

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

December 2, 2015, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

George Becerra, Bob Bermingham, Nanette Bowler, Tisha Deeghan, Judith Dittman, Jack Dobbyn, Francisco Durán, Jessie Georges (for Cristy Gallagher), Pat Harrison, Cathy Hudgins, Chris Leonard, Lesley MacDonald (for Eileen Ellsworth), Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Darrell White, Andrew Wehrlen (for Ed Roessler)

Discussion Item – Governance and Accountability Structure

Jesse Ellis began the discussion by reiterating that the SCYPT has done a good job establishing the foundation for what it takes to lead a collective impact effort. But for the SCYPT to be effective as the leadership group in front of these efforts, we need to ensure that the SCYPT has in place (1) appropriate processes for defining priorities and making decisions, and (2) a structure that supports and maintains the relevance of the SCYPT's role within the community and among the numerous child, youth, and family serving systems. To that end, the SCYPT was asked to discuss and achieve an informal consensus on a series of components of its governance and accountability structure. The discussion was facilitated by Elizabeth Gaines, Vice President for Policy Solutions for the Forum for Youth Investment.

The results of the discussion will be used to guide revisions to the SCYPT charter, which will be presented to the team for adoption at an upcoming meeting.

SCYPT Core Responsibilities: Staff proposed a set of six core responsibilities of the SCYPT as a whole. After discussion, the list was edited and expanded to include the following seven core responsibilities:

- Develop a high-level policy agenda reflective of what we want for our community's children and youth;
- Develop specific recommendations on policy and funding;
- Encourage and drive action among leadership in key sectors and organizations;
- Inform, align, and develop priorities for the children and youth serving (and supporting) systems;
- Ensure major initiatives are coordinated and implemented throughout the county, schools, and community;
- Charter teams to address issues, when such teams do not exist; and
- Regularly review progress on identified outcomes.

Staff will use these as the basis of a revised SCYPT mission statement.

Roles of SCYPT Members: Staff also proposed a set of five core roles of individual SCYPT members (beyond attending and participating in meetings). After discussion, the list was expanded to include the sixth role listed below:

- Provide strategic direction to the child and youth serving (and supporting systems);
- Serve as a visible champion on children and youth issues within the community and within one's sector and organization;
- Model desired changes/policy directions within one's organization/sphere of influence;
- Direct resources (funding, people, advocacy, attention, etc.) to address identified issues;
- Provide a perspective from one's sector and serve as a voice of the sector, able to discuss current trends and efforts; and
- Review and provide data to aid in decision-making.

Members provided examples of ways in which they've played these roles. Examples included sharing SCYPT's work with colleagues and at conferences, making strategic and programming decisions based on SCYPT priorities, and promoting the work of the SCYPT and the issues it addresses to the community.

SCYPT Membership: Using a "stakeholders wheel" developed by the Forum for Youth Investment, SCYPT members assessed the roles and systems represented by members. There was some discussion about the need to include front-line workers, such as teachers, and social workers, on the SCYPT. While a labor representative (e.g., union-appointed) could be valuable, the team generally agreed that administrators and directors on the team should be representing the voices of their staff in addition to their systems perspective. Members noted that members from George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College could provide perspectives not just from the higher education sector, but also from the research and workforce development sectors. Business and diverse family voices were also highlighted as potential additions. Staff will develop specific recommendations for the SCYPT to consider.

SCYPT Process: Staff proposed a general data-driven process that involves the SCYPT setting high-level priorities based on data, then relying on staff and networks to report more detailed data and information to inform specific courses of action, to be developed and implemented by Collective Action Networks (CANs). The SCYPT would be asked to endorse policy and funding recommendations. Additionally, the SCYPT Executive Committee (co-chairs and key staff) would implement methods to receive input from SCYPT members, staff, and other stakeholders regarding other priorities to be considered.

There was some discussion about the term "CANs," which can be confusing to stakeholders unfamiliar with the term. It was explained that CANs reflect an intentional approach to strategically link existing groups working on, or across, issues.

There was also widespread agreement that the School Board needs to implement a process for bringing recommendations and other SCYPT information to the Board. (The Board of Supervisors does so through its Human Services Committee.)

Other key issues that members noted should be incorporated into the SCYPT's processes include:

- Each meeting should end with a review of actions for members and staff;
- Each meeting should have a standard agenda, with regular items (such as review of actions, brief recap of what members have done between meetings);
- The SCYPT should identify opportunities to hear from service providers and other stakeholders (a public “listening event” is one possibility); and
- The SCYPT should be explicit about its emphasis and intentions to engage the community.

Next Meeting:

February 3, 2016

9:30 am to noon

Gatehouse Room 3050

An Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 6, 2016, at the time the SCYPT was originally scheduled to meet. More information on this meeting will be forthcoming.