

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

February 1, 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, Judith Dittman, Alicia Doe, Francisco Duran, Pat Harrison, Kelly Henderson, Judy Howard, Cathy Hudgins, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Rick Leichtweis, Jane Lipp, Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Jeff Platenberg, Ipsa Stringer, Lyn Tomlinson (for Tisha Deeghan), Douglas Tyson, Andrew Wehrten (for Ed Roessler)

Update on SCYPT Membership

New members were welcomed to the team:

- Hassan Alkurdi and Alicia Doe, parent representatives from the Head Start Policy Council; and
- Judy Howard, from the FCPS Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee.

SCYPT Action Updates:

- Multiple members discussed how they have been working within their organizations – and on broader levels – to implement One Fairfax and promote racial and social equity. Jeff McKay said in a recent discussion with the Board of Supervisors about the use of the Economic Opportunity Fund, he noted that equity was not identified as a criteria for utilizing the fund but should be added in accordance with the One Fairfax Resolution; the change was made. Nannette Bowler mentioned that she made a presentation to an American Public Human Services Association gathering and noted their interest in further information. Cathy Hudgins said that she will be doing a presentation on the topic of One Fairfax to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax.
- Bob Bermingham shared that Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court just released a report highlighting the progress they have made implementing strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile court system. The report will be on the JDRDC website in the near future.
- Mary Ann Panarelli and Francisco Duran noted that the One Fairfax workgroup has been meeting to gather information and feedback for policy development. A leadership group has also been meeting to provide guidance. As various agencies implement tools to make decisions through an equity lens, the workgroups will be assessing the tools to identify one for use in broader implementation.
- Jesse Ellis thanked Supervisors Hudgins and McKay for sharing the SCYPT's memo to the Board of Supervisors and School Board with the BOS at its January 24 meeting. The Board voted to accept the memo. Tammy Derenak Kaufax stated that the memo would be shared with the School Board at its February 16 work session.

- The SCYPT Executive Committee agreed that Elizabeth Gaines, of the Forum for Youth Investment, should present her full presentation on dedicated youth services funding mechanisms at an upcoming meeting; her presentation was cut short during the December meeting. Jesse Ellis stated that the presentation had been placed on the tentative agenda for April.

Action Item – SCYPT Endorsement of School-Based Drug Counselors Program

Mary Ann Panarelli shared that staff had updated the drug counselor proposal based on SCYPT feedback at the December meeting. The revised proposal was shared with the SCYPT for further feedback. As a result of that feedback, the proposal was again revised to clarify that Juvenile Court staff and police can refer students directly into the program.

Pat Harrison noted that, at its January 27 meeting, the Community Policy and Management Team endorsed the proposal.

Jeff McKay asked if staff had a plan in case the proposal is only partially funded. Dr. Panarelli stated that the proposal is modular and the number of schools implementing it would be reduced.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the proposal.

Discussion Item – Recommendations for Funding Endorsed by SCYPT

Betty Petersilia, of the Systems of Care Office (SOC), shared information on the SOC funding requests for Fiscal Year 2018 that are part of the Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint, endorsed by the SCYPT last spring. Similarly, Anne-Marie Twohie of the Office for Children and Maura Burke of FCPS shared information on funding endorsed by the SCYPT in 2013 for school readiness that is either part of the FY 18 request or was not funded in prior years. The SCYPT was asked to discuss these strategies to determine if they still meet significant service needs and constitute priorities for funding, in the context of each other and the full plans of which they are a part.

A lively discussion ensued, during which SCYPT members voiced continued support for the plans and the specific strategies. A number of points were made that will help drive future discussions, presentations, and requests to the SCYPT and boards. Among these are:

- Greater clarity is needed regarding costs. Proposals and reports should clearly delineate new and existing funding, if costs are recurring, and how funds are braided and/or matched. Detail on what a given amount of funds “get you in return” are also helpful.
- Requests should be accompanied by clear description of the need and how the funding will help address that need.
- It is important to recognize where we do well as part of the context for identifying need. For example, Fairfax County provides services for children with disabilities beginning at age 2, a full year earlier than Maryland.
- Discussions of strategy should include not only funding requests of the County and FCPS, but also ways that the community and advocacy sectors can support them.

Items Presented by SCYPT Members

Judy Howard asked if the County and FCPS were doing anything to work with immigrant families concerned about ICE raids to promote family stability and ensure children are cared for. Judith Dittman noted that Alternative House's Family Resource Centers are working with Legal Aid to get information and resources to families. Francisco Duran stated that FCPS is working on messaging to staff about what can and cannot occur in schools; the secondary priority will be on contingency plans and other resources for what may happen outside of school, in the community. Cathy Hudgins stated that, while a lot may be going on, various efforts are not well coordinated or organized.

Nannette Bowler discussed the importance of involving the Department of Family Services, particularly as it relates to emergency operations. Kelly Henderson stated that families will turn to those they know and trust best, such as parent liaisons and case workers, stressing the need to get practical information to such workers as soon as possible. Dr. Duran noted that FCPS is using two-way communication with parent liaisons.

Megan McLaughlin stressed the importance of doing everything in a way that does not cause undue stress or alarm. **Upon her recommendation the team decided that the Executive Committee would discuss at its next meeting what actions SCYPT should take on the matter.**

Committee Updates

- Jesse Ellis shared the progress of the Process Committee, which has identified immediate and longer-term changes that have either already been implemented or are in process of being implemented or developed. Six strategies have been identified that need additional development. SCYPT members who are interested in working on these should email Jesse.
- Jesse Ellis shared the progress of the Community Engagement Committee, which is working to develop and implement four strategies to better connect the broader community to the SCYPT.
- Jesse Ellis stated that the Community Schools Committee had an initial meeting and will be meeting in early March to discuss existing services and initiatives that are relevant to a community schools approach. Nannette Bowler suggested that there is enough overlap between the Community Schools Committee's work and that of the Early Intervention Committee, which was about to begin meeting, that the two committees should merge. **There were no objections from members, so the Community Schools and Early Intervention Committees will merge.**

Action Steps/Assignments

- The Executive Committee will discuss options for funding and implementation of the drug counselor program.
- The Executive Committee will discuss if and how the SCYPT should address immigrant and refugee issues raised during the meeting.
- Staff planning the SCYPT retreat will include a deep review of the outcomes dashboard on the agenda, and a short demo will be included in the April SCYPT agenda.

- Staff will provide the SCYPT with an improved breakdown of funded and unfunded school readiness and behavioral health strategies.
- The Early Intervention Committee will be folded into the Community Schools Committee.
- SCYPT members interested in joining the Process Committee should email Jesse Ellis.