

SUN Service System Coordinating Council

April 20, 2007
8:30-10:30 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members Present: Barbara Kienle, Joanne Fuller, John Richmond, Marina Rulevskaya, Lisa Pellegrino, Bill Scott, Lee P. Cha, Lorenzo T. Poe, Willie Poinsette, Mary Richardson, Krista Larson, Ted Wheeler

Also Attending: May Cha, Hector Roche, Peggy Samolinski, Mary Li

Welcome

Lorenzo Poe welcomed everyone.

Hector Roche pointed out that individuals listed on the agenda in the "leader" column "own" that agenda item. His role is to facilitate the group to the desired outcomes.

Last Meeting Work

Operating Agreements

Members were asked if there were any thoughts about the operating agreements that were defined at the last meeting. Several people questioned and wanted further clarification about the role of the group as stated in the operating agreement statement: "Council serves an *advisory* role." Points made included suggestions to continue to work on the language of this statement and to discuss ways to make sure that work done through the Coordinating Council is meaningful and has significant influence in the decision-making process.

Communication

Members reported out about any further clarification they've received from the groups they represent about how information was going to be communicated and their role as a representative on the Coordinating Council.

SUN Service System Presentation

Peggy Samolinski, Program Manager for the SUN Service System, provided an overview of the SUN Service System. She said she would be happy to come back at any time to share any information about the system that the group would find helpful to their work. The content of the presentation was included in the following handouts and are available on the website at www.co.multnomah.or.us/suncc:

- SUN Service System PowerPoint
- SUN Service System Overview
- Feb 2003 Board of County Commissioners Resolution
- Chart: Overview of Service Types Delivered Directly Through the SUN Service System
- SUN Service System Service Locations Map
- SUN Service System Evaluation Outcomes 2005-06
- SUN Service System Graphic Representation

Presentation points that may not be included in the above documents or were made as a result of questions from members are listed below:

- The SUN Service System is an evolution of other systems as well as Board policies developed in 2002-03 and adopted by the Board as a Resolution in Feb 2003. This formed the foundation of the system.
- The SUN Service System was implemented in March 2004.
- Touchstone is the school-based case management component of the SUN Service System and is at 41 schools (.5 FTE each). Touchstone employees work closely with the SUN Site Manager. They help families by providing direct services or linking them to other services. Touchstone serves 45 families per year at each site. The need for these services is greater than the capacity to serve. Touchstone staff are County employees.
- Social and Support Services for Educational Success (SSSES) is the school-linked case management component of the SUN Service System, and it's delivered through contractors in the community (Regional Service Centers and culturally-specific providers). In addition to SUN Community School (SUN CS) sites, SSSES also serve alternative schools, other non-SUN CS sites and community sites.
- Contracted providers of Parent Child Development Services were asked to provide some services at schools in order to build continuity and get families connected to schools. These early childhood services are located at schools and in community sites.
- The top issues people seek Information and Referral Services for are housing, rent assistance, energy assistance, and food. Information and Referral Services are funded through state funds.
- The SUN Service System has a No Wrong Door practice – meaning no matter where someone seeks service and/or is participating in service they should have access to the array of services available in the SUN Service System. However, the biggest issue to fully realizing this is capacity. It's been a struggle to meet the high levels of need.

Following are unanswered questions and information requests that were brought up during the presentation:

- How does the target population for energy assistance (60% of median income) compare to Federal poverty level guidelines?
- How many families with children are there in Multnomah County?
- How do students who participate in SUN Community School activities compare to those who don't participate? (Peggy Samolinski responded that we don't currently have evaluation capacity to look at the comparisons, however this is one of the possible research questions that are being explored as part of a research opportunity with the Northwest Regional Laboratory.)
- Someone suggested that a map of other services (through the City and other partners) and its alignment with the SUN Service System would be helpful.

Chair's Executive Budget

Ted Wheeler spoke to the group about his Executive Budget that was released on April 19. He reminded the group that his budget was one of many steps in the budget process, and the other commissioners and the public will have opportunities to weigh in before the budget is adopted on June 7.

He announced that he tried to retain the SUN Service System in its entirety. However, Touchstone has been eliminated in the Chair's budget. Ted Wheeler explained that in his conversations with schools, SUN Community School sites and partners, he received mixed reviews of the program. That said, he then proposed to the Coordinating Council that they redesign Touchstone by coming up with a different model that integrates services more fully. He has set aside \$500,000 in contingency funds that may be used to pilot a program proposed by the Coordinating Council that essentially fills the gap left by Touchstone's reduction. The timeline for this would be prior to next budget year. When the Coordinating Council is

ready with a proposal, they can bring it to the Board of County Commissioners. It was clarified that this would not be a resurrection of Touchstone but a redesign of it that would fill the gaps the cuts to this program may leave.

Ted Wheeler also asked the Coordinating Council to help the Board of County of Commissioners resolve a philosophical question about what to do when grants funding SUN Community Schools end. He explained that there are three SUN Community Schools funded through 21st Century Community Learning Center grants that are either expiring or decreasing in funds in FY08. He made a decision in his budget not to backfill the grants because he didn't want to set a precedent for this since one million dollars in similar grants are expiring in the SUN Service System in the next few years. He posed a couple of options for handling such a situation:

1. Find alternative funding and make planning for alternative funding a part of the requirements when the grant is pursued/received.
2. Change the allocation formula so that in instances like this funding is reduced across the board for all sites in order to support those sites losing funding.

Ted Wheeler would like the Coordinating Council to talk about this issue and at least provide some guidance about how to deal with it prior to the budget process next year.

Another SUN Service System program eliminated in the Chair's budget is training for gender specific services to girls. He explains that he feels this is important but not core to the mission of Multnomah County and therefore not a primary responsibility.

Ted Wheeler also mentioned other cuts that are in his budget, including eliminating general funds for mental health services in schools, elementary and middle school health clinics, eliminating summer hours at high school clinics, a pregnancy prevention program and child care slots for teen parents at Roosevelt High School.

Ted Wheeler concluded that he is preparing for a sustainable growth pattern for Multnomah County. There will be cuts this year and next but he expects a better outlook after that and wants to make sure Multnomah County is positioned, ready and has a strategy for growth.

Responses by members included:

- This is a significant opportunity for the Coordinating Council to start talking about what the core services are, including services provided through Touchstone. Also, it is an opportunity for the group to address what is really meant by joint ownership. What does each part contribute to the whole?
- Someone recommended that the group continue to work on defining the vision that was set forth by the SUN Service System Task Force: "where we'd like to see the system in 5-10 years." It was suggested that this be a part of the work plan of the Coordinating Council.

Procurement Requirements

Peggy Samolinski asked the group to consider some issues that will be crucial to the SUN Service System procurement process. She explained that there are County rules governing the procurement process and that current contracts for delivery of services through the SUN Service System began in March 2004 and will expire on June 30, 2008. A new procurement process will need to begin later this year for new contracts to begin on July 1, 2008. She is bringing this procurement information and timeline to the Coordinating Council because it's been charged with key topics to consider; many of those things are items that are needed for the procurement.

A procurement process timeline handout was distributed to members. Items under the "Program Development and Planning" column on the handout are things that are needed for the procurement; the

Council was asked to consider how the Department's needs dovetail with the work of the Coordinating Council.

Responses to this request included:

- A suggestion that it would be helpful if the Department of County Human Services (DCHS) provided the group with information on what the current core services are and what allocation formula is currently being used.
- Someone also suggested that DCHS provide the initial responses to the questions that need to be answered for the procurement process and then allow the Coordinating Council to consider the responses.
- The possibility of delaying the procurement for a year was brought up. However, the aging services system contracts expire next year as well and involve many of the same providers. There are also a lot of central questions to the SUN Service System that will continue to mount and need answers (geographic equity, funding allocations, to name two.). It would be helpful to address these questions in order to inform the County Chair prior to the next budget cycle.
- A request was made for data showing where the needs are greatest and whether there has been declining needs at current SUN CS sites.

Communication

Members will be communicating the following back to the groups they represent:

- The points Ted Wheeler made to the group today about the impact to the SUN Service System in his Executive Budget.
- The Executive Budget is only one of many steps in the budget process, although a key step.

Parking Lot

Parking lot topics:

- Use the Feb 2003 Board Resolution as a guiding document?
- SUN Service System evaluation/outcomes available to Coordinating Council members?
- Role: Advisory vs. Advocacy vs. Policy vs. Decision Making, etc.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Friday, May 4, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Multnomah Building, Room 430 (501 SE Hawthorne).