



**HB 1607-Juvenile Services Education
County Pilot Program-Workgroup Meeting**

April 22, 2019

**Maryland State Department of Education
8th Floor-Conference Room 8**

Meeting Minutes

Work Group Members in Attendance: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Dr. Marvin Krohn, Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Ms. Chrisandra Richardson, Ms. Melanie Shapiro, Ms. Julie Stevens, Ms. Amanda White

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Crystal Fleming-Brice, Ms. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, Mr. Shane McCormick, Mr. Elliott Schoen

Members of the Public in Attendance: Dr. Laura D'Anna, Mr. Robert White

The was meeting called to order at 9:31 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. Sylvia Lawson welcomed the work group members and invited guests. Dr. Lawson asked the work members to introduce themselves to the guest speakers. Dr. Lawson acknowledged and thanked Dr. Laura D'Anna and Mr. Robert White for joining the work group to present and discuss the Eager Street Academy in Baltimore City.

Presentation-Eager Street Academy

Dr. D'Anna shared that the Eager Street Academy is part of the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS). Mr. White shared that he has been an educator for over forty years and came out of retirement to work at the Eager Street Academy at the request of Dr. D'Anna.

Dr. D'Anna shared her academic research focus at the request of Dr. Lawson. Dr. A' nna shared she did not have any prior background in corrective education. Dr. D'Anna stated that every student has a right to receive and complete their education and that beginning the process of leading the Eager Street Academy meant being willing to try different things and new ideas to help students. Dr. D'Anna shared that the Eager Street Academy is a trauma-informed practice facility.

Dr. D'Anna shared some of the amenities and services offered at the Eager Street Academy including an on-site library, a Title I office, and a gymnasium. Dr. D'Anna stated that it was paramount that the library and a gymnasium be made available to students. Dr. D'Anna stated that teachers at the Eager Street Academy are BCPSS teachers and that the curriculum offered follows the BCPSS curriculum.

Mr. White shared that the Eager Street Academy has five housing units. It is a co-educational facility and students come to school every day in a school uniform. Mr. White shared that students come for an hour per day for library visitation and that a tutoring service is offered to students after classroom hours. Mr. White shared that the Eager Street Academy has seven students prepared to graduate in June of 2019.

Ms. Richardson asked for clarification that the Eager Street Academy is not a part of the Juvenile Services Education System (JSES). Dr. D'Anna reaffirmed that the Eager Street Academy is a part of BCPSS and not JSES. Ms. Shapiro asked if students are being housed because they have been charged as adults. Dr. D'Anna confirmed this is the case. Ms. Stevens asked about the maximum student capacity. Mr. White stated that without expansion it can hold up to sixty, but that the facility can be expanded to hold over one hundred students. Mr. White stated that the average capacity is in the forties. Ms. Richardson asked about the average length of stay. Mr. White stated that it varies based on the case and the court system. Ms. White asked if all of the students attending are from Baltimore City. Mr. White stated the majority are from Baltimore City, but that the population does include students from outside Baltimore City.

Mr. White shared the Eager Street Academy has a five-step plan to facilitate students throughout their attendance the Academy:

- Step 1: Students know their rights;
- Step 2: Students ask for help;
- Step 3: Students make a plan to transition home;
- Step 4: Students go home and stay focused;
- Step 5: Students go back to regular school

Mr. White discussed the Eager Street Academy's Transition and Re-Entry Model. Mr. White stated that when students are ready to transition back into the school system they are forwarded to the re-entry office at BCPSS Headquarters, and students are placed into a school. Mr. White shared some of the partnerships and activities offered to students as a part of the transition and re-entry process. Mr. White shared with the work group the forms used, including the Transition Planning Inventory (TPI) and Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) that students complete.

Dr. D'Anna shared the Eager Street Academy operates on a 90-minute block schedule day, because students need extra time. Dr. D'Anna stated the Eager Street Academy operates like a traditional school, including a transition tone throughout the building, and offers the same curriculum as the rest of BCPSS. Dr. D'Anna shared that students are in classes based on content and graduation needs and not based on their housing unit.

Mr. White shared that a partnership was established with Baltimore City Community College to offer a dual-enrollment program to students. Dr. D'Anna stated her position that the Eager Street Academy strives to work with partners that are willing to embrace working with students that have committed offenses and to provide opportunities.

Dr. Krohn asked if the Eager Street Academy has a written set of procedures for in-take and transition processes, and if the staff would be willing to share a copy with the work group. Mr. White discussed the in-take and transition processes. Mr. White shared some of the soft-skill

and career advancement prep that the Academy performs with students, including resume writing and interview skills. Mr. White discussed the process of students visiting the re-engagement center at BCPSS headquarters upon leaving exiting. Once students have completed the process at the re-engagement center, they will visit the enrollment office for placement.

Dr. Krohn asked about the percentage of students at the Eager Street Academy that re-enroll in regular schools. Mr. White shared that the exact percentage is not known, but it is above eighty percent.

Dr. D'Anna shared that her fellow principals initially expressed skepticism of working with the Eager Street Academy and to taking on students transitioning back into the school system when she first started six years ago. However, over time the level of support and buy-in has significantly increased.

Ms. White asked if classes operate on a quarter or semester schedule. Dr. D'Anna shared that classes operate on a semester schedule. Ms. White asked a follow-up question of whether the Eager Street Academy uses the same technology and resources that are used in BCPSS. Dr. D'Anna clarified that all of the resources that the school system utilizes are also utilized by BCPSS.

Dr. Lawson asked Dr. D'Anna and Mr. White if the work group would be allowed to utilize the Eager Street Academy's research moving forward. Dr. D'Anna shared the Eager Street Academy exists to help people and is willing to share and provide any information.

Dr. Lawson expressed her thanks and gratitude to Dr. D'Anna and Mr. White for presenting about the Eager Street Academy. Dr. D'Anna encouraged the work group members to reach out and to attend upcoming events.

Remarks & Updates

Dr. Lawson asked the work group members to review the minutes from the previous work group meeting on March 25, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Pogue. The motion carried.

Dr. Lawson thanked Mr. Elliott Schoen, Deputy Legal Counsel, for drafting and submitting a financial disclosure exemption request to the State Ethics Commission.

Dr. Lawson shared that legislation that would have extended the submission deadline of the work group's final recommendations did not pass the General Assembly. The submission deadline remains December 1, 2019. Dr. Lawson stated her goals for the upcoming meetings to help facilitate the work group in developing its recommendations ahead of the deadline to the General Assembly. Dr. Lawson encouraged the members to submit any documents or items from the subcommittees so that the full work group can view them and so they can be placed on the work group page on the MSDE website. Dr. Lawson stated she would like the work group to develop a timeline to have the final draft of the recommendations prepared.

Ms. Shapiro encouraged that subcommittees hold meetings outside of when the full work group meets face-to-face. Ms. Shapiro also recommended asking for an extension when the recommendations are submitted to the General Assembly so that further work could continue.

Dr. Lawson reminded the members that they need to be cognizant of the *Maryland Open Meetings Act*, and that any meetings in-person or via conference call remain in compliance with the law. Dr. Lawson reiterated her focus that because the work group did not receive the extension from the General Assembly that the work group have its recommendations prepared for the original deadline of December 1, 2019.

Dr. Krohn asked about the relationship between the work group and the partnership between Florida State University and the MSDE. Dr. Lawson shared that the partnership was established to facilitate data collection in each school, provide individual assistance to principals, and provide a national perspective of juvenile facilities. The partnership with JSES is separate from the work group.

Subcommittee Breakouts

The work group recessed at 10:50 a.m. to breakout into subcommittees. The full work group would reconvene at 11:15 a.m.

Subcommittee Report of Activities

The work group reconvened at 11:19 a.m.

Dr. Lawson asked the subcommittees to report out on their meetings.

Ms. White shared that the Transition Subcommittee discussed the following areas:

1. Policies and procedures and implementation;
2. Successes and challenges of current transition policies;
3. What the Noyes school plans to do to address the challenges

Dr. Lawson shared the Research Subcommittee would plan to meet in the coming weeks to formulate the subcommittee questions. Dr. Lawson shared the subcommittee reviewed the charge of the work group, and that the subcommittee needed to further review the history of JSES in Maryland, specifically the management and operation of JSES facilities.

Dr. Lawson shared that Mr. Schoen notified her that the inter-agency agreement between the Florida State University research team and the MSDE has been signed with an effective date of April 22, 2019. Dr. Krohn asked if it would be allowable for members of the work group to contact the research team; Dr. Lawson stated at the present time it would be preferred.

Ms. White asked about the responsibilities of the members to draft their portion of the findings for the final submission. Dr. Lawson stated she wants there to be a collaboration between the members so that the final recommendations reflect the feedback and work of the entire work group.

Discussion & Next Steps

Ms. White summarized that the final draft of the recommendations to the General Assembly be prepared by November 1, 2019. Dr. Lawson expressed the work group should consider an additional meeting date in October for the work group to discuss the findings and recommendations.

Dr. Lawson encouraged the work group members to direct questions specific to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) policies and practices to Mr. Gavin Patashnick.

Ms. White asked if a copy of the presentation from Eager Street Academy would be made available to the work group and that if so it be redacted because it contained student names and test scores. Dr. Lawson stated they would reach out to obtain a copy of the presentation and to have the information removed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Richardson. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.