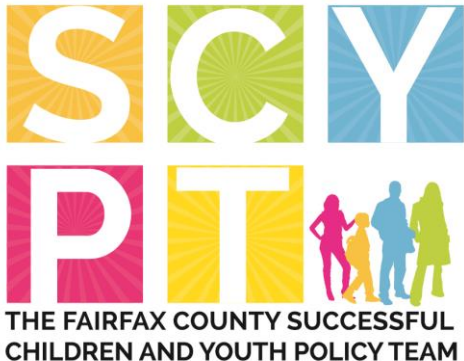# Community Schools: Updates and Next Steps

Presentation to the SCYPT

February 6, 2019

Community Schools Committee

Presentation and Discussion Overview

- Community Schools Overview
- What's Happening in Fairfax
- Update from Whitman and Mount Vernon
- Developing a Systems Approach
- Next Steps
- Q&A

SCYPT
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

What is a *community school*?

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships among the school, county, and community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Schools become centers of the community with services and activities availableduring and beyond the school day.

Conventional School
Model

Community Schools

adapted from the Coalition for Community Schools

SCYPT
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Community Schools in Fairfax

- 2016 Joint BOS/School Board Meeting and direction to the SCYPT to consider community schools

- SCYPT Community Schools Committee convenes to identify opportunities

- United Way of the National Capital Area proposes funding a community school at a middle school

- Whitman MS and Mt Vernon Woods ES community schools launch, with UWNCA and County funding, in Fall 2018

- SCYPT Committee reconvenes to develop a systems approach

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Updates from Whitman & Mt Vernon Woods

- Whitman MS
  - Principal Craig Herring
  - Site Coordinator Delia Montecinos
  - Funded by UWNCA, through a contract with United Community Ministries

- Mount Vernon Woods ES
  - Principal Clint Mitchell
  - Site Coordinator Marcia St. John-Cunning
  - Neighborhood Networks Social Services Specialist Sheila Pou Perez
  - Funded by Fairfax County and UWNCA, through a contract with United Community Ministries

Developing a Systems Approach

- Discuss the components we're considering

- Share examples

- Discuss highlights from the site-specific MOU we're using

- Discuss the goal of eventually having a centralized coordination function

Developing a Systems Approach

- Our goal is to have a system in place to promote consistency, replicability, and ease as we expand the initiative and add additional sites.

- We have identified 15 components of the systems approach to begin working on. (We've consolidated them in the following slides.)

Site-Specific MOU

- MOU between FCPS and the community-based provider (e.g., UCM at WMS and MVWES) includes:
  - Roles and responsibilities for the Community Schools Coordinator and the community-based provider
  - Roles and responsibilities for FCPS
  - Data access and privacy protection

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Systems Component: Purpose and Vision

- Why we want community schools:
  - Improve access, remove barriers
  - Engage and empower families and communities
  - School as hub of community
  - Comprehensive and holistic services
  - More effective and efficient services
  - Whole family approach

- Coalition for Community Schools "elevator speech":

  A Community School is a public school – the hub of its neighborhood, uniting families, educators and community partners to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to succeed in school and in life.

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Systems Component:
Site Coordinator Job Description & Hiring Process

- Job Description
  - Minimum and preferred requirements
  - Based on Montgomery County's Linkages to Learning JD
  - Developed jointly by UCM, FCPS, Fairfax County
  - Will be revised with final outcomes, program components, etc.

- Hiring Process
  - Modeled on Middle School After-School Coordinators
  - Co-led by hiring agency and principal
  - Includes partners and key stakeholders

Systems Component:
Site Coordinator Training and Access Needs

- Being developed by UCM and FCPS

- Additional needs and challenges identified and addressed in real time

Systems Component:
Program Outcomes and Components

- United Way Outcomes:
  - **A**ttendance
  - **B**ehavior
  - **C**lassroom Performance

- Current Program Components:
  - Family and student support services
  - Health promotion
  - Enrichment activities
  - Family and community engagement activities
  - Community and volunteer partnerships and infrastructure

Systems Component:
Needs Assessment

- WMS and MVWES have conducted school faculty/staff, parent, and student surveys

- Will also be considering:
  - Data from Youth Survey, school climate surveys, and other sources
  - Needs assessment tools and processes from other jurisdictions and organizations

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Systems Component: Site and Central Budgets

- Developing budget templates:
  - Site-specific
    - Coordinator
    - Outreach and programming
    - Supplies
  - Centralized
    - Training
    - Outreach and programming
    - Central coordination (eventually)

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Systems Components

- Collaborative Management

- Branding

- Start-Up Process

SCYPT
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Systems Component:
School Selection Indicators

Considerations from the preliminary Committee report:

- General need: poverty, health, family self-sufficiency, service utilization, barriers to available services
- Geographic location of the school: access to neighborhoods
- Availability of space within the school
- Community readiness
- School readiness and capacity

Systems Component:
School Selection Indicators

In your groups:

- What should the top 3-5 indicators of need be?
- How should we consider non-need indicators like readiness and location?
- Of the indicators you listed, which are most important?

Identify a reporter and note-taker

Next Steps

- Continued implementation and lessons learned from WMS and MVWES

- Continued partnership with UWNCA and Coalition for Community Schools

- Continued work by the Committee to develop a systems approach

- Plan to return to the SCYPT in late 2019 with recommendations and a full systems plan

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SUCCESSFUL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY TEAM

Whitman MS A Community School

February 6, 2019

Whitman Middle School, A Community School

"The needs are such that the doors need to be opened a little wider."

-Mary Ann Panarelli

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Space
- Roles and Responsibilities
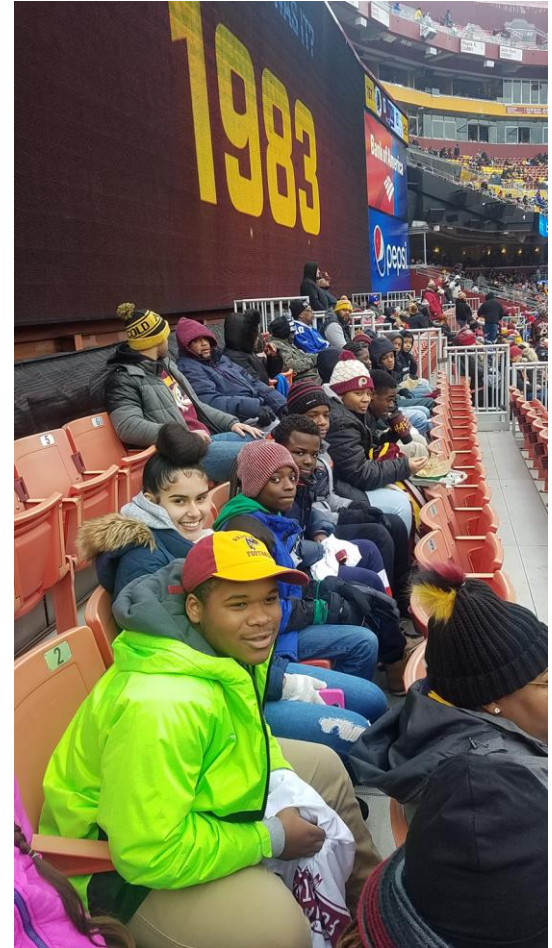- Location and Transportation

Getting Started

- Family Market
- Washington Post
- NEA Today Magazine

Leveraging Partnerships

Holiday Assistance

- Thanksgiving
- Giving Tree

Partnering with Parents

Creating a Welcoming Space

Direct Support

Mentoring At Whitman

Walt Whitman MS, A Community School

Community Schools in Fairfax County
Enhancing Student Success

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

United Way
United Way of the National Capital Area

UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
UCM
At the Heart of Community

Opportunity Neighborhood