

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

December 6, 2017, Meeting Summary

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

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Kimberly Adams, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Hassan Alkurdi, Leslie Atkins, Bob Birmingham, Nanette Bowler, Tisha Deeghan, Judith Dittman, Alicia Doe, Francisco Duran, Mark Ginsberg, Pat Harrison, Kelly Henderson, Judy Howard, Cathy Hudgins, Teresa Johnson, Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Chris Leonard, Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Sean Perryman, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Dave Rohrer, Brian Ruck (for Ed Roessler), Donielle Scherff, Tony Shivers (for Michelle Leete), Ipsa Stringer, Douglas Tyson

Update on SCYPT Membership

Pat Harrison announced she will be retiring in January, and that this is her last SCYPT meeting. Tisha Deeghan has been named the new deputy county executive.

Leslie Atkins is the new community co-chair-elect, and will serve as a SCYPT co-chair next year.

Sean Perryman is the new member from the Fairfax County Chapter of the NAACP.

Donielle Scherff is the new member appointed by Leadership Fairfax, Inc.

Action Item – Endorsement of the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan FY 2019 Implementation Plan and Funding Request.

Maura Burke, Betsi Closter, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, and Anne-Marie Twohie presented the first year implementation plan and associated FY 2019 funding request for the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan. The funding requests included:

- \$10,000 to implement community-based playgroups with a focus on social-emotional skill development;
- \$76,000 to pilot the use of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to assess the quality and availability of school readiness supports and services;
- \$1,035,000 to expand early childhood development and learning programs in FCPS and the community;
- \$248,000 to expand the Nurse Family Partnership program into the Reston/Herndon area; and
- \$170,000 to implement a mental health consultation system to provide professional supports to early childhood educators.

Ms. Burke explained that 95 of the additional pre-K slots would come from FCPS adding one student to existing classrooms. For this reason, the total cost of expanding slots is significantly lower than the typical \$15,000 cost for a slot for a three or four year old. (The typical cost includes staff, capital investment, and other costs that are already budgeted for in existing classrooms.)

Neighborhoods to be included in the EDI pilot have yet to be identified. UCLA, which manages the EDI, recommends selecting an FCPS pyramid that is fairly representative of the county overall. (More information on the EDI can be found [here](#).) In response to questions about the need for more data, staff noted that the EDI incorporates individual-level data, while other neighborhood measures rely on community-wide, publicly available, data. The EDI's inclusion of social/emotional wellness and executive functioning measures provides a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness; only literacy and numeracy indicators are currently available. Further, the data will allow for evaluation and analysis of student-level outcomes based on the type of pre-K experience the student had (e.g., center-based, home-based, Head Start). Staff clarified that EDI data would be used in combination with other data to identify needs, and that the cost of implementation drops after the first year.

Regarding training and workforce development and promotion, Ms. Closter stated that the Washington Region Early Care and Education Workforce Network includes representatives from higher education (community and four-year colleges), and that Virginia is exploring developing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Staff also noted that, in the county, there is a continuum of home visiting programs, and staff work to coordinate them and ensure families are matched to the program that best suits their needs. Mark Ginsberg recommended exploring other programs, such as Parents as Teachers, that may further expand opportunities.

Several members complimented the comprehensive approach of the implementation plan, and Dr. Ginsberg stated that the strategies were all consistent with the evidence base for effective school readiness.

Several members noted that this implementation plan represents not just a fraction of the full strategic plan, but that long-term funding solutions will be necessary to fully implement the entire plan and reach all children in need of quality and accessible care.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the implementation plan and funding request. Pat Harrison noted that she had been in touch with the County Department of Management and Budget to let them know to expect this. At the January Executive Committee meeting, members will discuss any additional steps necessary to ensure full consideration of the proposal by the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

Action Item – Endorsement of the Children's Behavioral Health Blueprint FY 2019 Funding Request.

Jim Gillespie presented funding requests that were included in the Healthy Minds Fairfax FY 2019 budget submission to support implementation of the Behavioral Health Blueprint. The requests included:

- \$162,435 to expand the Short-Term Behavioral Health Services program to ten additional middle school communities;
- \$250,000 to provide telepsychiatry and psychiatric consultation for children and youth otherwise unable to access psychiatric services; and
- \$300,000 to pilot a school-based program in which certified substance abuse counselors will provide prevention, early intervention, and referral services in three FCPS high school pyramids.

Mr. Gillespie explained that the telepsychiatry program will be based on national best practices (often called “Access Projects” that include teams of providers.

For the school-based substance use program, the elementary school messaging component will include targeted classroom-level discussions that will complement, and be a bit more intensive than, the existing prevention curriculum all students receive. The identification and referral to treatment components of the program are expected to be more effective than in the previous program because the staff will be FCPS staff (as opposed to CSB staff, who were less able to share and receive student information) who will be focused on the handoff to treatment, and because school psychologists and social workers are now trained in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT, an evidence-based approach to providing substance use treatment). Pat Harrison noted that an expanded version of the program is also being submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration as a part of a broader opioid prevention strategy.

Without objection, the SCYPT voted to endorse the funding request. Pat Harrison noted that she had been in touch with the County Department of Management and Budget to let them know to expect this. At the January Executive Committee meeting, members will discuss any additional steps necessary to ensure full consideration of the proposal by the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

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, and Behavioral Health Blueprint implementation.