



Improving Educational Opportunities Working Group
Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation
404 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92114
Feb. 14, 2018, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Harder + Co., City of San Diego Promise Zone, AmeriCorps VISTA, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, Barrio Logan College Institute, City of San Diego Human Resources Department, San Diego Unified School District and Rady Children's Hospital

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chairs Sara Boquin (Barrio Logan College Institute) and Sandra Ainslie (Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation) called the meeting together, led introductions and gave a brief overview of the planning process to this point to orient new attendees.

Review of January 2018 Working Group Meeting

Partners spent January's meeting preparing for the SDPZ All-Partner Meeting, giving input on the Strategic Plan and diving deeper into Community Survey results, both of which will be made available on the SDPZ website (www.sandiego.gov/promisezone) in the near future.

Debrief from Jan. 25 All-Partner Meeting

Overview:

- Partners enjoyed the mix of old and new organizations in attendance, and the ability to network across sectors.
- The grant refresher course went well, and Partners are interested in more specific fiscal mapping and grant alignment workshops to increase financial planning.

Key takeaways from 3 breakout groups:

Opportunity Youth:

- Opportunity Youth encompass a large spectrum. Serving 16-year-olds and 24-year-olds can be a challenge for some organizations because of their different needs.

Homelessness:

- The current City government is prioritizing homelessness as an issue and is an asset to Partners working in this area.
- Homelessness can be difficult to define, and it is tricky to deliver or develop services to non-visible populations (couch surfers, new veterans, people sleeping in cars, etc.).

From Planning to Practice:

- The group recognized boundaries across sectors within their organizational networks, lack of

a shared language, competitiveness, and planning fatigue as challenges.

- The Partners should learn from previous emergencies, like San Diego's fires, and how a good network of communication and plan for action are critical in combating these larger problems.
- In order to succeed, this program must be Partner-led. There must be a good understanding of each other's assets and services and accountability for actionable items moving forward. Efforts should focus on resident- and community-centered advances.

Moving to Implementation

Connections:

- Utilizing a service database, like 211 San Diego, but making it specific to the geographic area could be a good tool for residents and Partners.
- Tracking external referrals between Partner organizations would show increased interconnectivity throughout the designation.
- Currently Partners have grassroots directories of contacts, but there needs to be a stronger system in place to link Partners.

Examples of Implementation:

Los Angeles Promise Zone

- Monthly Working Group meetings around goal areas go between grant-matchmaking meetings and capacity-building workshops.
- VISTAs and co-chairs work closely together to set agendas, invite speakers and prioritize activities for group focus areas.

Increasing Access to Affordable Housing Working Group

- This group had suggested broad goal areas meet quarterly, with action-oriented or topic-focused groups meeting in the off months.
- Descriptions of meetings should be sent out ahead of time so people can select to attend appropriate meetings. This should increase participation.

Education Partners Input:

- Splitting off by age group keeps rising to the surface as a way to ensure Partners are in meetings relevant to the population with which they work. Focus areas would allow large organizations to address all their different programs that feed into this work.
- The website will need to be more consistently updated with Partner activities and services to make sure there is an accurate resource for Partners to reference.
- The Co-chair's role should encompass feeding Working Group work back up to each other, and then disseminating information back down from that meeting as a tool for cross-sector connections.
- Having "ambassadors" between groups could also help spread information on actionable items being taken on by Partners.
- Meetings will need to be structured before this group feels comfortable putting timelines on specific activities. The group may try different set ups for three to six months to see what works best for the group.

- The group should be cautious not to meet too much. It wants to be purposeful and guided.
- A monthly meeting might be ideal, with a short, large goal area update at the beginning and breakout groups by subject area. It may solve the problem of over meeting and still allow for large group connections with activity-focused work.

Updates

Out of School Youth Resource Fair:

- San Diego Unified School District hosting fair on March 1 at Jackie Robinson YMCA
- Partners are invited to attend and host resource tables

Next Steps and Closing

Each of the Partners present will look at the activities to see which ones he or she personally would be willing to take more ownership of and will be responsible for pulling in new partners on those activities during implementation. At the next meeting, feedback from all groups will be shared, and an initial decision will be made along with prioritizing activities.

Next Meeting Date:

Second Wednesday of each month

Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

March 14, 2018, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.