

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

June, 2016, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

George Becerra, Bob Bermingham, Nanette Bowler, Tisha Deeghan, Jack Dobbyn, Francisco Duran, Pat Harrison, Cathy Hudgins, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Rick Leichtweis, Jane Lipp, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Dave Rohrer, Douglas Tyson, Andrew Wehrlen (for Ed Roessler), Darrell White

Action Item – Adoption of the 2016-2017 SCYPT Meeting Calendar

Without objection, the SCYPT approved the School Year 2016-17 SCYPT meeting schedule, with the April meeting changed from the proposed date of the 19th to the 26th.

Meetings will occur on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates: October 5, 2016; December 7, 2016; February 1, 2017; April 26, 2017; and June 7, 2017.

Executive Committee meetings will occur on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates: September 14, 2016; November 9, 2016; January 11, 2017; March 1, 2017; and May 3, 2017.

Action Item – Endorsement of the School Attendance Action Plan

On behalf of the rest of the Attendance Task Force (Lauren Madigan, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; Carrie Mendelsohn, Fairfax County Public Schools; and Kristen Brennan, Chrissy Cunningham, Victoria Kairys, and Jonathan Melendez, Neighborhood and Community Services), Jesse Ellis (NCS) and Cindy Dickinson (FCPS) presented the proposed school attendance action plan. The plan was developed over the past several months by the Attendance Task Force, which included representatives from multiple organizations and staff at a variety of levels and in a variety of positions. The Task Force recommended that they SCYPT not fully endorse “Tier 3” – the highest level of intervention in the plan – until the fall, when staff can return with more detail about how it would be implemented.

Several themes emerged during discussion. The first was that the attendance-based “triggers” for the various levels of intervention may not be conducive to early intervention. Jesse Ellis explained that a students’ needs and circumstances may immediately require a Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention, but that numbers of absences trigger interventions when no other needs are readily apparent; regardless, the definitions of the tiers of interventions will be revisited by an interventions working group this summer.

Jack Dobbyn asked if a focus on equity should include a reallocation of resources based on school need. Mary Ann Panarelli replied that school attendance officers are already assigned

based on need. The limited available resources, though, underscore the plan's emphasis on consistent approaches across the county, with targeted efforts to address equity and improve data capabilities.

There was a good deal of discussion about data, including the need for more robust and available data that is shared with community stakeholders. Templates and guidance to be developed by implementation teams this summer will address data needs and provide recommendations for data sharing. Tammy Derenak Kaufax expressed concern that there may be more consistency than is realized and that existing best practices should be highlighted and promoted.

A motion by Francisco Duran to add Strategy 1.8, "Promote instructional practices to greater emphasize personalization in school day activities," and to add action steps from the FCPS strategic plan, was passed without objection. The SCYPT then voted, also without objection, to endorse Goals 1 and 3 of the action plan. In a separate vote, the SCYPT voted 14-1 to endorse Goal 2. Staff will revise Goal 4, which includes the tiers of interventions, and bring it back to the SCYPT for endorsement in the fall. In the meantime, implementation teams will begin work on implementing the strategies in Goals 1, 2, and 3.

Overview of School Readiness Presentation to the Joint Board Meeting

Anne-Marie Twohie, Office for Children, announced that she will be presenting strategies to increase access to quality pre-kindergarten and other school readiness programs at the joint School Board-Board of Supervisors retreat on June 14.

Update on One Fairfax Equity Resolution

Karen Shaban, Neighborhood and Community Services, announced that the School Board and Board of Supervisors will each be voting in June to adopt a resolution promoting racial and social equity and directing staff to develop equity policies and strategies.

Opportunity for Action – Expanding Internet Access

Maribeth Luftglass and Tom Vandenburg, of FCPS Information Technology, presented on options for providing internet access to the roughly 14,900 FCPS students without it at home. Mobile hotspot solutions were the most strongly recommended by staff, as they are more flexible than other options. Wired internet, for example, lacks mobility and flexibility for students. (That has been a drawback to the national programs offered by Cox and Comcast.) And a solution similar to Albemarle County's, a locally developed 4G network, is not cost effective in a suburban environment; plus, the necessary FCC license is not available.

Pat Harrison noted that the SCYPT Executive Committee will review the options to determine if additional SCYPT action is needed.

Opportunity for Action – Classrooms Not Courtrooms Institute

Bob Bermingham reported that a Fairfax County team will be attending the Classrooms Not Courtrooms: School Discipline and the Achievement Gap Institute, hosted by the Virginia Department of Education in July.

Opportunity for Action – School-Based Substance Abuse Counselors

Pat Harrison notified the team that Supervisor Pat Herrity, with Board of Supervisors approval, requested staff to report back to the Board on the feasibility of returning substance abuse counselors to schools. Staff will first report back to the SCYPT for feedback and input in the fall.

Review of Action Steps from the April Meeting

- The Children’s Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint was revised to include law enforcement as a category of staff to be trained on cultural competency, crisis response, and other relevant topics; and to strengthen the approaches to promote equity. The Community Policy and Management Team approved the revisions.
- The Executive Committee postponed its discussion of broader budget processes to a future meeting.

Action Steps/Assignments

- The Attendance Task Force will convene implementation groups to get started on Goals 1, 2, and 3 of the action plan, and a work group to revise Goal 4. The revised Goal 4, along with any resource needs for the other goals, will be presented to the SCYPT in the fall.