and Multnomah County.

- Diana thanked Leaders Roundtable for their role in helping move the conversation on joint funding for Council staffing forward.

Updated Poverty Index

- Diana reviewed the updated poverty index, noting that a few schools had shifted positions
- Alternative and charter schools are not on the list and have high proportions of youth of color and poverty
- There was a request to map all the schools with after school or other support programs so we have a better understanding of what is happening and where

Next Steps:

- *Revisit the issue of adding charter and alternative schools being to the Poverty Index*
- *Explore mapping all schools to further understanding of all programs, their services and locations*

Composite Document

Diana provided a brief overview of the composite document that includes Commitments and Benefits, Grant Guidelines and Implications and a distilled Allocation Methodology. This document represents the policy framework endorsed by the Coordinating Council. Members provided the following input:

- The Allocation Methodology was developed for a particular period in time. It is subject to change.
- Although we decided not to call the Grant Recommendations “policy,” the document still reflects a framework of how the Council will function.
- Desire by the communities of color representatives to have a conversation about the 33% allocation to anti-poverty
- Need to footnote in this methodology how the 33% number came about.
- Include “Date adopted” and “Date revised” on the document
- More concrete information and further conversation is needed before we can take this document to Sponsors for a recommendation.

Next Steps:

- *Diana will add a footnote to the Allocation Methodology noting that an allocation to SSES is embedded in the funding formula and add “Date adopted” and “Date revised”.*
- *Revisit whether to convene a group to clarify the issues to be addressed so this document is ready for a recommendation to Sponsors.*

District Council Report Out

Peggy provided a debriefing on the SUN SS Districts Council discussion about the \$5 billion pot of stabilization funds. School districts want to be included in State applications and helping define how funds are used within Oregon. The group discussed what potential elements will benefit all districts. At some point, there may be reason to have the Coordinating Council involved in advocacy about this funding to the State.

Council's Next Work

Bill reiterated his interest in moving forward in a purposeful way to further develop Council's vision of "Every School a SUN CS." He offered to meet with Joanne after the budgets are settled to determine what the issues are and to begin developing a structure for the conversation.

Next Steps:

- *Peggy will check in with Joanne about the best timing to begin this conversation with Bill.*

Upcoming Council and Workgroup Meeting Schedules

No workgroups are scheduled to meet at this time. Members agreed to discuss workgroups at the May Council meeting.

Upcoming Council meetings are as follows:

- May 15, 2009
- June 19, 2009
- July 17, 2009

Next Meetings

Full Council:
Friday, May 15, 2009
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building,
Room 112
501 SE Hawthorne

Resource Workgroup:
No meeting scheduled

System Integration and Alignment: Meeting to be set after budget/resource issues resolved.

Data and Evaluation: Meeting to be set in May