

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

October 4, 2017, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Hassan Alkurdi, Bob Bermingham, Nanette Bowler, Karla Bruce (for Chris Leonard), Larry Bussey (for Judy Howard), Ralph Cooper, Alicia Doe, Francisco Duran, Mark Ginsberg, Pat Harrison, Kelly Henderson, Cathy Hudgins, Teresa Johnson, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Michelle Leete, Rick Leichtweis, Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Michele Menapace (for Kimberly Adams), Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Dave Rohrer, Brian Ruck (for Ed Roessler), Douglas Tyson, Daryl Washington (for Tisha Deeghan), Darrell White

Update on SCYPT Membership

Teresa Johnson is the new FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Special Services. Jane Lipp retired over the summer.

Leslie Atkins is the new member appointed by the Fairfax County Out of School Time Network. She is with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington – Fairfax County Region, and she fills a new position.

Ralph Cooper is the new member from the Fairfax County Chapter of the NAACP, filling a new position.

Michelle Leete is the new member from the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, filling a vacant position.

This year's SCYPT co-chairs are Kelly Henderson, Jeff McKay, and Megan McLaughlin.

Action Item – Endorsement of the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan

Anne-Marie Twohie and Betsi Closter, of the Office for Children; Maura Burke, of FCPS; and Fahemeh Pirzadeh, of the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children presented the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan. The vision and strategies for the plan are as follows:

School Readiness Vision: All children enter kindergarten at their optimal developmental level with equitable opportunity for success.

School Readiness Strategies:

1. Establish meaningful partnerships with families to grow school readiness opportunities in all communities and support children's optimal development in all settings.

2. Provide equitable offerings of high-quality early development and learning experiences and related school readiness supports throughout the county.
3. Foster quality and effective professional learning in all early childhood programs and services.
4. Promote equity-focused planning and decision making, as well as shared accountability, through use of data.
5. Nurture a whole community commitment to school success for all children.

The plan is intended to be a framework for action, and staff will return to the SCYPT each year with updates on implementation and a proposed annual implementation plan, with resource/funding needs and evaluation measures, for endorsement. The implementation plans will include information on new slots (and their impacts on wait lists) and service opportunities. As a baseline, it was noted that the County and FCPS currently fund 2600 public pre-K slots, about 1900 children receive funding assistance through Child Care Assistance and Referral, and about 400 families receive home visiting services.

The plan includes a deliberate mix of strategies aimed at the county's mixed delivery system that includes about 500 child care centers, 480 providers with state licenses, and 1200 providers with county permits. Many strategies support these private providers and other sectors, such as workforce development.

Members noted the absence of some populations of focus from the plan. Michelle Menapace recommended adding activities focused on homeless children and families. Jeff McKay emphasized the need to be conscious of geographic disparities and to prioritize implementation to where it will have the greatest impact. Megan McLaughlin sought to ensure that children with disabilities were included in screening and other efforts; staff noted that existing efforts do screen all children and that the plan includes children with disabilities. While all subpopulations are not explicitly addressed in the plan, targeted activities will be included in the annual implementation plans presented to the SCYPT.

Members also suggested improvements to outcome measurement. Tammy Derenak Kaufax noted that a data dashboard would help demonstrate immediate results of the plan and communicate some of the longer-term prevention-oriented outcomes. Michelle Menapace noted that, while reducing the achievement gap was included as an outcome of the plan, it was not included in indicators and measures. Megan McLaughlin noted that the plan, even if fully implemented, could not close the achievement gap in the absence of additional strategies separate from school readiness. When asked if there was a target number of children to be served through the plan, Anne-Marie Twohie stated a "bare minimum" goal of ensuring 100 percent of children living in poverty can access services; the implementation plan will detail how to get there. Hassan Alkurdi stated that having a specific and ambitious goal like this one will really go a long way toward getting the community engaged and bought in to the plan.

There was discussion about the extent to which the strategies are grounded in research and evidence. Mark Ginsberg and the presenters emphasized they are and that there has been considerable collaboration from researchers and others at George Mason, Virginia Tech, the

University of Virginia, and Northern Virginia Community College in the development of the plan and its eventual implementation.

While the plan is focused on kindergarten readiness, members recognized that school readiness is an important outcome for new students at any age. So staff will amend the plan title to emphasize its focus on children birth through age eight.

Jeff McKay noted that February is too late to bring the implementation plan to SCYPT, if it is to be considered for the Fiscal Year 2019 County budget. Staff agreed to present the plan in December. Pat Harrison and Francisco Duran said they would work with staff to identify top priorities and begin conversations to keep “placeholders” for the budget.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the plan, noting the following:

- **The plan’s title should emphasize that the plan focuses on children birth through age eight;**
- **This endorsement is the starting point on the road map to a fully implemented strategy; and**
- **Implementation plans and accomplishments will be presented annually, beginning in December 2017 (not February 2018).**

Information Items

Meeting handouts included updates on the SCYPT Community Engagement Committee, the SCYPT Process Committee, the SCYPT Community Schools Committee, One Fairfax policy development, School Attendance Action Plan implementation, and Behavioral Health Blueprint implementation.

Announcements

- The 4th annual [FCPS Mental Health and Wellness Conference](#) is on Saturday, October 21 at Fairfax High School. It features a welcome from FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand and a keynote address by Jonathan Dalton of the Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change. There are dozens of awesome workshops and a great resource area with more than 50 exhibit tables with all your favorite people and organizations.
- Data from the 2016-2017 Fairfax County Youth Survey has now been posted on the [Youth Survey website](#). A new interactive data tool is now available on the site.