



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, April 9, 2014

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room LL-120 (Madison Municipal Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Astra Iheukumere; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Jessica Hankey; T.J. Mertz and Jenni Dye

**Absent:** 2 - Dean Loumos and Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Lord, Tariq Saqqaf

Phair called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Hankey to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [33298](#) Chair's Report

No report.

2. [33606](#) Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) Update

Attachments: [MOST Accomplishments To Date](#)

Jennifer Lord distributed a handout with a list of accomplishments for MOST

initiative.

The Quality Workgroup will begin in 2 weeks. They are looking for a facilitator from the outside to lead the group of 27 people. Preferably a person who is adept at large group facilitation.

Jennifer Lord met with the City Equity Team to discuss Equity Framework for MOST. There was a presentation last week. Would like to view MOST through an equity lens to see who is impacted by decisions. The Equity Team will be at the MOST Coalition meeting on April 25th.

Mertz asked about the kind of expertise they were looking for in a facilitator. Lord clarified they were looking for expertise in quality programs that is not connected to MMSD, the City or any other entity working with MOST.

Phair asked about the MOST logo. Lord stated they are working on that. There is one they are using for the moment but it is not the final one.

3. [33607](#)

Presentation and Discussion: Joining Forces for Families Community-Based Case Management

Attachments: [JFF Presentation](#)  
[Job Shop Flyer](#)

Ron Chance, Laurie Meulemans, Mike Bruce, Ryan Estrella from JFF were in attendance to discuss challenges and recommendations to improve the community based case management. Jeannette Deloya from MMSD was also present. Ron Chance discussed social workers and challenged families have reached the tipping point and various systems are not working well together. The Racial to Equity Report from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families also shows an increase in poverty and achievement gap. JFF does case management on a neighborhood level often like air traffic controllers getting people to the help and resources they need. Often people do not want to be cased managed.

Chance suggests a pilot program that is geographically based to avoid the silos that have been created. Need collaboration of services. Planning effort is needed with a strategic vision to end poverty in the community. The suggested pilot would be a 3 year plan led by an outside facilitator that would cost approximately \$150,000 a year. This would address employment, education along with family stability. AODA and mental health issues have become intergenerational within the system. 20% of those that need assistance require 80% of the resources. There are several neighborhoods that have become concentrated. Housing issues as well as lack of mental health assistance are creating larger problems.

Community based employment efforts do not collaborate. Need a structure to help families get what they need and to keep or obtain stable housing.

Laurie Meulemans has been a social worker in the Rimrock Rd. area for 11 years. The latest trend in that area has been 4 of the 5 main housing complexes were resold, remodeled and the rent was raised significantly and is no longer affordable for families. This has changed the neighborhood and many people are doubled up with other families. Some people received

non-renewals on their leases and there is nowhere for them to go. Need to help families keep stability. It is also hard to access mental health even with insurance. One family can take up the majority of her time and there are limited resources.

Ron Chance discussed page 7 of the handout and the list of tiers of benefits and monthly income. People that receive W2 are unable to afford many apartments. Mike Bruce added that increased rent, stricter screening criteria and credit screening can exclude people from renting apartments.

Laurie Meulemans discussed that it is difficult for undocumented people to get jobs, housing, etc., especially with domestic violence situations. Deferred Prosecution is helping though. Ryan Estrella discussed the housing crisis. Near east side apartments are doing non-renewal of leases. New companies purchase the buildings and rehab them. If a family is homeless and do not have the money or the ability to pass credit checks they are unable to rent apartments. Shelters are full. With 2 months left of school some families will become homeless or will be relocated to other school districts. This is difficult to maintain family stability, especially if AOD and mental health issues are involved.

Mike Bruce has been working in southwest Madison for 11 years. There used to be team meetings with community and MMSD social workers but they can no longer leave the building. He now goes to schools to meet with them. At Toki and Orchard Ridge there is a stack of students that need help. Transition Education Program (TEP) has a large list of referrals. Need support to help complicated families. A place to go to get help with a handful of things. This doesn't exist now. No one agency has the ability, time or funds to help everyone who is homeless, has AODA/mental health issues, experienced trauma, unemployed and housing needs. There needs to be a response capacity in neighborhoods. Coordinate the effort with public schools. Too often children are referred to Child Protective Services regarding kids' safety. There are small pockets in several neighborhoods that may only be a few square blocks that are creating a large portion of the problems at school. It is difficult because you cannot put a JFF office or neighborhood center at each pocket. Try to get critical mass of services that have worked in the past together to be more effective.

Mike Bruce discussed Dan Wood, the Community-Based School Social Worker, who used to work in the Allied neighborhood and worked with multiple schools and talked to principals and families. It is important to hear praise from schools for children, not just to hear negative things kids may do. School contact in the community is important. The Road Home has a Housing and Hope Program that provides subsidies for housing until children reach 18 years of age. This helps to make housing affordable and provides stability for families. JFF has partnerships with the church communities to broaden options for families.

Bidar-Sielaff mentioned the Job Mob program. Laurie Meulemans described the beginning of the job programs. About a year and a half ago job services in southwest Madison created the Job Mob program every Friday. Madison College hosts the event and it provides one on one support for job seekers. Volunteers, JFF workers, employers, Library, YSOSW, Centro Hispano and others participate. There is no budget right now. More than 20 people attend

each week. 285 have been in attendance with 66 verified employments from June through December of last year. This is being replicated in the Darbo neighborhood and is called Job Connect. There are resources to get connected to other services. It is a great program.

Ron Chance added that many people do not want to go to the Job Center. Laurie Meulemans stressed the need to meet at community levels. Mike Bruce discussed Meadowood also doing a program. All the job programs look a little bit different to reflect the specific neighborhood and its needs. EOP grants will help to pay staff for a bit to help with resumes and references. There is a computer system that will be used to track people in the program. The one who is designing it is the ex lead programmer for EPIC Systems. This shows the power of diverse groups of people coming together to meet people where they are at.

Ron suggested testing a core system with an array of services to see if that works. It could be done with 5 locations in the city: east, north, west, south and central. Community Partnership has \$50,000 grant to help. The program would cost approximately \$150,000 per year. If the remaining 4 players pay \$25,000 a year the pilot would be paid for.

Mike Bruce discussed the numerous school challenges. He is impressed with people and has talked with teachers and social workers. Homelessness and mental health issues can lead to people feeling like they are only spinning their wheels and cannot get ahead. Ron Chance agreed that everyone is dealing with these same themes. Laurie Meulemans mentioned a Mental Health Pilot at Sennett Middle School that is working. The program is only available at the school now.

Iheukumere asked if there was a time when things did work. How is the process driven? Ron Chance responded that school social workers are stuck in the buildings and unable to visit families at home. Police have created Community Policing Teams. Loss of overall funding in the system has led to many agencies centralizing services. This saves money for the agency but does not reach people in the neighborhoods that really need the services. We are losing the connectivity.

Mike Bruce discussed previous conversations on how to handle the situation. They need to be in the neighborhoods. Often they get stretched too thin. Bidar-Sielaff thanked Ron for the proposal and discussed the increased need in the community and suggested using models that we know work. She asked for clarification about one system being unable to drive another system. Ron Chance responded that there needs to be a facilitator to design the service strategy and evaluate it. Bidar-Sielaff asked where that person would sit. Ron suggested Wisconsin Department of Children and Families would be a good place to start. It is not in the specific systems that they are addressing. Laurie Meulemans agreed that there needs to be a new body.

Ron Chance discussed racial disparity and poverty and how to help struggling families to stay in school, maintain stable housing and employment. It is a \$54 million episodic intervention. Iheukumere agreed that now we are in crisis mode when we are reacting instead of being proactive. Ron Chance added that funding is hodge podge. ECI zones exist; perhaps wrapping an employment initiative into that program would be successful. At the moment

the community is spending millions of dollars without solving the problem. Laurie Meulemans added that they receive skewed data in that they only see people when the system is not working.

Iheukumere asked if once there is success in families do you lose track of the families. Laurie Meulemans responded that it depends on the family. Some move away while others move back. You do see people over time. Ryan Estrella added that if the families value the help they received they will often keep in touch.

Mertz discussed the bullet points that were listed on the handout but were not prioritized. He asked about a budget ballpark. Mertz also stressed the importance of collaboration and the positive outcome it can have on families and saving money. That effort however will not change the affordable housing options in Madison. How would this be addressed? How would the pilot program be evaluated? What would the metrics be?

Ron Chance replied that stability in housing and eviction prevention would be priorities. Job placement and wage data would also be included. Training programs would be added to upward mobility. Ryan Estrella mentioned the Road Home Rapid Rehousing Program which provides a \$200 rent subsidy per month to a family for up to one year. This provides stability for the family to focus on employment and other items they need to work on.

Mike Bruce discussed the school attendance of those getting stability is increased. Ron Chance discussed community based delinquency workers. They could use existing resources both local and formal resources. A POS position would range between \$55,000 and \$65,000 including benefits. MMSD social workers are about \$70,000 with benefits.

Laurie Meulemans suggested building up the program like The Road Home. \$200 is huge for those who receive W2 and other low income families.

Mertz stated the numbers are good. We should have it all in place to get the pilot to work. Cost out and divide that among the key funders. Ron Chance added the metrics to transform the system. Attach the system cost per family. A position at \$60,000 is cheaper than the long term care for a family without that help. Housing is also cheaper than providing long term help to families. There are high cost families in the system. We should be smarter about how they hit the system.

Bidar-Sielaff thanked Ron Chance. We should take ownership and give our staff the governing responsibility to work on it. She would like to move with the pilot. She mentioned a top tier with high needs, then a second tier and then prevention levels. How do we communicate up the communication chain? Selling apartments to out of state owners who raise rents. What is the role for legislative bodies?

Iheukumere asked if there were cities or states nationally that have done good response groups with multiple jurisdictions. Ron Chance responded that Seattle, Portland and California have some successful programs. Neighborhood Council is helpful. Issues can be referred to restorative justice council versus arrests. Mertz mentioned that Minneapolis also has a good program.

Iheukumere asked if other municipalities have taken this on or if we would be the first. Phair responded that Heather Allen, Common Council Legislative Analyst, did some research and there are some other municipalities that have taken this on.

Jeannette Deloya asked how the timeline of 3 years including analysis worked. Ron Chance explained it would take about a year to build the model and put in the people and then two years of doing it and testing it.

Bidar-Sielaff stated they need an official proposal before it is brought to any other committees or agencies. Education Committee, Community Services Committee, CDBG Committee, BOE and Public Health could all be referrals once the proposal is created.

Ron Chance added that the Racial Disparity Report and Achievement Gap concerns could be a catalyst for change. Phair suggested the group fine tune the proposal and then send concrete info out. Supv. Dye agreed that the County would not introduce it until there was a concrete proposal and she was not sure where it would be referred to.

Bidar-Sielaff discussed using staff resources to flush it out. Check in with JFF to keep on track. There should be a system perspective which addresses the housing crisis, family stability, school and staff. There should be both long term goals such as more affordable housing and short term goals to address necessary strategies. Even \$200 for three months of housing would provide some assistance to families. United Way has resources to manage.

Supv. Dye discussed the need for a broader conversation on the housing crisis. Need to address how the \$200 would solve other stuff like screening criteria and credit scores. There is a huge group that still needs help.

Mike Bruce stated it was a continuum situation. Need to help those who need it, will work for some landlords, need to evaluate best way to invest money to efficiently make a difference.

Bidar-Sielaff added that funding is important. \$200 per month example would help people keep housing and maintain stability, but it won't fix everything.

Mike Bruce discussed keeping someone with credentials. It is critical to get the right people. It does not need to be the best position just the best resources, liaison, etc. to create community connections. He mentioned Deon Carruthers working in the neighborhood recruiting parents.

Phair mentioned the 7 pm meeting at Theresa Terrace tonight. Deon will be there.

Tariq Saqqaf asked how much impact was due to the parent liaisons position versus Deon in particular. Mertz added there are 5 funded liaisons. Ron Chance discussed those being good hires that work well and communicate with all parties.

Matt Phair thanked the group for attending. Next steps can be to have on the agenda for next month's meeting or direct staff including Tariq Saqqaf, Mary

O'Donnell, County staff and Heather Allen to review the items discussed to come up with something concrete. Another suggestion would be for Phair to meet with a group then bring the results to the Education Committee. The committee members agreed that they would get more involved once a more concrete proposal was in place. Staff including Phair can work to create a proposal to begin the discussion.

4. [33303](#) County Education Update

Supv. Dye discussed a presentation at the last meeting by Amy Noval from MMSD regarding Transitional Education Program. This week's meeting was cancelled.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Iheukumere, seconded by Hankey to adjourn the meeting at 6:33.  
Motion passed by voice vote.