

SUN Service System Coordinating Council Meeting

January 5, 2009

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Lorenzo Poe (Chair), Joanne Fuller, Krista Larson, Barbara Kienle, Jim Schlachter, Bill Scott, Lisa Turpel, Dunya Minoo (Alt), Lee Po Cha (Alt), John Richmond (Alt), Marcus Mundy (Alt)

Alt = alternate member

Also Attending: Hector Roche, Mary Richardson, Peggy Samolinski, Diana Hall, Rebecca Stavenjord, Catherine Malinis, Lori Kenney

Public Comment: (none)

Updates

Leaders Roundtable: Lorenzo reported that Chair Wheeler and Centennial's Bob McKean will be co-chairing the Leaders Roundtable. They plan to meet next week to work out chairing details.

Education Cabinet: Chair Wheeler will also co-chair the Education Cabinet with Mayor Adams. This 15-20 member cabinet is comprised of superintendents, elected officials, business leaders, and community members. The group will be developing resources and strategies to address education issues. An initiative to address academic achievement, the drop-out rate, Connected by 25, and related issues will be connected with the Cabinet. Their first meeting will occur on January 26th. A separate strategy team will be developing strategies for the Cabinet. Chair Wheeler will continue to reinforce his desire to have SUN serve as the educational support platform in the County.

Next Steps:

- *SUN staff will send out details of the location and time of the January 26th Education Cabinet meeting, and whether it is a public meeting.*
- *Members asked for periodic updates on the Cabinet's work.*

Mental Health Training: Joanne reported that the System Integration and Alignment workgroup has scheduled a mental health training and conversation for this Friday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the All Saints Episcopal Church at 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd. Julie Rosenzweig from PSU will be speaking about *Working Effectively with Children and Families with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders*. Mental health is one of the areas identified by the System Integration workgroup as an area of both need and opportunity for enhanced collaboration and alignment. This training will focus on line level staff sharing information and building capacity without new funds. Everyone was invited to share the opportunity with staff who would be interested. There is still room for more attendees.

System Integration and Alignment Workgroup: This workgroup will continue meeting on additional alignment issues, such as child welfare and possibly early childhood. Since group members initially made a commitment to meet for the summer, we may need to revisit membership to honor that commitment. There may also be others who are interested in joining this workgroup.

Schools Family Housing: Peggy Samolinski reported that this City-funded family stabilization program showed strong results last year and has produced a report with details of families served. Currently, funding is earmarked for next year within the City's budget. See additional information about Schools Family Housing in the SUN Service System Evaluation for 2007/08 below.

East County Council Representation: Jim Schlachter will be the second East County representative on the Council, with Lori Silverman serving as back-up for both Barbara Kienle and Jim Schlachter.

Human Services All-Department Advisory Committee: Joanne reported that the Citizen Budget Advisory Committee will be holding an all-department advisory meeting this Thursday, January 8th at the United Methodist Church from 4:30-7:00 p.m. The Coordinating Council is one of the Department's key advisory groups and is welcome to attend. Rather than having sequential meetings of the 10 official and 5 unofficial advisory groups about the County budget, this meeting will bring consumers, providers and professionals together to provide input in one place at one time. They are expecting approximately 75 people to participate. Boxed lunch/dinners will be provided.

SUN Service System Evaluation for 2007/08

Peggy Samolinski provided an overview of the Evaluation of the SUN Service System for 2007/08, noting that the purpose of the report is to describe the effects of services on families. Outcomes were strong and reflect an additional 1,500 served from the previous year. Teacher surveys of students who showed needed improvement of some kind are increasing each year. The system is serving those it is intended to serve: 69% of the students served qualify for free and reduced lunch; 66% served are people of color. The report can be found on the website at www.co.multnomah.or.us/SUNCC. A few highlights of the evaluation are listed below:

- 73% of students served increased state benchmark scores in Reading
- 76% of students served increased state benchmark scores in Math
- Average daily attendance for students served was 94%
- 92% of clients maintained or had achieved permanent housing at exit
- The Schools Family Housing partnership and funding through the City of Portland resulted in 85% of the families served staying in their housing for the year. Housing stability is a significant contributor to student success. This program is housed at 9 sites (schools with Touchstone). Funding from the City goes through HAP for this program; case management is provided by Touchstone. This is a great example of alignment of efforts and how it can maximize our resources.

Group members had the following questions/suggestions:

- How do the system-wide academic outcomes compare to statewide or individual District results?
- Provide a brief explanation of each program and its goals next time.
- Some kind of comparative or control data would be good to have (i.e. how do these students compare to the student body as a whole?).
- Through the course of working with families in Schools Family Housing, it would be good to assess whether other systems such as domestic violence could provide additional support.

Next Steps:

- *Consider making a presentation of this evaluation to the Leaders Roundtable.*
- *Staff will send a PDF file of the evaluation to Council members and alternates.*
- *Future agenda item: Discuss best ways to utilize this evaluation information.*

Resourcing the SUN Service System

Lorenzo prefaced this discussion by noting that talks are continuing with individual districts about funding sources that could be directed toward expansion of SUN. While we are expecting cuts, these conversations are intended to focus on how the individual core missions of Districts align with SUN and how funding could be redirected to expand the system and enhance the success of children and families. Given the inevitability of funding reductions, Chair Poe asked group members to share thoughts about potential cuts agencies and districts might face so we can determine how to approach our overall resource situation.

Partner Budgets: Members discussed their agency's budget situations, noting that many decisions were still in process and decisions about cuts have not been made. Those who are being asked to look at cuts have been asked to be strategic, rather than across the board cuts. Multnomah County Department of County Human Services has been asked to submit their budget to the Chair for consideration by February 13th. The department has been asked for 4% savings in General Funds this year and a 12% cut for next year. Federal and State funding reductions will also impact the County, particularly in areas such as addiction services. As it usually happens, the most vulnerable populations face the biggest potential impacts. The Chair's Executive Budget will come out in April. PPS will be utilizing reserves for the current academic year. Other decisions are still in process. David Douglas is also using reserves to avoid cuts this year and next. Parks is looking at a 5% reduction and has a public budget meeting on January 10th from 10 a.m. to noon to identify priorities. There is a possibility one SUN school may be closed. Commissioner Fish will be taking over Parks. Gresham-Barlow has had lower than expected enrollment this year and expect that to continue next year which will necessitate a 10% cut. While there is widespread support for SUN, the District is regarding Title 1 funds as a possibility to support their core mission of keeping teachers in the classroom. The Council reviewed the letter written to CHIF regarding their allocation process and the Council's recommendations. This letter was presented to CHIF by Maxine Thompson via email. She also provided testimony on behalf of the Council at the final allocation input meeting. Members expressed interest in communicating with the Allocation Committee further about a desire to collaborate and align, as well as for CHIF to consider becoming a Sponsor of SUN. CHIF will be retained by Commissioner Saltzman.

Expiring Grants: Diana Hall presented information on the cumulative shortfall of expiring grants over the next three years. That report can be found on the Coordinating Council website at www.co.multnomah.or.us/SUNCC. Group members had questions about other funding sources, including the Federal Community Schools Grant (we did not get funded for this) and the Supplemental Educational Community Schools Grant. Lorenzo reiterated that Chair Wheeler is asking that Council develop policy recommendations that include expectations of entities who apply for grants to sustain funding after the grants expire.

SUN SS Resource Workgroup: Lorenzo asked for a small group of volunteers to address resource issues for the SUN Service System, including potential funding cuts/shortfalls (including possible budget cuts, expiring grants and funding for Coordinating Council staffing) and a policy to address expiring grants in the future. A suggestion was made that the framework developed in the Allocation Workgroup be used to assist in addressing issues such as the expiring grants and potential loss of a Parks SUN Community School. Membership of this group is as follows: Lorenzo Poe (Chair), PPS (representative will be determined), Bill Scott, Joanne Fuller, Lisa Turpel, and Krista Larson.

Council Staffing: Joanne reminded the Council that Multnomah County agreed to fund staffing for the Council for the 2007/08 year, with the agreement that funding would rotate amongst partners. Joanne noted that staffing is essential to the continued progress of the Council.

Next Steps:

- Staff will check availability amongst Resourcing Workgroup members and set a meeting as soon as possible.
- Determine whether a presentation needs to be made to Commissioner Fish regarding Parks funding that may impact the continuation of a SUN CS.
- Set a conversation with Adrienne Livingstone to follow up on CHIF allocation issues. Consider inviting her to a Resource Workgroup meeting.
- The Resource Workgroup will report back on their work at the February 20th Council meeting, working toward policy and other recommendations that will go to Sponsors.

Upcoming Council Meeting Schedules

Hector identified the following agenda items for future meetings:

- Evaluation
- Education Cabinet
- Policy direction on expiring grants
- Resourcing for the SUN Service System

Council is still planning on a once a month meeting for the next several months (8:30 – 10:30 a.m.):

- February 20, 2009
- March 20, 2009
- April 17, 2009

Next Meetings

Full Council:
Friday, January 16, 2009
8:30-9:30 a.m.
Multnomah Building,
Room 315
501 SE Hawthorne

Data and Evaluation
Workgroup:
None scheduled

System Integration &
Alignment Workgroup:
TBA

Resource Workgroup
9:30-11:00am