

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

March 7, 2018, Meeting Summary

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

This meeting was originally scheduled for February 7, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Kimberly Adams, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Hassan Alkurdi, Leslie Atkins, Bob Bermingham, Nanette Bowler, Tisha Deeghan, Judith Dittman, Alicia Doe, Francisco Duran, Kelly Henderson, Judy Howard, Cathy Hudgins, Teresa Johnson, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Chris Leonard, Rick Leichtweis, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Stella Pekarsky (for Sean Perryman), Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Brian Ruck (for Ed Roessler), Donielle Scherff, Ipsa Stringer, Beth Tudan (for Michelle Leete), Douglas Tyson

Action Item – Endorsement of the School Attendance Task Force Implementation Plan

Mary Ann Panarelli and Jesse Ellis shared an update on the implementation of the Attendance Action Plan and next steps. The SCYPT was asked to endorse the current direction of implementation, to support the ongoing work, and to endorse the establishment of three new committees:

- One focused on engaging the business community to help increase school engagement and attendance;
- One focused on expanding the awareness campaign through community-based partners, County agencies, and other stakeholders; and
- One focused on strengthening pro-attendance interventions, referrals, and information sharing among FCPS and community and county partners.

The agenda item also asked SCYPT to support legislation in the Virginia General Assembly to provide school systems with great flexibility to intervene with students with five or more unexcused absences. Dr. Panarelli reported that, since the agenda item was first prepared for the February SCYPT meeting, the legislation passed both houses and the governor has announced his intention to sign the bill.

Much of the discussion focused on ensuring the ongoing work is connecting with or otherwise considering existing initiatives and specific populations, including: Neighborhood Networks, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and other schoolwide initiatives, the medical community, families, business involvement in the development of business-related strategies, students with chronic illness, special education students, and diverse perspectives. Kelly Henderson reminded everyone that, to facilitate family involvement, mechanisms (e.g., child care, stipends, evening meetings) need to be in place to support them. Judy Howard encouraged consideration for who serves as the “voice” of the initiative, including whose actual voice is used

in recorded attendance messages sent to parents, and who gets hired for attendance specialist positions.

Ms. Howard asked if there is money in the advertised budget to create new attendance specialist positions. Dr. Panarelli said there is not at this time.

Bob Bermingham noted that there is current work underway to leverage state resources to provide access to Family Functional Therapy for students with attendance problems.

Megan McLaughlin and Tammy Derenak Kaufax asked that, for the next update, staff provide additional data and information on the evidence base for Action Plan strategies.

Mr. Bermingham characterized the work to date as a “gamechanger,” noting that, while there is still much work to do, there has already been a lot of progress addressing this issue.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the continued implementation and convening of the three new committees.

Action Item – Endorsement of the Gang Prevention Funding Request

Bob Bermingham and Jesse Ellis presented a brief overview of the recently developed gang prevention strategy. The strategy was requested by the Board of Supervisors, which has approved the use of FY 2017 Carryover funding to begin implementation of the plan. The County Executive included funding to fully implement the plan in the FY 2019 Advertised Budget.

Tammy Derenak Kaufax suggested the SCYPT have a broader discussion about this work and how it ties to other, existing initiatives. Francisco Duran expressed appreciation that the focus is on prevention and intervention, and Judith Dittman noted that “gang prevention” is also effective as prevention for many other risky behaviors and outcomes we seek to avoid.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the funding request.

Action Item – Endorsement of the Opioid Task Force Funding Request

Gloria Addo-Ayensu and Robin Wilson of the Health Department presented a brief overview of the recently developed Opioid Task Force plan. The plan was requested by the Board of Supervisors, which has approved the use of FY 2017 Carryover funding to begin implementation of the plan. The County Executive included funding to fully implement the plan in the FY 2019 Advertised Budget.

According to Dr. Addo-Ayensu, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome recently became a reportable condition in Virginia. So staff will be monitoring data to determine need and inform additional strategies.

The plan includes a six school pyramid pilot of the revised school-based Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) program that was endorsed last year by the SCYPT. Mary Ann Panarelli stated

that FCPS staff are currently reviewing data to select the schools, and that part of the selection process will include a review of schools that already have enhanced behavioral health programming. An evaluation of the pilot, focused heavily on its effectiveness at connecting youth to treatment, will determine if and how it is expanded.

In response to questions about county-level data, Ms. Wilson noted that a full discussion of data, including at the county level, is included in the full report in the meeting package. One strategy in the plan is to distribute data regularly.

Given the SCYPT's primary focus on prevention and the lack of time for discussion on the full plan, **the SCYPT voted, without objection, to endorse the funding request for the two youth-focused elements of the plan: the SAP program and the community anti-drug coalition.**

Information Items

Meeting handouts included updates on the SCYPT Community Engagement Committee, the SCYPT Process Committee, and the SCYPT Community Schools Committee. Jesse Ellis noted that a meeting to share the results of the Mapping Moving Trains assessment will be held on March 22 at 3 pm at the Government Center. Jesse will send the meeting information.

Additional Items

Kelly Henderson asked if a document could be developed outlining the budget recommendations the SCYPT has made for FY 2019. Jesse Ellis replied that he would send the list out to the SCYPT shortly.