

## Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

### July 10, 2019, Meeting Summary

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

#### SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Kimberly Adams, Shawn Adcock (for Ed Roessler), Leslie Atkins, Bob Birmingham, Nanette Bowler, Telaekah Brooks, Karla Bruce, Tisha Deeghan, Alicia Doe, Mark Ginsberg, Fred Grant, Veronica Harsley-Dean, Kelly Henderson, Cathy Hudgins, Frances Ivey, Alexis Vaughan Kassim, Michelle Leete, Chris Leonard, Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Nandred Navarro (for Judith Dittman), Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Chris Revere (for Gloria Addo-Ayensu), Dave Rohrer, Douglas Tyson, Daryl Washington

#### Administrative Item – Approval of SCYPT Meeting Schedule for School Year 2019-20

**Without objection, the SCYPT approved a meeting schedule for next year.** Meetings will continue to be held on Wednesdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Locations are to be determined. SCYPT meetings will be on September 25 and December 4, 2019; and February 5, April 1, and June 3, 2020. Members are asked to hold the entire day on June 2 for a retreat. Executive Committee meetings will be on September 4 and November 13, 2019; and January 8, March 11, and May 6, 2020.

#### Discussion Item – Update on Implementation of the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan and the School Readiness Resources Panel

Anne-Marie Twohie, of the Fairfax County Office for Children, and Maura Burke, of Fairfax County Public Schools, shared an overview of planning efforts related to implementation of the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan, including the newly formed School Readiness Resources Panel, recently formed to identify school readiness expansion goals and long-term funding strategies. Current planning efforts include developing a fiscal map of current County and FCPS investments in school readiness, reviewing demographic and program data to identify service gaps and needs, conducting a survey of early childhood programs to assess capacity and other programmatic information, and reviewing other jurisdictions' approaches.

Megan McLaughlin emphasized the importance of this work, and that partners will need to bring money and other resources to the table if they want to see these strategies implemented.

Cathy Hudgins noted the need to engage the business community. Ms. Twohie shared that Fairfax Futures is working to do so, and that it relies on a two-generation approach: School readiness benefits businesses because it helps their employees provide for their children, and it helps develop the future workforce.

Regarding the data and maps shared in the presentation, SCYPT members had several suggestions to strengthen the message. Raw numbers should be available, in addition to ranges. Data that can be drilled down to the census tract will help target areas of need. Providing additional context to the Federal Poverty Limit will increase understanding: what the FPL is for a sample family size, and what income a family needs in Fairfax to maintain a basic level of living. The Early Development Instrument data that will soon be available for some FCPS schools will also be helpful.

Kelly Henderson asked if the Virginia Preschool Development Grant, which includes Fairfax County, will fund new slots. Ms. Twohie and Ms. Burke replied that the grant does not fund slots; it is focused on building systems and improving quality and capacity.

Chris Revere suggested that the maps indicate most public investment is in areas of greatest need, but that many are still underserved. This begs the question of whether the issue is simply one of supply and demand or if there is something deeper – a need to identify and address root causes of the issue. Karla Bruce agreed, and noted that we “can’t program our way out of this.” Ms. Bruce and Nannette Bowler argued that it is critical that we address deeper structural inequities that lead to disparities in access.

Jeff McKay discussed the expansion of full-day kindergarten and the need for capital investment that accompanied it. He asked if the Resources Panel will consider these kinds of restraints and barriers and incorporate implementation strategies and capital needs into their recommendations. Ms. Twohie responded that the Panel will need to identify a number of concurrent strategies (including capital) and funding streams. The implementation will be iterative, focusing on people and communities with the greatest need, but will also be informed by what the Panel hears from families themselves about what they need. Tisha Deeghan pointed to the Housing Resources Panel as an example of an effective group that was able to balance idealism and pragmatism in their approach. A targeted universalism approach is necessary.

Mark Ginsberg emphasized the importance of considering personnel in planning. There is already a teacher shortage within early care and education. Professional development, retention, and other strategies to improve quality cost money. Ms. Bruce added that legislative and regulatory strategies should also be considered part of the resources necessary to expand access.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if the SCYPT could receive a list of members of the School Readiness Resources Panel. Staff noted it would be shared when ready.

## Retreat Presentations and Activities

Jesse Ellis and Karla Bruce gave brief presentations refreshing the team on the SCYPT’s history of including racial and social equity in its work, and on the evolution of One Fairfax, respectively. Joanna Shoffner Scott, of Stamey Street Consulting Group, then presented a deeper dive into racial equity and how to “operationalize” it. She shared two tools – the back map and the racial equity impact analysis – that can be used to guide decision making and planning efforts. SCYPT members, in small groups, practiced using the tools by applying them to sample data and programs.