

**Portland Children's Levy
Allocation Committee Meeting Minutes
May22, 2017 1:00 p.m.
Location: Portland City Hall Council Chambers**

*The full record of the meeting may be viewed on the Portland Children's Investment Fund website:
www.portlandchildrenslevy.org
or YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkoHjHiNCL8>*

Attending: Mitch Hornecker, Deborah Kafoury, Dan Saltzman (Chair), Serena Stoudamire-Wesley, Julie S. Young

Welcome/introduction of Allocation Committee and Children's Levy staff

Approval of minutes from May 1, 2017 meeting

Hornecker: So moved

Young: Second

Vote: All in favor

Public Comment

None

Grant Increase for Home Visiting Program at Volunteers of America

Saltzman: At the May 1, 2017 Allocation Committee meeting, the committee approved additional funding for 17 programs. At that time, one request—VOA's Family Relief Nursery-- was still pending as staff was working with the grantee to gather sufficient information to make a final recommendation.

Hansell: Staff has received the necessary information and has determined that the VOA's request meets the criteria of increasing direct service and supervisory FTE toward achieving the objectives of reducing caseloads; increasing frequency of reflective supervision; and maintaining the numbers of children/families to be served. Staffing pattern objectives include at least 8 home visits performed weekly per full-time staff person and reflective supervision occurring at least 1 hour every other week.

Staff recommends that VOA Family Relief Nursery be awarded \$46,627. This two-year amount is reasonable and justified for the staffing patterns proposed by VOA and in comparison to all funding requests under this policy.

The total funding recommended for the 18 home visiting programs requesting additional funding is \$1,021,783 over two years.

Young: I move we approve the staff recommendation.

Stoudamire-Wesley: Second.

Vote: All in Favor

Allocation of Additional Funds

Saltzman: We are going to hear recommendations from staff for how to allocate the remaining \$1.9 million of fund balance.

Pellegrino: Approximately \$1.9 million was unallocated as current grantees did not request all funds allocated for specific purposes (home visiting caseload reduction, summer expansion, YPQA supports). The Allocation Committee previously indicated interest in re-allocating these funds, and considered funding more after-school programming than originally contemplated. Staff would like to present a variety of options to consider in allocating these funds.

State budget proposals currently project significant cuts to Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), relief nurseries, Healthy Families, Preschool Promise etc. These cuts may affect current PCL grantees including families served in the Levy's Childcare Initiative. Staff encourages the Committee to consider holding back some funding until late July by which time the State will have made decisions about its budget.

As discussed previously, consider additional funding for Child Care Initiative. if current slots are fully utilized, and/or ERDC funding is cut. We will have better understanding of this need by July.

Consider additional Early Childhood investments. The Committee invested additional funds in 2015 in additional Head Start slots, but did not expand center-based Early Head Start at that point. You could consider doing that now since services are currently delivered by existing grantees.

Finally, some of you are interested in adding funding to the current after-school funding round. We thought you might decide how much to add which would inform how many applicants you invite back for full RFI. Given the short timeline and summer schedules, it would be helpful to limit the number of full applications to be considered. There is also the concern of having many new grants on a 2-year timeline.

We typically include the amount of funding available, in total, and goals for strategies, in the Request for Investment. We would like to publish the RFI later this week.

McElroy: We are presenting these items as options for you to consider.

Saltzman: To be clear, the decisions on the after-school round will be made at our July 24 meeting. I think it is prudent for us to retain the \$1.9 million until we know what the State of Oregon is doing with its budget. I am concerned about how it would affect some of our early childhood investments.

Kafoury: I appreciate your point around delaying until the State makes decisions. I do think that we could put half away and add half to the current after-school round. I was very impressed by all the Letters of Interest that came in.

Young: My inclination is to be cautious. I agree with Commissioner Saltzman that we have an opportunity to wait. I would be willing to consider some amount to fund an additional 2 programs. So, adding up to \$200,000 to the after-school round. I am more comfortable preserving as much of the \$1.9 million as we can agree upon.

Saltzman: We can now hear testimony from the public.

Public Testimony on Allocation of \$1.9 million

Chuck Smith, Program Director at **The Black Parent Initiative** addressed the Committee. I want to share information about how you might use some of the funds in the additional allocation. BPI is a culturally specific program. We are trying to address the root causes of poor health outcomes for children and families starting

with nutrition and dealing with toxic stress in people's lives. The document you have outlines the range of services we offer to deal with these issues.

Leanna Haywood from the **Moore Institute at OHSU** representing **Dr. Ken Thornburg**. She read a letter from Dr. Thornburg outlining health issues in the African American community and supporting the programs of **The Black Parent Initiative**.

Allison Dunfee from **Pathfinders of Oregon**. We are a current grantee. WE applied for after school enrichment funding; received a high score, but did not get invited to submit a full application. I want to give you more information before you make your decision about the current funding. We serve families impacted by parental incarceration.

Brittany Wilson from **Pathfinders of Oregon** spoke in support of the agency's application for after-school programming.

Saltzman: I would like us to decide what to do with the \$1.9 million unallocated fund balance. I think it would be helpful to come to consensus before we move on to the next item. I would like to see it all held in reserve.

Hornecker: If we think of Julie's proposal to add \$200,000 to the after-school funding as a compromise, then I would support that.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I was going to propose allocating half of the \$1.9 million to the after-school funding round. I see that as a compromise.

Young: What was the amount we did not allocate for the home-visiting programs? Was that related to fewer requests for home-visiting and summer proposals?

Pellegrino: Yes. We are talking about the funds that are already in the bank.

Stoudamire-Wesley: If we hold back half, then we would have those funds to help the ERDC.

McElroy: ERDC or other items affected – relief nurseries, preschool promise, DHS related child-welfare.

Pellegrino: We are thinking of our grantees specifically.

Kafoury: Looking to fund programs that are being cut by the legislature is dicey. Unless we are willing to take on these programs in perpetuity, we need to be aware of the changes.

Saltzman: I am hearing two of us wanting to increase the after-school funding by \$200,000 and two wanting to increase it by \$900,000. I prefer keeping it all for a later date. I would support a compromise of taking \$300,000 from the \$1.9 million.

Young: I move that there be an additional \$300,000 for new after-school programs.

Hornecker: Second.

Vote: All in Favor.

Kafoury: Did we have a split between academic and enrichment?

Pellegrino: The original proposed split was 60% to intensive academic and 40% to enrichment programs. Last time, the final funding was about 50/50 between the two areas.

Kafoury: I would propose switching those numbers – giving 60% to enrichment. That would be \$480,000 to enrichment and \$320,000 to intensive academic programs. That would be a guideline, not a hard limit.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I second that proposal.

Vote: All in Favor.

Saltzman: Now we will move on to the next item, deciding which organizations, who have submitted letters of interest, we will invite back to submit full proposals for the new after-school funding round. We have received 23 letters of interest.

McElroy: This two-step process is new for us. The 5 community reviewers we recruited were able to review all of the letters of interest. In the past, reviewers did not get to see every submission. In this case, they did see all of the letters. The reviewers were able to generate their own set of recommendations.

Names of applicants and scores are in Appendix A to these minutes. Meg McElroy read the names of the applications into the record. Boys and Girls Clubs withdrew their intensive academic application.

McElroy: We shared reviewer scores with members of the Allocation Committee. They then submitted back to staff their preferences for funding. We compiled the Committee member responses into a single document.

Saltzman: Please present the agreement among the Committee members.

Pellegrino: We will let you know how many of you supported each LOI.

McElroy: In the **intensive academic** area, the following number of Allocation Committee members supported these applications:

- 4 members - Latino Network
- 3 members - REAP, Inc
- 2 members - El Programa Hispano
- 1 member – Impact NW; MFS; Friendly House

In the **enrichment** area, the following number of Allocation Committee members supported these applications:

- 4 members – Boys & Girls Club; BRAVO Youth Orchestra; Kairos PDX Learning Academy
- 3 members - Young Audiences; Community Cycling Center; Human Solutions
- 1 member – Pathfinders of Oregon

Stoudamire-Wesley: I have a question about El Programa Hispano; you told us that parts of their program are outside the City of Portland.

Pellegrino: If the Committee wants to consider this application, you will need to face what you want your policy to be. In the past, we have generally discouraged people who are offering a school based program where the school is not within the boundaries of the City of Portland from applying for funding. There is not always a means to screen participants for residence in Portland. The Committee should make the policy known. If it is funded, we would need there to be a way to be sure participants live or go to school in the City of Portland.

Saltzman: We have never done that before with a school-based after-school program.

Pellegrino: No, we have not.

McElroy: I think there was a SUN school many years back at Alder or Davis, where we provided bridge funding.

Young: Was this organization aware of this challenge?

Pellegrino: The first we learned of it was when we received the LOI. The residency requirement is stated in the LOI.

Kafoury: It can be confusing because in some cases the address says Portland, but is not actually in the City.

Stoudamire-Wesley: A few years ago, we had a similar case with Human Solutions proposing doing a program like this and we chose not to fund it. I would like to see us be fair and treat similar cases in the same way.

McElroy: The policy up today has been that schools located outside the City are not eligible for the services provided.

Saltzman: We will have to wrestle with that policy.

Hornecker: Can we clarify what the division of the funds for the after-school programs is.

Pellegrino: \$320,000 to intensive academic; \$480,000 to enrichment programs.

Public Testimony on Programs to be Invited to Submit Full Proposals for New After-School Funding

Patricia Rojas, Executive Director of **El Programa Hispano Catolico**. Wilkes is in the City of Portland. The zip code is 97230 and is shown online as a City of Portland address. One of the concerns for you is that it is a boundary school. We are aware of the desire to fund City of Portland locations and residents. It is a majority Latino school and is significantly underfunded. Boundary schools often are underfunded. It is a unique opportunity for you to fund a program at this school. Mobility of families is also significant. We have systems to identify students who are from the City of Portland.

I am **Seth Truby**, Executive Director of **Bravo Youth Orchestras**. If you look at the recommended programs, we are the only one who shows how many students we intend to serve. While we serve a relatively small number – 175 student at 5 schools – we go deep with these kids. We just got our first evaluation results. We use PPS data and are excited to share our findings if we are invited to submit a full application. Our students have significantly better attendance and higher scores in math and language arts. Of 36 suspensions in the schools and grades we serve, only one was a BRAVO student. I hope we get a chance to share the full findings with you.

My name is **Clare Rosholt**. I work with **Volunteers of America Oregon**. I want to speak on behalf of the Youth Prevention Services application. We serve about 275 children; 90% children of color; 4 of the 5 sites are in east Portland. Our students are low income youth. We work with them at their homes almost every day of the week.

I am **Danice Brown**, Executive Director of **Portland Tennis and Education**. I am excited about this process. We scored low. We are here to bring light to the work that we do. It is really intensive academic work with underserved youth from the St. Johns area. We have a lease with the City to use the St. Johns Racket Center. WE have turned racquetball courts into classrooms. Our ability to build community is a strong component of our program. We have 9 weeks of summer learning to prevent summer learning loss. Tennis and fitness and nutrition are part of our program. 60% of the program is academics.

My name is **Nina Nguyen**. I am from Portland, Oregon and graduated Oregon State University three years ago and currently serve as Development Director at **Portland Tennis and Education**. In high school I was close to dropping out. I grew up in a single parent household immigrants from Vietnam. I had much responsibility in the household, so considered dropping out of school. Through my involvement in sports in high school, I learned about Portland Tennis and Education. I have been with the program since 2007. I have seen first-hand how well it works. It is a home and family and a place where children feel safe and supported. There is really no program like it that I have experienced.

My name is **Patrick Miller** and I am the Community Outreach Coordinator at **Portland Tennis and Education**. I want to echo the things that have already been said. I have been there for 7 months. I was immediately caught up in the sense of family there. Our student to staff ratio is 6 to 1. Students know they will get good time with adults who care about them. Tennis is a way to engage our students and help them make connections. I hope the Committee will see the value we provide for the community.

My name is **Kali Thorn-Ladd**. I am Executive Director of **Kairos PDX**. Our mission is around closing the achievement and opportunity gap. We really have a vision around transformative education. The majority of children we serve are African-American. This proposal is really about STEAM and cultivating this next generation of steam leaders. We know that African-Americans are the most underrepresented group in the STEM subjects. We have been working on a project with Eco Northwest that showed that growth for African-American students actually declines over time. So, early investment is really important. We know that we cannot do this alone, so this year we are partnering with organizations that are experts in the STEM field. I have invited one of those partners to talk about that. Even though Kairos has been around for only four years, we are starting to get results. We used the math assessments through Northwest Evaluation Association to measure growth in literacy and math and we are seeing that 63% of our students are exceeding growth targets. We have been able to triple the number of students in the highest category in literacy development. We are seeing summer gains. We are excited about this opportunity.

My name is **Antonio Jackson**. I am the Executive Director of **Building Blocks to Success**. We are a local nonprofit working with Kairos, providing STEM programming to their students K through 3rd grade. It has been exciting building the partnership with Kairos. We use lego robotics as our core program. That gets the kids excited. It is a hands on program where they are building and working in teams; they are being problem solvers, critical thinkers; they are being analytical. These are foundational pieces for academic success. We focus on targeting youth of color. About 70% of our kids are kids of color. 30% of our kids are girls who are getting excited about science, technology, engineering and math. We also run a program out of Concordia University, so we are setting the expectation for our kids that college is a reality and an expectation for them. We are a culturally specific organization with about 70% people of color on our staff. With this funding, we think we can continue to grow the program and impact more kids.

I am **Joel Cisneros** from **Latino Network**. I am the director of school-based programs. In visiting with principals I learned that they are concerned with social and emotional learning for the children. Our proposal pivots on the evidence-based practice of second step to help develop those skills in the children. We will target Riggler, Shaver and Mill Park. We have our Juntos Aprendemos program at those sites. Adding this funding will set up a nice suite of our programs and a nice continuum of services. We feel that if we can foster those executive function skills, the children will be able to be successful academically.

I am **Grace Thiel** with the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland**. Our program scored highly with the reviewers and four Committee members showed a preference for our program. We are excited for our program because our clients have asked for this program. In the clubs the kids have a productive and safe place to be in the summer. We are responding to youth and family voices about what they want. Thank you again.

I am **Ida Lombardazzi** from **Friendly House**. Friendly House is the only applicant in West Portland. We do have several low-income housing units in Northwest Portland. We serve 30% students from communities of color, which is a higher percentage than Chapman Elementary, the school we serve. We have been in the neighborhood since 1930 and are dedicated to serving families in our neighborhood. We would like to keep Friendly House to serve the low-income families in our neighborhood.

Nate Golden, Director of **REAP, Inc.** Here to share what we are doing. We are planning to expand our Reflections Program which is already taking place in the Centennial School District; we are dealing with students around discipline issues. With this funding, we will be able to expand in our after-school program to help our students develop leadership skills and participate in policy creation in their schools. WE thank you for considering us.

Pete Northrup from **Portland Tennis and Education** spoke in support of their letter of intent.

Cary Clark, Executive Director of **Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington**. Thank you for running such a transparent process. We are a 60-year-old organization. We serve nearly 70,000 students in 200 schools. We are working with IRCO to serve students in their SUN schools. This funding will allow us to reach students that we have been seeking to reach with our programming.

My name is **Leah Altman**, development manager at **Pathfinders of Oregon**. We are going through an intensive equity assessment to improve cultural responsiveness. We are working with the Coalition of Communities of Color and the Center for Equity and Inclusion. We have also gone through an assessment to include trauma informed practice into our work. The parenting classes we hope to offer will be held at the schools with free childcare. We are seeking to serve youth of recently incarcerated parents with a holistic and wrap around services. Pathfinders people really represent the community we serve in East Portland. We have about 90% children of color and almost 100% low income. A lot of our staff come from that same place.

Saltzman: Thank you for your testimony. Now, this Committee needs to decide which programs to invite for full RFI applications.

Intensive Academic After-School Programs Invitation to Submit Applications

Pellegrino: One point of clarification: the mailing address for Wilkes School says Portland, but it sits outside the City boundary according to the map we have received from the City of Portland. We would need to be able to check for address of youth attending the program.

Hornecker: I would like to get a quick review of how much money we have in each category.

McElroy: In the intensive academic area, you have a total of \$320,000 to fund programs. Minimum grant level is \$50,000 per year. You could fund 3 programs in this area. For enrichment, there is \$480,000, you could fund 4 or 5 programs.

Hornecker: Are we trying to whittle down to the programs we want to fund, or receive applications from more than we want to fund to have choices when we decide to fund.

McElroy: It is up to the Committee, but we were expecting to have more applications than the ultimate number of programs to be funded.

Young: I would like to see us have some room to make choices among the applications. For intensive academic, I suggest we request full proposals from those programs who scored 45.5 or greater on the letters of intent. That

would be 5 applicants, with us likely to choose 3 to fund. Those would be El Programa Hispano Catolico; Latino Network; REAP, Inc; Impact NW; and Metropolitan Family Service.

Stoudamire-Wesley: Since we did not accept Human Solutions running a program at a school outside the city limits, I think we should do the same here and not fund El Programa Hispano Catolico. I like that program, but the location of the school is a problem for me.

Saltzman: I think there is a case to be made if they are serving students who live in the City of Portland.

Kafoury: This is an interesting question and begs the question about the need for a County wide levy. I would like to see us follow the rules we have set and not accept an application from El Programa Hispano Catolico.

Hornecker: When did we review the Human Solutions application? Did we make that decision based on rules of the levy or our own decision?

Pellegrino: We think it was in 2014 and the policy we have followed required the school to be in Portland. There was an exception for Alder in 2007.

McElroy: We have received questions from prospective applicants about this case and we have told them that our policy is not to fund sites outside the city boundary. Our RFI have always been published indicating beneficiaries

Hornecker: Does the RFI require the school site to be in the city limits?

Pellegrino: No. We have required that the students either live or go to school in the City of Portland. Because of the difficulty in screening by address, we see it as difficult to fund sites outside the City of Portland.

Hornecker: It sounds like a policy choice. I am convinced that a border school serving City of Portland residents should not be excluded. I would like to keep them on the list; allow them to submit an application; and convince us that they could screen to only serve Portland residents.

Stoudamire-Wesley: Then it is not consistent. I believe consistency is valuable.

Young: In terms of this conversation, I think it would be helpful if we have legal ability to serve students at those schools. I could see City of Portland residents who pay taxes and have a right to services.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I would recommend inviting all of the applicants to submit full applications; that would be 7 programs.

Kafoury: I would propose we invite back fewer since we want to narrow the scope. I would suggest we cut it off at 45.5 and above. I would ask El Programa to make it clear how they are going to do equity between Portland and non-Portland residents in their program. I also wonder about the percentage of residents at the school.

Pellegrino: We ask for that information in the RFI, but we use zip codes, which are only a rough estimate.

Young: I move that we invite the intensive academic programs that scored 45.5 or higher, including El Program Hispano Catolico, to submit full applications.

Hornecker: Second. I remain troubled about Friendly House. The City has supported low-income housing in the Pearl and Northwest Portland. It presents a challenge to us. I would like to keep examining that issue. It sounds

like Portland Tennis and Education is doing good work. I hope they come back with a more on-target application next time.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I am heartened by Friendly House. We sometime forget about Northwest. We should keep that in mind. I echo that sentiment.

Saltzman: I think we have hit on a gray area. I hope El Programa can convince us that they can screen properly. We will also solicit the legal opinion on this topic. We will have time to factor that in prior to July 24. I recuse myself from voting on the Impact NW proposal because of a perceived conflict of interest.

Vote on Proposal

In Favor: Hornecker, Kafoury, Saltzman (on all but Impact NW), Young

Opposed: Stoudamire-Wesley

Abstention: Saltzman (regarding Impact NW)

Enrichment After-School Programs Invitation to Submit Applications

Kafoury: I move that we invite all programs that scored 46 and above to submit an application.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I second that.

Saltzman: That would include the following – Young Audiences; Boys & Girls Clubs; Community Cycling Center; Bravo Youth Orchestras; Human Solutions; Pathfinders of Oregon; and Kairos PDX.

Vote: All in Favor

Request for Investment Form Review

Pellegrino: We have modified the text to apply to this situation. The questions for the applicants are the same as in the past.

Hornecker: Can you remind me if demographic information about race and ethnicity are included?

Pellegrino: Yes.

Kafoury: I would like to commend the staff for this beautiful annual report.

Saltzman: Good job Mary Gay Broderick.

Our next meeting will be July 24 at 2:30 pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Adjourned 3:00 pm

Appendix – list of letters of interest and reviewer scores