



Our Children, Our Families Council

**Coordinated Services and Targeted Resources Working Group Meeting Notes
February 16, 2017 at 2:00 PM
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, Latino/Hispanic Room**

Member attendees:

Baylee deCastro	Karen Fraleigh- Norman	Chair Roderick Castro
Anne Marie Donnelly	Kelly Batson	Chair Aumijo Gomes
Chris Muyo	Kevin Hickey	Chair Lyslynn Lacoste
Ciara Wade	Mahogany Spears	
Damien Raffa	Maria Zaragoza	
Derick Brown	Mary Richards	
Erica Finkle	Meeno Yashar	
Gregory Collins	Michelle Jeffers	
Jubilee Tsui	Shanell Williams	
Julia Sabory	Tim Reidy	

Members not in attendance:

Amanda Fried	Jason Bell	Mele Lau-Smith
Carl Fabbri	Jeannie Pon	Michael Carr
Cecilia Galleano	Jeff Kositsky	Orla Okeefe
Chris Sally	Katherine Miller	Shauna Moss
Crystal Hawkins	Kristy Wang	Stephen Koffman
Diana Oliva- Aroche	Laura Moran	Susie Smith
Estela Garcia	Linda Jordon	Theo Miller
Jasmine Dawson	Martha Ryan	Theresa Rowland
	Mele Lau-Smith	Una Bailey

Council Members

Alecia Barillas
Dr. Laurie Scolari
Luis Aroche
Simone Combs
Sonali Joshi

Members of the Public:

Veronica Zamani
Stefany Eldrel
Ada Ochangzo
Graham Dobson
Adam Parker
Paula Jones

Elizabeth Hawson
Salvador Lopez Barr
Betsy Block
Liz Ozol

I. Call to Order

- Chair Lyslyn Lacoste calls meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
- Attendees were reminded that the meeting, as all public meetings, is being recorded.
- Chair Lyslyn Lacoste reviewed the roles of the tri-chairs. Each chair represent the City, SFUSD, and the community. They ensure meetings are interactive, foster dialogue, and embrace divergent perspectives. Ensure that positions that hold power and privilege are sharing the space equiatbly. Create a space where participants openly and actively engage, and feel safe asking questions and challenging each other.
- Director Laurie Scolari clarified the roles of the OCOF staff. The OCOF staff bring in lived experiences to provide on-the ground perspectives, and challenge assumptions and is grounded in equity. Make sure work is tied to outcomes framework, five goals, and nineteen measures. Connect working groups together to come together cohesively to make connections/recommendations to the council, mayor, and superintendent as well as coordinating logistics.
- Chair Dr. Roderick Castro led the group through an icebreaker- Two Truths, One Lie.

II. Why we are here, Overview of Objectives and What Was Covered Last Meeting

- Chair Roderick Castro went over why are the working group members here and what is the problem they are trying to solve. These problems include: what services are being provided to achieve our collective goals for children and youth? Using the equity lens, which groups are and are not receiving services? Where are our services redundant? Where are there gaps? What resources are currently dedicated to children, youth and their families?
- Chair Roderick Castro gave an overview of the Coordinated Services Working Group Objectives which include: analyzing existing services in each of the Goal areas and identify gaps and redundancies, proposing common definitions for services, and making recommendations on City and District resource allocation decisions based on service analysis.
- Chair Aumijo Gomes recapped the last working group meeting,
 - Accomplishments from last meeting: Reviewed draft landscape of existing services for children, youth and families. Added in additional services and acronyms. Some recommendations were made.
 - The next steps we will make: OCOF staff will take the list you contributed towards at the first meeting and conduct additional research. They will also prepare a landscape analysis using data visualization for you to respond to at a future meeting.
 - Some recommendations from the last meeting were already put forward. A task force of First Five, SFUSD, and The Office of Early Care and Education will convene in the coming weeks regarding the Kindergarten Observation Form. The

implementation of a coordinator/college counselor at every high school to better coordinate CBO's will be explored further by Goal Group E.

III. Overview of the Goal for today's meeting, discussion of equity

- Chair Aumijo Gomes presented an overview for the focus of today's meeting. In this meeting working group members are going to analyze case studies/lived experiences, discuss how we could have coordinated services better for each case, discuss gaps and redundancies, and continue to draft recommendations for change.
- Chair Aumijo Gomes pushes members to listen to the experiences of our speakers and talk through how we could have coordinated services differently and note how it turned out for them.
- Chair Aumijo presents a diagram on Equality vs. Equity. The picture shows a white man and an African American woman racing the same distance, but the woman has multiple barriers in her way (chain, ditch, barbed wire). These barriers represent some systemic barriers in her way such as bias and racism.
- These two people are not running the same race, even though the distance is identical. The white man in the diagram has less barriers to overcome. We have to make sure that those with the highest need are benefitting the most from these services. Coordination efforts is what makes us able to hone in on that group.

IV. Speaker Stories on Lived Experiences

- Chair Lyslynn Lacoste overviews Speaker Stories. Today's speakers include OCOF Council Coordinator- Alecia Barrillas, OCOF Family Navigator- Luis Aroche, and SFUSD student- Maria Zaragoza. Each speaker will speak for 10 minutes, followed by a 15 minute discussion within each Goal Area.
- Chair Lyslynn Lacoste ask the working group members to keep the following questions in mind as they listen to the stories: What aspects of their story connect to the equity lens areas? What aspects of their story connect to the outcomes framework measures in your goal area? What were points of intervention for the individual? How could we have aligned services better for the speaker in your goal area?
- 1st Speaker- OCOF Council Coordinator Alecia Barrillas
 - Alecia Barillas was born and raised in San Francisco she was born to a Mexican mother and Black father. Her father was incarcerated and left before she born. Her mother was pregnant with her at 12 years old and luckily received prenatal care through Medical. Her mother was in and out of many abusive relationships and spent a lot of time at St. Luke's hospital. Her mother did not access many social services and lied to doctors when asked about her injuries. In terms of education, Alecia did not feel connected or safe in school and always fell behind in math and english. She had a 0.0 GPA and decided to drop out of school at 16 years old. When she was 18, she received her GED and worked at Macy's. At age 20, she was out of work and school and unsure of what to do. But she realized she needed to get her act together and hoped to pursue a city job. She saw that many city jobs required a degree, so she enrolled in City College though she was embarrassed and heard many negative things. At City College, she had a work-study job on campus and met mentors that guided her. At age 24 she received her Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, at age 26 she received her BA in

Business Management, and at 28 she received her Masters in Public Administration. She no longer lives under the poverty line and is now a middle class citizen thanks to her education.

- 2nd Speaker- SFUSD student Maria Zaragoza
 - When Maria was 10 years old her mother asked her to make a decision: stay with her dad in Mexico or immigrate with her to the U.S. Life in Mexico was not easy for her family, she lived on beans and water and sometimes did not have lights or water at home. She decided to immigrate to the U.S. where she hoped she could continue her education and pursue a better life for herself. In her freshman year on high school, Maria and her mother met with her counselor to discuss her future. Her counselor said she can't go to college and to just pursue her high school diploma. Since then, she refused to give up and continued to find a way to go to college. She is now one of two student delegates for the SFUSD Board of Education, being an undocumented student she hopes to inspire other students to take a stand and make a changes. She has created the Undocumented, Unafraid, and United Students Resolution. This resolution will provide, emotional, legal, college, and career support to students by equipping educators with the necessary tools. It is her last year at June Jordan High School and she is glad for the support of her school and her college access program College Connect. She has been accepted into three colleges is currently waiting for more.
- 3rd Speaker- OCOF Family Navigator Luis Aroche
 - Luis Aroche was the youngest of all boys, with a Puerto Rican father and El Salvadorian mother, he struggled to find his identity in a largely Mexican neighborhood. Policies of the Reagan administration negatively impacted Luis and his family. His mother refused to leave the house due to the trauma of escaping war and fell victim to alcoholism. Reagan's war on drugs also exacerbated drug sales and violence in his community. By the time he was in middle school, Luis had been fully exposed to gang culture. Luis was placed in special education courses, but no one asked why he fell behind school in the first place. He eventually dropped out of school, earned a GED, and joined a gang. During this time, Luis lost friends and family members to gang violence and his mother's condition worsened. Transitioning out of gang life was nearly impossible, joining a gang requires a lifelong commitment that if broken, results in death. Luis participated in workforce programs like MYEEP and eventually transitioned from gang life to being a case manager. At the SFSU ethnic studies department, he learned about oppression and racial inequality and realized that what had happened to him and his family was not a mistake. His journey has taken him to obtain his Master's in Public Administration from USF and to now serve as the Family Support Navigator for OCOF.

V. Group Discussion on Lived Experiences

- **Goal Group A (Live in Safe & Nurturing Environments)**
 - Alecia: Alecia's story connected to all of the Goal A measures. There were many possible points of interventions including the school and hospital staff. Her school should have intervened before she received a 0.0 GPA and the hospital staff should have recognized her mother's domestic abuse.

- Maria: Increased school staff training also could have changed Maria's story. The counselor that told her to just pursue her diploma was not supportive and should have provided Maria with resources to attend college.
- Luis: We could have better aligned services for Luis during his release from Log Cabin. When he was released his probation officer should have taken into account if he was emotionally ready or if he had a stable home to go to.
- **Goal Group B (Attain Economic Security and Housing Stability)**
 - Alecia: Alecia's story connected to the equity lens of neighborhood. She moved throughout San Francisco, living in different projects. She did not feel safe or connected to her neighborhood due to the violence.
 - Maria: Maria's story connected to measure B1- Stably Housed. Maria is currently not stably housed. Her mother does not have a stable source of income due to her status and is currently in the process of being evicted.
 - Luis: We could have intervened in helping Luis by having professionals focus on facilitating support instead of "fixing" the students.
- **Goal Group C (Physically, Emotionally, and Mentally Healthy)**
 - Alecia: Increased staff training of the medical staff she came in contact with could have intervened regarding her mother's domestic abuse.
 - Maria: Maria's story connected to equity lens of trauma exposure. She experienced crossing the border early in her life without her father, being separated from her mother, and carrying the fear of being deported.
 - Luis: Education was the key in Luis' story, through his resources he was connected to the right people and was able to obtain employment. We recommend creating an application to connect people to resources.
- **Goal Group D (Thrive in a 21st Century Learning Environment)**
 - Alecia: Some ways we could have better aligned services for Alecia include increasing outreach. Alecia was not aware of the services available to her and it was not until she attended City College that she accessed programs like work-study.
 - Maria: We could better align services for Maria by being more aware of legal status issues undocumented students encounter and providing more family/parent support and engagement.
 - Luis: There were many points of intervention for Luis. His contact with the D.A. resulted in an offer of employment and his time at Log Cabin and SFSU was a turning point in his life.
- **Goal Group E (Succeed in Postsecondary and/or Career Paths)**
 - Alecia: Alecia's story connected to measure E2- College degree or certificate. Alecia obtaining her AA and BA was a major turning point in her life where she was able to access resources like work-study and mentors such as Dr. Scolari.
 - Maria: We could have aligned resources better for Maria by having more referral training for counselors, increasing CBO relationships with school sites, implementing a community engagement counselor at all schools, access to a support-service directory so she can have more direct support.

- Luis: There were many were many possible ways we could have aligned services better for Luis in our goal area. We could have provided career pathways and connections to income for him earlier in life and eased the transition periods in his life, such as transitioning to HS.

VI. Announcements (discussion only)

- Chair Roderick Castro announced the future meeting dates for the Coordinated Services & Targeted Resource Working Group. The next meeting will take place on March 15 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM at the San Francisco Public Library.

VII. Public Comment

- Chair Roderick Castro calls for public comment.
- “Thank you for bringing the speakers together.”

VIII. Adjournment

- Chair Roderick Castro adjourns the meeting.