

Somerville Cabinet Meeting –

1. Collective Impact in Covid
2. Plans for Out-of-School time in winter

11/19/2020

5 Premises of Collective impact

- **Common Agenda**
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities**
- **Continuous communication**
- **Backbone Support and Coordination**
- **Shared Measurement**

Common Agenda: common understanding of the problem and shared vision for change.

Not all families in Somerville have equitable access to available services, supports and opportunities needed to offset the impact of the pandemic.

Mutual reinforcing activity in Somerville during Covid: different orgs and departments have specialized supports:

1. Diaper and learning supplies distribution
2. Winter clothing drive
3. SomerCamp
4. Know Your Rights
5. Food Provision

Continuous Communication: ISU biweekly team meetings and larger all community meetings, CBO Board and city and schools meetings, city/schools town halls, health related covid response, incident command structure meetings, food action meeting and food referrals, SPYC meetings, OST meetings, access and affordability, CAAS/OHS and ISU shared status updates, School newsletters, city school and community websites, SFLC communications

-Leveraged community partners during pandemic. Our entire economy hinges on childcare

Backbone Support and Coordination: relationships formed through Cabinet proved key to coordinated response

Shared Measurement Examples: how we use data to inform our efforts. Examples of measures were listed in PPT.

One top goal is not just to meet immediate family needs but make the arrangement permanent and sustainable (matching with services).

Discussed Aunt Bertha platform, single point of entry: the platform tracks the services that a family is eligible for and the services a family is already receiving. Balance between privacy and consistency in case management. How can we have a system that is both public facing and internal. Platform is helpful especially to people who might not be comfortable visiting respective organizations and offices in person.

Out-of-School Time (OST) Discussion

From Greg in chat box: In the typical year, school age kids spend just 20% of their awake time in school. This year, close to 90% of kids time is not in classes.

Out of School Time (OST) youth programming is a cost-effective way of addressing equity, social isolation, and health. OST providers can leverage blended delivery to maximize remote and outdoors safe interactions.

Over the summer, Somerville Media Center, in partnership with the City of Somerville, Somerville Public Schools, and the Somerville Education Foundation have come together with community partners to produce a diverse set of programming that serve kids where they are. Over 300 kids signed up and participated in safe remote programming that is social, creative, and physical.

We really need to spend resources on kids this winter. Saved resources must be repurposed to provide continuity of service for kids. Need to identify gaps and where those are growing. As a community, we need to identify where the needs gaps are growing before they get out of control.

From Mary Skipper: We need to get task force operationalized around community schools. Utilize outdoor space if possible. Cleaning structure between day and night programming. Each decision requires careful thinking and planning. Requires a level of coordination that calls for a full fledged task force. From the SPS side, who has the bandwidth to do this? Need to think about shorter blocks of time if we are to serve more kids e.g. Currently 10 kids for 3 hours – could be 20 kids for 1hr 30?. We need integrated delivery for out of school services. Jose needs to be empowered to make that happen. What about funding to make this happen.

We may need to hire additional staff. Capacity is lacking very much right now.

Take-aways: We need clarity around whether/how school buildings might be available for use with OST programs. If yes LOTS of logistics involved in keeping pods together and spaces sanitized. Smaller taskforce needed to look at overall OST landscape with individuals to lead the way on remote programming and in-person programming and coordination between these two. We need families to have easy and equitable access to any and all programming available.

Chris will reach out about next steps.

Meeting with Susan Dynarski:

Takeaways: She will definitely be keen to be involved in thoughts about high school barrier and college access for Somerville kids – great ally and policy specialist!