

**Opportunity Youth Advisory Group - Meeting Notes**  
Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Input on Priority Strategies: Ideas, Equity Considerations, Questions**

**1: Expand and Improve Opportunity Youth Outreach**

- Implement strong peer outreach strategy
- Formalize system referral mechanisms (e.g., districts, JJ, law enforcement, housing authorities)
- Strengthen data collection and use to inform and improve outreach

Ideas:

- Continue peer connector program
- Recruit Head Start parents, low-income workers

Equity Considerations

- Hire diverse peers that reflect opportunity youth... exactly what the program does already
- Gender equity considerations for career pathways options
- Connect to BMOC/MBK work

Questions

- How can the peer connectors be well supported to get really good professional development/go directly into *their* professional/educational goals?

**2: Improve Program Supply and Coordination**

- Improve program, pathway and initiative alignment (between Open Doors and HS21+, Open Doors & Postsecondary training, Open Doors & Apprenticeship)
- Use data to fill gaps and differentiate across program supply

Ideas:

- Connect Open Doors to AJAC Youth Apprenticeship strategies – other sectors e.g., healthcare

Opportunities

- Social Enterprise
- Seattle/KC sector strategy
- Short-term detention – only 59% of youth go back to school

**3: Expand College and Career Transition Supports**

- For OY without a high school diploma
  - Expand employment offerings within reengagement programs
  - Strengthen, expand and sustain postsecondary navigation within reengagement programs
- For OY who finished HS or equivalent
  - Expand college/career exploration, transition and navigation supports
  - Expand supportive employment offerings

Ideas:

- Change policies/rules for use of public funds so more can fund CBO navigators – get to scale
- Career exploration with more “hands-on” approach and OJT

### Equity Considerations

- Track gender trajectories into//through career path options
- Emergency support \$ with identified barriers – individual/cultural/societal

### Questions

- Should we look at data on race/gender and college/career track?
- Advocacy play? Change College Bound rules so if you get GED by 20, you can get CBS again?

## **4: Strengthen Quality and Support Innovation**

- Support data-driven continuous improvement
- Expand professional development supports (coaching, training, cross-site sharing anchored by Back on Track and other effective practice frameworks)

### Ideas:

- Engage philanthropy and private industry in conversation about issues, needs for innovation and resource requirements for innovation
  - Use private seed money to seed innovation; public resources to sustain
- Remove GED/HS diploma requirements
- Focus on mastering K-14 skills

### Equity Considerations

- Make PD free/accessible

## **5: Improve Data Collection, Reporting and Use at Program and System Levels**

- Improve and align program data collection
- Monitor system reach and outcomes
- Build program capacity to use data for continuous improvement

### Ideas:

- Employment and wage data (participant/YA and employer)
- Long term collection on groups over time
- Data hub, shared table co-investing in measurement
- Do more ORI and cost analyses; more ethnographic storytelling
- Data for advocacy

### Equity Considerations

- Appropriate language (e.g., LGTBZ, Race & Ethnicity, Intersectional collection)

## **6: Expand Effective Efforts to Reduce Dropout and Increase HS Graduation Rates**

- Strengthen implementation of early warning intervention systems in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Increase effective use of non-exclusionary discipline policies and practices
- Expand collection and use of school climate data in high schools

### Ideas:

- Career connected learning

- Use 2017 state audit data formula for CTE
- WIOA leg requires DVR to do career transition planning (underfunded)
- PD/trainings for educators on discipline policies/practices; restorative/transformational justice; trauma informed practices (Sound Discipline's work)
- ED levy

#### Equity Considerations

- Restorative/transformational justice
- Trauma informed practices

#### **Other Input on Priority Strategies:**

- Youth Leadership and Voice Strategy
- Equity Working Group

#### **Input on Proposed Membership/Purpose of Group**

Proposed membership and purposes:

- Membership: OY stakeholders from practice, policy & funding
- Primary purposes:
  - Track the region's progress on OY
  - Advise on major regional initiatives
  - Identify new priorities, opportunities and key gaps

Feedback:

- Purposes make sense
- Consider separating RMP advisory function from a coordinating council. If you add City & Raikes, leads from the chart on the different OY initiatives could be a coordinating council. Tricky when it comes to workforce.
- Data should point us toward meeting topics
- Thematic meetings could be useful (e.g., BFET, navigation)
- Like the opportunity for major initiatives to bring timely challenges to group; thematic meetings only would miss this.
- Pre-survey group to surface hot topics?
- Like format; not every meeting needs to stick to formula
- Alignment and collaboration are key
- Bringing in speakers from other places when feasible
- Should be practical; if we provide helpful advice, then good