

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of the SF Out of School Time Coalition
(Last Updated 6/12/15)

Goals of the Effort

The SF Out of School Time Coalition (SFOTC) is a group comprised of representatives from San Francisco's out of school time program providers, large and small. They came together to form the coalition years ago to ensure fairness and transparency in decision-making and program funding from the San Francisco Unified School District. Now, six years later, the SFOTC largely achieved its aims, such that now after school program providers no longer need the coalition as an advocacy platform. Nonetheless, the SFOTC still meets, though the goals of the coalition are not clearly defined. In its current form, networking among after school providers appears to be the chief purpose and benefit of the SFOTC.

Focal Population of the Effort

The SFOTC is a group exclusively for after school program providers, such as the YMCA or Bay Area Community Resources. Indirectly, though, the focal population is the children and young adults of San Francisco who participate in and benefit from robust after school programming options.

Impact

Through advocating collectively for all after school program providers, the SFOTC played a primary role in transforming SFUSD policies surrounding after school programming in San Francisco. Whereas back in 2009 there was little transparency surrounding SFUSD after school programming contracts, and many providers felt many programming and policy decisions made by the district were arbitrary, now both large and small after school providers agree the relationship between providers and SFUSD is a positive, open, and fair one. The SFOTC was so successful in its call for improvements in the after school programming policies that now the providers see little need for further reform.

Challenges

The SFOTC is now dealing with the challenge of no longer having tangible goals for reforming specific policies. In the early years of the coalition, there was consensus among after school program providers that certain SFUSD policies were unfair, and the coalition united around trying to reform these unpopular policies. Now, however, because the relationship between SFUSD and providers has improved substantially after important policy reforms, the SFOTC is no longer united by a common purpose, which poses a challenge for the coalition moving forward.

Origins of the Effort

The SFOTC was formed in 2009 in response to school district policies that many after school program providers considered unfair. These providers formed the coalition to advocate collectively through one voice to create an even playing field for all after school program providers. Over the past six years, they have brought about substantial reform and have fostered a much stronger relationship between SFUSD and providers.

Leading the Effort

The SFOTC is currently co-chaired by Don Blasky and Marissa Cowan. Don is the Program Director at Bay Area Community Resources, the largest after school program provider within the SFOTC and the current sponsor of 12 smaller providers. Marissa is currently the Executive Director at the Mission YMCA.

Members of the Effort

While membership is difficult to quantify given that the SFOTC no longer has a consistent meeting schedule as they are deciding the direction the coalition should move in now, in the past the following after school agencies were represented on the SFOTC:

After School Enrichment Program (ASEP)
ARC

Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center
Bay Area Community Resources
Bayview YMCA
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
Chinatown YMCA of San Francisco
Embarcadero YMCA of San Francisco
Growth and Learning Opportunities (GLO)
Jamestown Community Center
Mission Graduates
Mission YMCA of SF
Presidio Community YMCA
Real Options for City Kids (R.O.C.K.)
Richmond District YMCA
Richmond District Neighborhood Center
SF Cess
Stonestown Family YMCA
Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center
Up On Top After School and Summer Program
Urban Services YMCA

Structure of the Effort

There is no recurring meeting scheduled for the SFOTC, but in the past a steering committee met monthly to discuss objectives for upcoming quarterly meetings, and a quarterly meeting took place for all after school program providers. On average, roughly one fifth of the agencies above were represented at steering committee meetings, and one quarter of the member agencies had a representative at quarterly meetings. Although regular SFOTC meetings no longer take place, the coalition still maintains an active email list. That said, the need for the email list has largely dissolved because SFUSD now has monthly meetings and shares relevant information with all providers through its own comprehensive email list, a change that came about after SFOTC requests.

The Role of Data

The SFOTC does not collect or monitor any data related to their cause.