

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

April 6, 2016, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

George Becerra, Tisha Deeghan, Judith Dittman, Jack Dobbyn, Francisco Duran, Pat Harrison, Cathy Hudgins, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Jane Lipp, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Jeffrey Platenberg, Sari Raskin (for Eileen Ellsworth), Andrew Wehrlen (for Ed Roessler)

Action Item – Endorsement of Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint

Jim Gillespie and Betty Petersilia (Fairfax County Systems of Care Office), Mary Ann Panarelli (Fairfax County Public Schools), Rick Leichtweis (Inova Kellar Center), and Jesse Ellis (Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services) presented the Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint, a strategic action plan for 2016-2019. Actions endorsed by the SCYPT in 2013 and 2014 called for long-term development of additional strategies to strengthen the system of care. Over the past several months, the Systems of Care Office has engaged a diverse set of stakeholders to identify strategies and actions to be implemented over the next three years. The plan, approved by the Community Policy and Management Team in March, had 15 goals and associated strategies, designed to improve access to services, ensure services are individualized and inclusive, promote full family participation, integrate and coordinate care, provide a continuum of services from birth to adulthood, and promote a comprehensive array of services.

Jim Gillespie noted that a two-page overview of the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care can be found at <https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/pdfs/EnhancedNationalCLASStandards.pdf>.

Megan McLaughlin asked if the plan will include comprehensive data collection that includes a focus on identifying needs (e.g., hospitalization data). Rick Leichtweis and Jim Gillespie responded that Goal 2 focused on data, and recognizes that more collaboration and a more comprehensive approach are needed. The major players, including the County, FCPS, George Mason University, and Inova, are at the table and working to make it happen. For example, the Health Department will be regularly replicating the suicide-related data that was included in the CDC's Epi-Aid study.

Megan McLaughlin asked if the recently released public service announcements regarding PRS CrisisLink's hotline and textline were related to the Blueprint. Jim Gillespie noted that, while the Blueprint doesn't explicitly mention the PSAs, they are related to Goal 4's strategies regarding public awareness.

In response to a question from Jack Dobbyn, Jim Gillespie and Betty Petersilia explained that the Short-Term Behavioral Health Services program is currently serving four high schools: Annandale, Lee, Stuart, and Robinson. Criteria for selecting those schools were based on financial need (free and reduced meals eligibility), mental health needs (depressive symptoms rates on the Youth Survey), and local provider availability. Anticipating an expansion of the program, staff are examining participation data and proactively working to develop a pool of interested providers in the Mount Vernon area to better address need.

Cathy Hudgins asked for additional details about the funding recommendations, particularly psychiatric care. Pat Harrison and Jim Gillespie explained that the general approach is to build capacity within the community to effectively treat children, and that the funding would be used to provide psychiatric consultation services to pediatricians and other primary care and behavioral health providers. Such consultation services could serve many more children than purchasing direct psychiatric services.

Francisco Duran stated that he was pleased with the emphasis on language access, especially within the strategies related to outreach and addressing stigma. He stressed the importance of ensuring that conversations with minority communities focus not just on how to access help, but also on resiliency and asset building. Regarding access through an equity lens, Dr. Duran also recommended revisiting the concept of true community schools and localized wraparound approaches, as schools are accessible and many people are comfortable seeking services there. Cathy Hudgins agreed, noting that equity should be a foundation of the entire plan. Dr. Duran asked that, when reporting back to the SCYPT, staff share specific data on activities and outcomes related to reaching out to minority, LGBTQ, and other communities experiencing disparate outcomes. Jim Gillespie proposed a meeting with Dr. Duran and other interested members to further explore and develop strategies to improve equity.

Dr. Duran also recommended that law enforcement be included in training opportunities, especially regarding how to engage young people in crisis.

George Becerra added that, when outreaching to communities, staff should educate them on policy making processes and make them aware of things like Board meetings and public hearings. He also asked for further budget specifics, including where the recommended \$1.3 million would come from. Pat Harrison stated that a barrier to continuing to pay for some of the new services endorsed by SCYPT has been identifying opportunities to include some of the funding in FCPS's budget. Elizabeth Haines suggested ensuring the SCYPT has an understanding of the complete budget for public expenditures related to children and youth. Ms. Harrison recommended putting the broader funding and budget development topic on the Executive Committee agenda.

Judith Dittman closed the discussion with a series of recommendations. She noted that simply providing expanded hours may not fully address access concerns because many parents get their work schedules week to week and cannot set up appointments in advance. She also recommended addressing the needs of transition age youth experiencing first episodes of mental health crisis; often their families feel they cannot handle the youth, and adult services are not always appropriate.

Ms. Dittman stated that evidence-based practices are not always available and appropriate for our populations and that we should strategize about ways to make our own services evidence-based. This would involve overcoming the research-related barriers of cost and randomization.

Regarding trainings, Ms. Dittman suggested that community-based organizations be able to participate in FCPS and County trainings, and that SMILE would be a good resource for training on LGBTQ issues.

Without objection, the SCYPT endorsed the Blueprint and the following:

- **The development and adoption of the following policy proposals for Fiscal Year 2017:**
 - **Adopt Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards among behavioral health providers;**
 - **Require cultural competency training for County, FCPS, and County-contracted providers;**
 - **Identify and require relevant trainings on the unique needs of LGBTQ youth with behavioral health needs; and**
 - **Increase the presence and effectiveness of family leadership through partnering with family organizations.**
- **Funding in the Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2017 budget for:**
 - **The continuation of the crisis textline;**
 - **The development and implementation of family navigator services;**
 - **The expansion of short-term outpatient treatment services; and**
 - **The expansion of child psychiatry services.**
- **The following administrative priorities for Fiscal Year 2017:**
 - **Explore way to maximize Medicaid funding;**
 - **Explore ways to share student data and service information; and**
 - **Develop an accurate and accessible real-time database of behavioral health care providers.**

Member Updates and Announcements

Elizabeth Gaines, the meeting facilitator, asked members to share how, since the last meeting, they had helped advance SCYPT's work. Many had been heavily engaged with the development of the System of Care Blueprint. Other responses included:

- Pat Harrison, Francisco Duran, Jeff Platenberg, Jane Lipp, and Mary Ann Panarelli were all part of presentations to the Board of Supervisors and School Board on joint initiatives around behavioral health, school health, and transportation. Pat noted the presentations were well-received by the boards. Jeff Platenberg stated that FCPS and the County are working to expand the program that allows students to ride Connector buses for free. Cathy Hudgins stated that the presentations were a real reflection of the great coordination and collaborative work going on.
- Francisco Duran stated that he had joined the Communities of Trust, a group focused on strengthening relationships and partnership among public safety agencies and the community, and will be working to share information and integrate approaches.
- George Becerra is a member of the Fairfax County chapter of the NAACP and keeps that group informed on SCYPT's work.

- Andrew Wehrlen announced that a new Explorer Post (a program to teach young people about the police profession) has been formed based out of Woodson High School, and has strong female participation.
- Chris Leonard stated that Neighborhood and Community Services sponsored several staff to attend the Ready by 21 National Meeting, which had a strong focus on serving disconnected youth, collective impact, and policy alignment.
- Fahemeh Pirzadeh noted that she has been active on the advocacy front with Voices for Virginia's Children and has been participating in Neighborhood School Readiness Teams.
- Sari Raskin mentioned that the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is eager to connect its work with that of the SCYPT.
- Judith Dittman has been involved in the disconnected youth workgroup, and recently attended a conference where she was working with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to help influence their policies to better serve disconnected youth.
- Tisha Deeghan has been very engaged with the Diversion First initiative, developing policies, practices, and services to emphasize mental health crisis intervention and treatment over arrest and criminal justice involvement, for both adults and youth.

Jane Lipp reminded the team that the FCPS Special Education Conference will be held Saturday, April 9, at Hayfield Secondary. Over 1800 people are registered. The Community Conversation on Teen Stress will be refocused to a broader scope of mental health and wellness and will occur on October 29.

Pat Harrison noted that the Fairfax Futures School Readiness Symposium is also this Saturday, April 9.

George Becerra asked for an update on improvements in disparities since the release of the disproportionate minority contact report. Pat Harrison stated that the County looks at disproportionality and equity in everything it does, ensuring it is embedded in all plans and decisions. However, non-integrated data systems preclude a comprehensive look at disparities data in services and outcomes. [Post-meeting update: Staff will present an updated overview of children and youth in Fairfax County this fall. Data related to this will be included where possible.]

Megan McLaughlin announced that over 500 laptops had been collected through the county-wide drive, and were being prepared for distribution to homeless youth, prioritizing youth preparing for college.

Jesse Ellis reminded the team that the revised charter has been posted on the SCYPT web site. Additionally, he is working with SCYPT members to set up an election for the community co-chair (hopefully next week) and to outreach and recruit for new members.

Jesse Ellis also noted that a working group on disconnected youth met several times, with an immediate focus on the soon-to-be-released federal Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) grant opportunity. The team has developed a concept paper focused on providing expanded access to job training and employment programs for disconnected youth and maintaining their involvement in those programs. The group is now awaiting the release of the grant RFA to

determine if it is a good fit and if the County or a partner should apply. Contact Jesse if you are interested in reading the concept paper.

Action Steps/Assignments

- Jim Gillespie will work with Francisco Duran and other interested SCYPT members and staff to strengthen the equity-focused elements of the SOC plan, particularly regarding outreach to and engagement of minority communities.
- Jim Gillespie will add law enforcement as a category of staff to be trained on cultural competency, crisis response, and other relevant topics.
- The Executive Committee will include broader budget processes as a topic of discussion at their next meeting.