

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

May 13, 2015 Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

George Becerra, Bob Bermingham, Nannette Bowler, Judith Dittman, Jack Dobbyn, Kim Dockery, Pat Harrison, Bryan Holland (for Ed Roessler), Cathy Hudgins, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Leslie MacDonald (for Eileen Ellsworth), Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Jeff Platenberg, Dave Rohrer, Jane Strauss, Douglas Tyson

Administrative Item – 2015-16 Meeting Schedule

Without objection, the SCYPT approved the School Year 2015-16 SCYPT meeting schedule and urged continuity in the team's work by recommending that bodies responsible for appointing members of the SCYPT (e.g., School Board, Board of Supervisors) continue to appoint the same members for next year.

Meetings will occur on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon on the following dates: September 30, 2015; November 4, 2015; December 2, 2015; January 6, 2016; February 3, 2016; March 2, 2016; April 6, 2016; May 4, 2016; and June 6, 2016.

Administrative Item – Collective Impact Planning Efforts and Next Steps

Karla Bruce, Jesse Ellis, Victoria Cardoza Kairys, and Mary Ann Panarelli updated the SCYPT on efforts toward developing a collective impact approach. Since the last SCYPT meeting, at which the team approved engaging the community around a proposed shared agenda (i.e., vision and mission statements and outcomes), staff have engaged community members in a variety of settings, including the April 29 Community Dialogue, attended by over 150 individuals.

There has been widespread excitement and buy-in to engaging in a collective impact approach. And feedback on the proposed vision, mission, and outcomes has also been positive. Feedback, responses, and suggested changes were included in meeting handouts. Staff continues to engage community members and is still accepting recommendations for individuals and groups to include.

Feedback is also being used to guide development of a governance structure that provides a framework for data-driven collaborative action at multiple levels on shared goals. The elements presented included a combination of types of teams and mechanisms to engage the community, whether focused on policy, strategy, or implementation. The framework can be overlaid upon existing initiatives so that collective impact can become an embedded way of doing business, not a means for creating new work. The leadership focus in the framework included not only the SCYPT, but the full Boards, County Executive, Superintendent, and community leaders; it stresses the importance of a priority-setting function in this work. Also important to note is that the strategic perspectives of equity, prevention, and community engagement pervade all levels, all decision making, and all work.

The concept of “One Fairfax” provides not only a good opportunity for branding this effort, but emphasizes the collective nature of this work. This is not a County government effort, or an FCPS effort, but a collaborative effort among government, schools, and the many sectors of our community. “One Fairfax” also highlights the commonalities and interdependence among various efforts, not just around youth, but around housing, economic self-sufficiency, economic development, and so on.

Throughout the discussion, members noted the importance of stressing equity and a focus on identifying and addressing disparity. As the group working on the governance structure proposal continues, they will identify strategies for incorporating an equity, empowerment, and inclusion perspective, which will include incorporating key recommendations from the Institutional Analysis and other relevant reports. Additionally, the outcomes will emphasize the important role of “foundational” factors (StriveTogether refers to them as contextual indicators) that are determinants of multiple outcomes – things like poverty, family structure, housing stability, availability of culturally responsive services. A new report, [Taking Measure of Children in Fairfax-Falls Church Families](#), provides data on many of these measures.

Rick Leichtweis highlighted his concern that implementation is being held up by planning. Staff noted that, in many cases, implementation is ongoing, and that this work helps bring a more collaborative approach to it. Among the SCYPT’s first responsibilities for the fall will be to begin the prioritization process to get the work done.

Judith Dittman asked if external (i.e., non-County) leadership for this effort had been considered. Karla Bruce responded that different communities use different models, but that most have an external group that serves the backbone function for collective impact work. For the time being, the Neighborhood and Community Services Prevention Unit is filling that role. Pat Harrison said that she and staff have begun to look at some options.

Without objection, the SCYPT endorsed the following next steps:

1. Revise the proposed mission statement to read: “We, the Fairfax community, collectively ensure all children, youth, and their families and communities have equitable access to quality services, supports, and opportunities to further their success and well-being.”
2. Continue to present the vision, mission, and outcomes to stakeholder groups for feedback and buy-in.
3. Bring any final proposed changes to the vision, mission, and outcomes to the SCYPT for final approval and adoption at the SCYPT’s first meeting of the 2015-16 School Year.
4. Convene a data team to identify a proposed final set of indicators and present a draft indicator report, along with baseline data where available, to the SCYPT for approval and adoption at the SCYPT’s first meeting of the 2015-16 School Year.
5. Convene a governance structure team to finalize a proposed structure for decision-making, strategy development, and implementation, to be presented to the SCYPT for approval and adoption at the SCYPT’s first meeting of the 2015-16 School Year.

Information Item – Truancy Planning Update

Bob Bermingham shared progress on developing a multi-stakeholder truancy summit and a task force to develop and oversee implementation of strategies focused on attendance. The event, to be called the Community Dialogue on School Attendance, had been tentatively planned for

September 14, 2016. However, it has been noted that that date is Rosh Hashana, and staff are currently looking for a new date to hold the event. The SCYPT will be asked to help convene a team to move the work forward, based on the feedback and ideas generated at the Community Dialogue.

Information Item – Update on Advancing Opportunity to Achieve Equity

Karen Shaban presented an update on strategies to advance the focus on equity in leadership, accountability and data, and workforce development and capacity building. One key theme that emerged is the importance of creating “space” for conversations about equity, beyond that which occurs in training. Cathy Hudgins reminded the group that the County doesn’t always have to serve as convener; such discussions can be initiated in the community. It’s important to help the community feel comfortable to do so.

Nannette Bowler recommended the Healing Racism course Family Services staff participate in. More information will be sent to SCYPT members interested in participating.

Information Item – Community Health Dashboard Launch

Victoria Cardoza Kairys shared the newly launched Community Health Dashboard, available at www.livehealthyfairfax.org. It provides local socioeconomic and health data, links to data resources, best practices, and other information to promote community health and well-being. The Dashboard helps to address the critical community-identified need for accessible and disaggregated public health data.

Other Items – Disproportionate Minority Contact Grant

Bob Bermingham shared that the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court had received a \$30,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to address disproportionate outcomes in the juvenile justice system. Acceptance of the grant requires a governing body, and Mr. Bermingham requested the SCYPT to serve as that body. **Without objection, the SCYPT approved the motion to serve as the governing body for the grant.**