

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

May 11, 2022, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, George Becerra, Michael Becketts, Michelle Boyd, Telaekah Brooks, Karla Bruce, Judith Dittman, Alicia Doe, Kelly Henderson, Jessica Hudson, James Krause (for Kevin Davis), Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Megan McLaughlin, Dalia Palchik, Jeff Platenberg, Sloan Presidio, David Temple (for Rodney Lusk), Elaine Tholen, Matt Thompson, Lloyd Tucker, Douglas Tyson, Diane Volcansek, Daryl Washington, Jenna White

Administrative Item – Update on Meeting Times

Without objection, the SCYPT adopted the School Year 2022-2023 SCYPT meeting schedule.

Regular SCYPT meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: September 28 and December 7, 2022; and February 1, March 29, and May 31, 2023. Members should hold 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 31 for a retreat.

Executive Committee meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: September 7 and November 2, 2002; and January 11, March 1, and May 3, 2023.

The SCYPT will also hold one or two evening meetings during the year, with the explicit purpose of engaging the community in our work. Those dates will be determined, in consultation with the Executive Committee, in the fall.

Discussion Item – SCYPT Key Principles and Key Issue Updates

After the summer, the SCYPT should be prepared to receive recommendations, reports, and action plans from the teams working on each of the five key issues. Therefore, the bulk of this meeting was used to share updates and prepare members for what will be asked of them starting this fall.

Key Principles: Jesse Ellis of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Jordan Pineda of the Forum for Youth Investment, and Karla Bruce started with a review of the key principles guiding the SCYPT. Ellis shared the SCYPT's vision and mission statements and the nine community outcomes that the SCYPT aspires to. Pineda reinforced the importance of a systems- and policy-level approach by noting that changes at the leadership and structural levels are necessary to achieve sustainable program-level outcomes. Ellis discussed collective impact as the framework for all SCYPT action; to achieve our goals, it will take not just schools and government, but all sectors of our community working together to address a common agenda. The SCYPT was purposely developed and structured to enable a collective impact approach.

Bruce reminded that the One Fairfax, as a policy initiative, started with the SCYPT. For us to ensure our efforts promote equity, we need to consider the following:

- Do we have data that concerns us about a population or place? When we identify such data, we need to conduct root cause analyses to truly understand what is driving inequity.
- Can we anticipate inequitable impacts of our strategies? The Government Alliance on Racial Equity's racial equity tool can help us identify the potential impacts of strategies, policies, and programs.
- Are we seeking population change, knowing that people and places are situated differently? Applying the concept of Targeted Universalism can help us develop and implement strategies that benefit all, while ensuring populations most affected by inequity are getting appropriately targeted supports and opportunities.

Behavioral Health: Jim Gillespie of the Community Services Board (CSB) and Peter Steinberg of the Department of Family Services shared some of the recent accomplishments of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative. They outlined the ongoing process for developing a new Healthy Minds Fairfax Blueprint, or strategic plan for children's behavioral health. They expect to return to the SCYPT in the fall to ask for the team's endorsement of the new plan.

SCYPT members noted the importance of this effort cannot be overlooked, as it is the biggest issue youth are facing right now. Ensuring data – including data disaggregated by place and population – are available to guide the development of the plan is essential. In response to a question about the work of the Fairfax County Opioid Task Force, Mr. Gillespie noted that the two efforts are aligned and that recent work includes ensuring youth who use opioids are seamlessly connected to the CSB, finding ways to expand access to Medically Assisted Treatment and intensive services, and implementing harm reduction strategies. Members also noted the importance of ensuring families can get clear information on available services. And additional key needs include using a trauma-informed lens for all services and strategies, and emphasizing the increasing intensity of need, especially among dually diagnosed youth. It was pointed out that Fairfax's track record of collaboration helps us stand out among other jurisdictions and will continue to be a benefit to effective services.

My Brother's Keeper: Telaekah Brooks shared the progress in planning the My Brother's Keeper Fairfax initiative. Edu-Futuro and the Capital Youth Empowerment Program are serving as co-lead organizations for the initiative and are engaging other community-based leaders to serve on a steering committee. Over the summer, they'll be reviewing data and developing priorities leading to broader community engagement in developing strategies. The initiative is focused on improving outcomes for boys and young men (ages 0-25) of color, and is aligned with the national movement coordinated by the Obama Foundation. This fall, the SCYPT will be asked to help launch the effort.

Career Readiness: Daniel Mekibib of the Department of Family Services shared the progress in planning a career readiness initiative. The team has developed four goals and will be expanding membership to develop a set of recommendations to be shared with the SCYPT in the fall.

SCYPT members mentioned the potential of and excitement surrounding the opening of the Workforce Innovation and Skills Hub at the new Lee District community center. Other opportunities noted included an increased focus on/attention to/recognition of tracks other

than college and advanced academics; upcoming findings from an ongoing FCPS study on its career pathways programs; and ways to expand access to career readiness services through better affordability, location, and other methods.

Community Schools: Saray Smalls of FCPS and Jesse Ellis discussed the current progress regarding community schools. Staff are planning a multi-tiered evaluation of the three current community schools. The evaluation will include a review of school-wide data over time and input from key staff, families, and other stakeholders through surveys and structured interviews. The evaluation results will be shared this fall with the School Board, along with additional information to guide decision making on site selection, school types, and staffing plans. These conversations will likely inform revisions to the community schools framework, which will be shared with the SCYPT for endorsement.

School Readiness: Anne-Marie Twohie of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and Maura Burke of FCPS shared the current progress around the implementation of the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan and the Ready Region initiative. Recommendations for each, including a family partnership framework, and analysis of Early Development Instrument data from all FCPS elementary schools, will be a focus for the SCYPT in the fall.

SCYPT members expressed excitement about the family partnership work. There was significant discussion about opportunities for program expansion, so more children and families can be served. Twohie noted that, in the short term, the County will be releasing a Request for Proposals to implement part-time pre-k programming throughout the community. This effort will likely utilize existing spaces to offer more access to families who don't need traditional child care hours. Long term, there will be new capital investments and operating funding requests, and ideally a continuation of expanded access to child care subsidies. Burke added that school-based programs such as Bridge to Kindergarten, pre-k classrooms, HIPPY, and other programs have been or are being considered for expansion. Staff reported they can continue to share data on capacity, need, and short- and long-term goals, and more accessible information on programs and services available to families.

Items Presented by SCYPT Members

Jenna White shared that the Fairfax County Council of PTAs is hosting Building Resilient Communities: Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This presentation is designed for parents, caregivers, service providers, and other community members. It presents an overview of the original ACE public health study and how it can guide and inform us today to create communities that support resiliency for all. Register for the training, to be held over Zoom on Tuesday, May 31 at 7 pm, at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e3QYi8zwRO-wKz9sJUYnKg.

Megan McLaughlin shared that iTHRIV, the integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (a partnership among the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Carilion Clinic, and INOVA Health System), is soliciting input from our community to better understand what factors may encourage or discourage participation in health research. Please take the survey and share it

with your friends, family, and community members. The survey is open until June 14 and can be accessed at redcap.link/iTHRIVCommSurvey.

George Becerra requested that staff and the Executive Committee ensure the SCYPT holds a September meeting, as the cancellation of the first 2021-2022 meeting resulted in a long gap between meetings.

Public Comment

Shari Zamarra addressed the SCYPT about mentoring and the need for more quality mentoring programs in Fairfax, as they can help address multiple SCYPT key issues. She asked if there was a current list of mentoring programs in the community. And she noted that she does not believe the FCPS MentorWorks program is working as well as it can. She stated that we need to take a hard look at mentoring.