

## **Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**September 3, 2015**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**The Transpacific Center**

**1000 Broadway Ave, Suite 300 Training Room**

**Oakland, CA 94607**

**Call to Order:** Co-Chair James Harris called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

**Board of Trustees in Attendance:** Sara Bedford, Fred Brill, Annie Campbell Washington, Lori Cox, Lynette Gibson McElhaney, James Harris, Kathleen Harris, Jumoke Hinton-Hodge, Nate Miley, Karen Monroe, Amar Saheli, Curtiss Sarikey, Libby Schaaf

**Guests:** Dan Bellino, Larry Best Consultant to the Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority, Betsy Block B3 Consultants, Dave Brown supervisor Wilma Chan, Adam Cohen Mayors Office, Bridget Daly of the Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority, Alicia Dixon of the Marcus Foster Education Fund, Esa Ehmen-Krause Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Jamila English Oakland City Council, Casey Farmer Council President McElhaney, Juwen Lam of the Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority, David Silver Director of Education for the Mayor of Oakland, David Simpson of the Youth Ventures Joint Powers Authority, Ash Solar CEO of Great Oakland Public Schools

**Welcome and Introductions:** Co-chair James Harris opened the meeting. Kathleen Harris reviewed the meeting goals, roles, agenda and meeting norms. Trustees and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** Review and approval of the Youth Ventures JPA May 7, 2015 minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes was proposed and seconded. No objections. The Minutes were approved.

#### **CEO Report**

Kathleen Harris opened by sharing that since the last board meeting there have been new efforts to work with Oakland Promise, and six new action items were developed by the Health, Wealth and Education Committees. These committees met over the summer and will present their work during this board meeting.

Kathleen shared that a new website for the JPA is almost ready to launch so the JPA can distribute important information. The board orientation packet, which was the suggestion of Council President Gibson McElhaney, is almost complete and ready to distribute. The JPA completed a research project asking the community leaders about their collective impact work and their expectations for JPA. Consultant Larry Best will present the findings.

#### **Program Items**

## Research Findings

Larry Best reported on findings from interviews with leaders from the funder community, intermediary organizations, think tanks and policy leaders. There was a great deal of consistency across the interviews conducted. The purpose of this research was to provide a narrative to how the JPA can move its work forward. The number one barrier to moving forward was the inability for partners to work horizontally to make a joint impact.

Larry reviewed some of the challenges interviewees said the JPA may face in working for collective impact. The first is a need to establish a clear common vision and shared institutional goals among the partners. Second, it is important for partners to feel that they belong to a cause and can accomplish something together that would not be possible alone. Third, the systems (both data systems and front-line workers) that work with the same population need to communicate more effectively with each other. Fourth, the hardest thing about community impact is mutually reinforcing activities. Finally, big systems have the intention to work together but do not often have the bandwidth because it can be time consuming.

Larry then shared suggestions for a pathway forward. The first was to conduct an equity analysis of the city of Oakland to create a profile of the population. This will create a sense of urgency and allow the JPA to decide on two or three desired results based on the JPA's shared values. In addition, systems need to be in place to support frontline workers across departments to share data to track progress. Finally, The JPA is the right place for policy development and for holding implementation conversations because of the overlap of jurisdictions. The JPA must work with community organizations and neighborhood resident leaders to inform policy making.

Cutiss Sarikey asked who was interviewed for this sample and what sectors they represent. Larry listed the interviewees: Chris Chatmon (African American Male Achievement), Rachel Davis (the Prevention Institute), Sandra Davis (California Endowment), Mark Friedman (Thomas J. Long Foundation), Michael McAfee (Policy Link), Christina Arrostuto (Rise Together Bay Area), Ryan Smith (Ed Trust – West), Jessica Pitt (Design It-Build It-Ship It), Robert Philips (Sierra Health Foundation).

## Impact Team Reports

Kathleen explained that the JPA approaches its work in a unique way by looking at the pathways of health, wealth and education. An important ability of the JPA is to compare systems of data across cities and counties and to fill in gaps in data. We want to lead with an equity lens, elevate the areas where kids are not doing well, and consider what systems can do to respond to these areas. We want to be an agent to leverage resources in our community and reduce duplication. These action items address the agreed-upon vision that children are able to get the education they need to fulfill their dreams, have the earning power they need to be self-sufficient and to live a long and healthful life.

Kathleen explained that the Health, Wealth, and Education Committee members met, conducted research, and identified six strategies which they will recommend to the board today.

**EDUCATION IMPACT TEAM**

Karen Monroe shared that the three chosen indicators include third grade reading, workforce development, and college completion. Most research about third grade reading ability shows that it is an indicator. The JPA has partnerships with many agencies that have third grade reading as a goal. The JPA still needs to define how to capture and measure data about third grade reading. Work force development currently has a lot of momentum and investment. The JPA has a lot of resources it can leverage that are already moving initiatives forward. We do not have enough data yet as this momentum is still building. College completion is the final indicator. The committee still needs to flesh out how this should be measured (college admission, entrance, FAFSA completion, college graduation, etc.). The committee agreed it is not enough that kids enter college, they must complete it and the JPA should be tracking and supporting their success.

#### WEALTH IMPACT TEAM

Councilmember Annie Campbell Washington explained that the Wealth Committee focused on two areas: (1) the work done at Oakland Promise, including a financial literacy curriculum, college savings accounts for Oakland students, and collage scholarship preparation for high school students, and (2) Oakland's structure and systems for preparing young people for the world of work, including year-round and summer internship programs and summer jobs programs. While it is difficult to find definitive measures for our goals, the committee decided on (1) the percentage of young adults with financial access to college and/or career training and (2) the amount of youth employment opportunities for our most vulnerable young people.

#### HEALTH IMPACT TEAM

Juwen Lam explained that the key components of the Health Committee's discussion were (1) the way that health indicators do not follow a linear pattern, but are more of a continuous process across the cradle-to-career continuum, and (2) the health cycle begins with health promotion and prevention, then early identification and intervention, then treatment, and finally recovery. The key strategies that the committee recommends include providing health centers in schools, home visits, universal early childhood screenings. There is a strong momentum behind these strategies which build on a foundation that is already in place based on the efforts of the county of Alameda, the city of Oakland, the Oakland Unified School District, and other community organizations.

Superintendent Brill reminded the board that the mission of the JPA is "to advocate for children, youth and families in Alameda County with a special interest in vulnerable populations," and asked does the JPA include just Oakland, the entire County of Alameda, or just Oakland and San Lorenzo? Will there be a process developed to decide this? Co-chair Cox replied that the JPA will be discussing this in depth in an October meeting addressing governance. However, today's meeting is for discussing the body of work that the impact teams have completed over the summer. Co-chair Harris also replied by saying that the charter currently lists Alameda County as the jurisdiction of the JPA and we will have a deeper conversation about the most vulnerable populations in Alameda County.

Amar Saheli asked if each initiative created by each of the three impact teams will become a mission and purpose for the JPA, or if one initiative per team will be selected?

Kathleen responded that the JPA will monitor, support and look for action on each of these items across the year. Addressing Superintendent Brill's question, Kathleen explained that impact teams would set up a data system that applies to the county as a whole. The initiatives are applicable to any city and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. These 6 initiatives may evolve but, the JPA's power lies in the practice of identifying and addressing these issues.

Mayor Libby Schaaf voiced her approval of the layout and the item selection. She also expressed that she would have preferred to have these items ahead of time. Also, Mayor Schaaf reported that Greg Adams of Kaiser has agreed to be the Vision Council co-chair.

Co-chair Cox asked for motion to adopt the recommendations as presented today. Amar Saheli asked to clarify that there are only 6 initiatives, not 8 as was previously mentioned. Co-chair Harris replied that some of them had overlapped, reducing the total from 8 to 6.

Mayor Schaaf asked that, if the board is to vote to adopt these initiatives, they all be written. Co-chair Harris offered to return with printed copies.

Co-chair Harris read the official initiatives as follows: Education: (1) Percentage of county wide third grade students reading proficiently, (2) percentage of high school students entering college and/or career training, (3) percentage of Alameda County students complete a 2- or 4-year degree. Wealth: (1) Percentage of young adults that have financial access to college and career training, (2) X number of disconnected justice-involved and low-income students participate in youth employment opportunities. Health: (1) x percentage of children having access to comprehensive health care and prevention services critical to a long and healthy life.

The board then agreed that it will vote on these initiatives as goals, not as strategies. Sara Bedford asked if we are we limited to these 6 goals? Co-chair Harris clarified that the adoption language would include the clause "We adopt these 6, but are not limited to..."

Curtiss Sarikey pointed out a letter written from the road by Superintendent Antwan Wilson which voiced support for some and more of these items.

Kathleen explained that the "x" in "x number of students" would be clarified at the November board meeting.

Karen Monroe moved to adopt the recommended long-term goals with the understanding that more goals may be adopted at the recommendation of either the Education, Wealth, Health, and Vision committees. Councilmember Campbell Washington seconded the motion. There was no opposition. The long term goals were adopted.

#### OAKLAND PROMISE

David Silver, Director of Education to the Mayor of Oakland, introduced himself and discussed his background in schools and programs which aim to get kids into college. He explained that the JPA should consider the vision of the Oakland Promise, not merely the details.

There are five key elements of the Oakland Promise. The first is “Brilliant Baby”. Children of the most vulnerable populations in Oakland will receive \$500 in their savings account to go to college. Additionally, the parents will receive \$500 to address their near-term poverty needs.

The second element of the Oakland Promise is “Kindergarten to College”. This program puts money into every kindergarteners account to create the expectation early that that child will go to college.

The third element of the Oakland Promise is “Future Centers”. This is an investment in the schools to be a resource for students, parents, educators who need information and resources about getting into and being successful in college.

The fourth element is “College Scholarships” which is meant to address one of the three main reasons a student drops out of college: financial reasons. Every student with at least a 2.7 GPA that applies for a certain number of scholarships will be eligible for up to \$4000 per year if they go to a 4-year university, and up to \$1000 per year if they go to a 2-year university. 2-year college students would be eligible for a scholarship of up to \$4000 per year if they transfer to a 4-year university.

The final element of the Oakland Promise is “College Completion Support”. Nationally, only 1 out of 5 students in college will graduate. At the East Bay College Fund, where they provide one-to-one mentors, peer-to-peer counseling, and university partnerships, 4 out of 5 college students graduate.

The Oakland Promise needs to partner with the community and existing organizations in order to hit the desired outcomes. Additionally, we need to leverage the specific initiatives and partnerships that are working well.

The impacts that Oakland Promise is looking for include: By 2020, \$5 million saved for college, \$18 million scholarships awarded, 25,000 children and families impacted, 20,000 college and career plans created in future centers, 7500 students enrolled in college, 5500 students on track to graduate.

Oakland School Boardmember Hinton-Hodge commented that she would like to pay attention to details of the plan so that the implementation of Oakland Promise makes biggest impact, and avoids any implicit biases. Also, we need to name the groups, for example African American fathers. She also asked, what does a future center really look like? Does it involve a constructing a new building on each campus? Why should we give \$4000 to students going to a 4-year university and only \$1000 for students going to a community college? David replied that the Oakland Promise team does not have every detail figured out. We need to continue our research efforts and speak with other organizations.

Co-chair Harris asked if the JPA’s endorsement of the Oakland Promise means that the JPA will be a place where critical questions like School Boardmember Hinton-Hodge’s can be brought up and discussed? David agreed that it would.

Superintendent Brill asked, “Is the Youth Ventures JPA a body that should be endorsing initiatives and organizations?” Mayor Schaaf responded that, while we have not totally answered this question, the JPA has historically endorsed organizations, for instance Atlantic Philanthropies.

Amar Saheli expressed a desire for more details on the Oakland Promise. Can the delicate populations be named in the initiative? Documenting the names of these populations shows a level of seriousness and courage. David agreed with this. He pointed out that the East Bay College Fund, which Oakland Promise is modeled after, primarily serves first generation mostly African American and Latino children, especially males.

Council President Gibson McElhaney asked, “Who is holding the Oakland Promise initiative?” David responded that the Oakland Public Education Fund holds the money currently, but the East Bay College Fund will hold these funds at a later date.

Council President Gibson McElhaney asked “What is in the \$5 million?” David laid out more specific details about how Oakland Promise will ramp up over 4 years. This plan adds up to \$10 million. In total, there is \$3 million committed.

Council President Gibson McElhaney asked how we mark elementary and middle school achievement? David replied that Oakland Promise is aligning with existing organizations and also integrating the goals of Oakland Promise into other initiatives like FirstFive.

Sara Bedford also replied that the Oakland Promise frame is future oriented. There is an alignment between the JPA’s Wealth Committee and Education Committee which is helpful.

Curtiss Sarikey also commented that Superintendent Wilson wrote a letter from the road about Oakland Promise because he felt so strongly about it. There is a lot of synergy between Oakland Promise and the JPA. In the context of the impact work already being done, the money given to students can actually move the needle, but not in isolation.

Co-chair Harris clarified that endorsing the initiatives that align with our goals does not make them our responsibility but does allow us to identify programs that are working and advocating for them. He read the official recommendation of Oakland Promise as follows: The JPA endorses the Oakland Promise, an education initiative which promotes a cradle-to-career strategy aimed to strengthen college and career success for students of the Oakland Unified School District. As a champion, the JPA supports Oakland Promise activities that reinforce our shared vision for children, youth, and families with the focus on our most vulnerable. The JPA endorsement will support the long-term sustainability of this initiative ensuring Oakland Promise is there for our children and youth for years to come. Council Member Annie Campbell Washington serves as the JPA trustee liaison to the Oakland Promise.

Councilmember Campbell Washington moved to approve the board’s recommendation of Oakland Promise. Mayor Schaaf seconded the motion. There was no opposition or abstentions. The motion carried.

Co-chair Harris closed the session at 3:42pm.  
The session re-opened at 4:20pm.  
The session closed again 4:23pm.