

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

April 26, 2017, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Hassan Alkurdi, George Becerra (for Fairfax County Council of PTAs), Bob Bermingham, Nanette Bowler, Tisha Deeghan, Alicia Doe, Mark Ginsberg, Pat Harrison, Kelly Henderson, Judy Howard, Cathy Hudgins, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Jane Lipp, Megan McLaughlin, Michele Menapace (for Kimberly Adams), Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Dave Rohrer, Douglas Tyson, Andrew Wehrlen (for Ed Roessler)

Update on SCYPT Membership

Kimberly Adams is the new Fairfax County Human Services Council representative, replacing Jack Dobbyn.

Discussion Item – Children’s Services Funding

Elizabeth Gaines, of the Forum for Youth Investment, presented on voter-approved children’s funding initiatives throughout the country. She began the conversation by asking members to describe the current funding picture in Fairfax. Members seemed to agree that it is difficult to identify all sources of funding and how they are spent. Additionally, much funding is done on an “advocacy basis,” as the result of specific identified needs and stakeholder advocacy for them, as opposed to a broad and comprehensive review of needs. Ms. Gaines noted that if there is not a focus on the big funding picture, initiatives are unlikely to make a difference; “what gets funded gets done.” She also explained that funding is often driven by grant opportunities and federal priorities and spending, but local funding needs local ownership.

Jesse Ellis noted that, per a recommendation of the Process Committee, staff are beginning work on a fiscal map of school readiness spending. Eventually, they plan to expand the mapping project to all children’s services. When funding requests are considered on a program-by-program basis – see the behavioral health spending request document, revised based on SCYPT recommendation at the last meeting and included in member’s materials – decision-making is not done within the proper context of the full scope of our investments. A fiscal map will help provide such context, identify gaps, and support alignment of funding.

For more information on children’s funding initiatives, Ms. Gaines referred to the [Funding Brighter Futures](#) report (which includes checklists for communities to determine their readiness) and the [Children’s Funding Project](#) website. She concluded her presentation with four recommendations to the SCYPT:

- Conduct a fiscal map of all children’s services funding;
- Form a finance work group to review the fiscal map and the checklists in the report, and offer recommendations to the SCYPT;

- Develop immediate budget and long-range priorities; and
- Consider a public opinion poll to test interest in youth issues and revenue increases with voters.

Cathy Hudgins stated that time really needs to be spent to identify and hone the SCYPT's priorities. It was noted that the retreat will be an opportunity to begin that conversation.

Information Item – Data Dashboard Presentation

Victoria Kairys, Data and Evaluation Manager in the Neighborhood and Community Services Prevention Unit, gave a brief presentation on the data dashboard of the SCYPT-identified community level indicators. The dashboard can be found at <http://bit.ly/SCYPTdata>. It is part of the larger Community Health Dashboard (www.livehealthyfairfax.org), developed and maintained by the Health Department as an initiative of the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax.

Information Item – Update on One Fairfax Policy Development

Karen Shaban and Karla Bruce, of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, shared an update on development of an equity policy. The committee working on its development hopes to present a high level overview of the policy and process at June 13 Board of Supervisors committee meeting to which the School Board has been invited; they anticipate presenting the policy to the boards for adoption in September. The committee is currently working on developing the policy, and will move into an implementation and sustainability phase this summer or fall.

There is already an emphasis on how the policy will be implemented; for example, committee members are working closely with the school readiness strategic planning team to ensure an equity lens is applied to the plan. A key point is to ensure the policy and associated efforts are integrated with existing areas of focus; for example, language from existing plans is being incorporated into the policy's "areas of focus" component.

Judy Howard asked if the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee had been briefed. Ms. Shaban explained that, to date, outreach has been done mostly by request; interested groups should contact her. She will develop a list of outreach done so far and share it with the SCYPT. (The list was emailed to members on May 2, and is included in the April 26 meeting materials on the SCYPT website.)

Hassan Alkurdi asked members how they plan to implement the policy and ensure equity is considered in decision making. Cathy Hudgins referenced recent recommendations to the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee. When reviewing the recommendations through an equity lens, the BOS noted an area of concern and is reworking the recommendation. Tammy Derenak Kaufax shared that state education funding formulas do not consider the rising number of English learners that Fairfax is serving, and that such formulas need to be revised to be more equitable. Ms. Shaban noted that we need to be ready to act once the policy is adopted. Therefore, the policy will provide staff and the boards the tools, staff capacity, and other supports necessary. At the same time, Ms. Shaban recognized that, given competing demands such as cost, not all decisions will be able to prioritize equity to the same extent. However, the

policy will provide a context that allows for public acknowledgement of such situations and the development of strategies to mitigate inequitable impacts.

Information Item – Additional Updates

Jesse Ellis noted that, in members' meeting materials, there is a handout with updates on school readiness strategic planning, and on the SCYPT's Community Engagement, Process, and Community Schools committees.

Action Steps/Assignments

- Karen Shaban and Karla Bruce will share with the SCYPT an update on outreach efforts related to One Fairfax equity policy development. (The update was emailed to members on May 2, and is included in the April 26 meeting materials on the SCYPT website.)
- SCYPT members interested in joining any of the ongoing SCYPT committees (Process, Community Engagement, and Community Schools) should email Jesse Ellis.