

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

October 4, 2023, Meeting Summary

Key decisions and actions are in **bold**.

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Ricardy Anderson, Tom Arnold, Leslie Atkins, Michael Axler, George Becerra, Barabra Breland, Karla Bruce, Judith Dittman, Terri Edmunds-Heard, Kelly Henderson, Jessica Hudson, James Krause, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Michelle Lette, Rodney Lusk, Megan McLaughlin, Diane Mucci, Dalia Palchik, Sloan Presidio, Paul Thomas, Matt Thompson, Lloyd Tucker, Douglas Tyson, Diane Volcansek, Jenna White, Geovanny Ponce

Discussion Item General:

SCYPT members briefly discussed the May retreat, which revalidated SCYPT initiatives. **A request for a retreat summary was made and will be forthcoming.** Additional discussion included opportunities to improve the onboarding for SCYPT members, having clear and defined goals within the initiatives, and increased visibility on the website. There is also a desire to explore ways fold new items into current initiatives, examples cited were the county-wide Adverse Childhood Experiences initiative (ACE Interface) and mental health. George Becerra also voiced the importance of collaborative work outside of SCYPT, specifically within the community member sector representation. **It was suggested that the community co-chairs discuss options to meet between meetings to stay connected to SCYPT work and initiatives.** In addition, George Becerra recommended that a teacher should be on SCYPT. *[Note: The SCYPT Charter does include a seat for a teacher on SCYPT; the seat became vacant in September, however recruitment to fill the position is in process.]*

Discussion Item - My Brothers Keeper (MBK)

Jonathan Melendez (NCS) shared that Fairfax has been assigned a regional MBK coach and that meetings with the coach have occurred. In addition, MBK has now provided access to the MBK workbook, which guides the first steps needed to be a certified MBK community. A steering committee has started the planning discussion for a local action summit, with the target of Spring 2024 and the possibility of holding it on a teacher workday when youth are available. To ensure youth involvement and engagement, SCYPT members noted the importance that the steering committee must partner with schools, particularly in any targeted area of the community. Llyod Tucker highlighted that there should be no barrier/obstacle to attend the Kickoff Event, as NCS will provide transportation and discussed support for childcare as youth may care for younger siblings on non-school days, should the event fall on that occasion. There was discussion on how we identify the students, working with principals, teachers, and counselors. Additionally, there is a need for collaboration between principals and the suggestion of a quarterly meeting to look at structural challenges related to youth who have or are in danger of dropping out of school, which links with other SCYPT initiatives. It was also reiterated that the future MBK kickoff forum is open to all boys and young men of color.

Discussion Item - Opportunity Youth/Workforce Readiness

Tony Humphrey (NCS) shared multiple county agencies are working to develop a charter and goals for the Opportunity Youth work. A previous application for funding, in the amount of two million dollars, has been provisionally awarded with a two-year spending timeframe. There was discussion of timelines, the pilot program at OYMVHS in South County, and the numbers of students who fall under the Opportunity Youth criteria. In partnership with the schools, the network will seek to obtain information (data, trends, knowledge) about students before they drop out. The network leads will **revisit the numbers** previously reported and the goals of Opportunity Youth. The group discussed how the funding will be used to build capacity and sustain the work. The intention is for the partnership of stakeholders, to look at what networks already exist and then to identify gaps.

Discussion Item - School Readiness

Flor Philips (NCS) and Lisa Pilson (FCPS) gave an overview of the recent round of childcare grants the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved for providers. Applications are being processed and funding will be disbursed in January 2024. The grants can be used for a broad range of needs, including compensation. Members discussed expansion of pre-K (it is not mandated). As resources are limited, they will continue to look for partnership opportunities. An example noted was the Main Street Center model. Additionally, they will look at where pre-K programs are most needed, capacity, and facility options as county projects arise. They will then look at space and staffing. Washington DC's recent changes in pay for preschool teachers was referenced (increase in pay). It was also noted that all new pre-K classrooms are inclusion classrooms.

There is ongoing outreach for additional members for the Family Council. Stipends were discussed and are provided to Family Council members; it is one way to remove barriers to attendance along with providing meals. SCYPT members discussed academy programs for childcare in FCPS high schools; there are currently courses in three or four high schools.

Fairfax County Youth Survey

Chloe Lee (Department of Management & Budget) and Mike Axler (FCPS) presented an overview of the results of the 2022-23 Fairfax County Youth Survey. SCYPT members discussed the need to better highlight the 3 to Succeed campaign as it is no longer as visible from its initial launch. **SCYPT members agreed to help further the campaign in their respective work.** Members also asked the body to help identify opportunities to link ACE interface (ACEs knowledge) with the youth survey data. Members discussed how to best share this data with the community, and to use the data explorer tool to look at specific information. There was additional discussion regarding the breakdown of the data, specific information that is available at various local levels, and confidentiality.

Legislative Update

Materials were included in member's meeting packets.

Public Comment

None

Note: Brief written updates on the discussed SCYPT initiatives are included in the agenda package.