ASLEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH INCENTIVE FUND
CROSS-SITE SPRING CONVENING AGENDA
MAY 5-8, 2015
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS, LA

GOALS:

• Learn from the OYIF sites’ work across the five areas of the OYIF: Collaborating for Impact, Building Effective Pathways, Using Data to Guide Decisions and Assess Impact, Leveraging Funding for Innovation, and Developing Supportive Policies.
• Participate in site visits to local New Orleans based programs to gain a deeper understanding of place-based strategies, pathway designs, lessons, and challenges in developing and/or deepening education and employment pathways for opportunity youth.
• Learn from local and national employers, funders, and systems leaders through plenaries on designing employer-driven pathways; coordinating local and national funding strategies; and lessons and challenges in system leadership.
• Build momentum for national efforts around opportunity youth.
• Highlight the work of local youth leaders.
### AT A GLANCE: OVERLAP WITH COLLECTIVE IMPACT FORUM CI FUNDER CONVENING & SIF GRANTEE CONVENING

Color Code: ▲ OYIF Convening (Aspen/JFF) ▲ SIF Convening (JFF/Aspen) ▲ Collective Impact Forum Convening (FSG/Aspen)

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

5:00 PM – SITE LEAD DINNER MEETING

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Frenchman II

All cross-sector collective impact efforts grapple with keeping momentum through changes at the leadership table. Site leads will explore strategies that backbone staff can use to maintain momentum through such challenges as changing leadership at key partner institutions, varied levels of interest in the goals of the initiative, and uneven recognition of leaders’ own self-interest in those goals.

Lili Allen, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)
Veronica Borgonovi, FSG (Facilitator)
Monique Miles, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)

4:00 PM – REGISTRATION FOR EARLY ARRIVALS

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM La Salle Foyer

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

7:00 AM – REGISTRATION

7:00 AM – La Salle Foyer

7:00 AM – BREAKFAST

7:00 AM – La Salle A/B

Join Collective Impact Forum for breakfast

8:00 AM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WHY EQUITY MATTERS IN COLLECTIVE IMPACT

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM La Salle A/B

The purpose of this session is to join Collective Impact Forum for a keynote address from Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, PolicyLink. After welcoming remarks from Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, Glover Blackwell will discuss the challenges and opportunities with infusing equity into collective impact initiatives. After her remarks, Glover Blackwell will be joined on stage in a follow-up discussion with William Buster, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Ray Colmenar, The California Endowment; Ashleigh Gardere, Office of New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; and Steve Patrick, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions
Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, PolicyLink
William Buster, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Ray Colmenar, The California Endowment
Ashleigh Gardere, Office of New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu
Steve Patrick, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions

9:45 AM – BREAK
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Participants will join Collective Impact Forum for concurrent workshops

LA SALLE C

Building an Equity Lens into Collective Impact

Deep-dive look at how communities are bringing an equity lens to their collective impact work.

_Sheri Brady, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)_

ACADIAN II

Building Effective Communities of Learning Within Collective Impact

Interactive discussion exploring the structural essentials of launching and managing successful community learning strategies in collective impact.

_Michelle Francois, Stuart Foundation (Facilitator)_

FRENCHMAN II

Communication and Transparency in Collective Impact: Do’s and Don’ts for Open Communication with Key Stakeholders and Building a Transparent Collective Impact Initiative

Explore the role that funders and backbone leaders should play in communicating with key stakeholders in a collective impact initiative.

_Molly Baltman, Robert R. McCormick Foundation (Facilitator)_

MELPOMENE

Engaging Community as the Driver of Collective Impact: A Dialogue on Funding, Supporting, and Understanding Community-Wide Impact

How do we approach collaboration for authentic community engagement and learning? This session will encourage discussion about collaboration and how the various framings and practices of collective impact may help or hinder community-wide engagement in cross-sector efforts.

_Angela Frusciante, William Caspar Grunstein Memorial Fund (Facilitator)_

PELICAN I

How Policy Can Support Collective Impact: Crafting Public-Private Partnerships for Children and Youth

Concrete examples from funders and backbone leaders who have addressed local, state, and federal policy through their collective impact initiatives.

_Thaddens Ferber, Forum for Youth Investment (Facilitator)_
Impact at Scale: Will We Know It When We See It?

Reflection on the level of change funders and backbone leaders are seeing (or not seeing) when they are multiple years into a collective impact initiative.

Ken Thompson, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Facilitator)

Using Data to Achieve Impact

Interactive discussion on how collective impact partners are collecting and using data across systems and at a community level.

Ilene Berman, Annie E. Casey Foundation (Facilitator)

When and How to Engage the Private Sector in Collective Impact

Discuss challenges and opportunities with actively engaging business leaders in a collective impact initiative.

Kim Fortunato, Campbell Soup Company (Facilitator)

TRANSITION TO OYIF CONVENING

12:00 PM  WELCOME PLENARY

LA SALLE B/C

Following the welcome address, Arnold Chandler, Forward Change Consulting, will share the Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Young Men of Color that provides a holistic analytic framework and a strategic canvas for improving the life outcomes for males of color. The presentation will raise the theme of gender-specific responses to disadvantaged contexts and interventions intended to improve life outcomes; review research that helps articulate how race, gender and place intersect in ways that drive disparate life outcomes for males of color; and outline principles for applying collaborative strategies to improve population-level outcomes for males of color.

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions
Arnold Chandler, Co-Founder, Forward Change Consulting
Steve Patrick, Executive Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions

1:15 PM  MEET IN LOBBY (Organize for Site Visits)

1:30 PM  TRAVEL TO SITE VISITS

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM  SITE VISITS

Attendees will participate in site visits to local New Orleans based programs to gain a deeper
understanding of place-based strategies, pathway designs, lessons, and challenges in developing and/or deepening education and employment pathways for opportunity youth. Site visits include:

**Oretha Castle Haley I: The Net Charter School & Café Reconcile New Orleans.** Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly known as Dryades Street, is home to long-time cultural and non-profit anchors. Participants will visit The NET Charter School and Café Reconcile to explore core elements of programs, including recuperative/reengagement strategies, workforce readiness and development, and strategies for working with subpopulations of opportunity youth. Participants will also hear from a panel of local community-based providers who will highlight core elements of partnerships between service providers, the implications of the local context on developing and sustaining partnerships between providers, the role of local community based organizations in the New Orleans OYIF EMPLOY collaborative, and the experience of youth participants in these programs.

*Café Reconcile* is an innovative life skills and job training program for youth from at-risk communities that operates on the premise that the power of reconciliation can overcome poverty, prejudice and fear. The culinary training program engages youth in all aspects of the industry and promotes workforce development and entrepreneurship, while providing participants with case management and referrals to supportive services, including mental health and substance use counseling, housing, and legal assistance.

*The NET Charter School* is an ungraded high school program for students ages 16-21 that provides struggling high school students with year-round curriculum and academic, career, and life training that includes leadership development, restorative justice, internships and career-focused mentoring, and college and career planning support.

**Oretha Castle Haley II: Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools and Youth Empowerment Project.** Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly known as Dryades Street, is home to long-time cultural and non-profit anchors. Participants will visit Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools and Youth Empowerment Project to explore core elements of programs, including youth engagement and youth voice, recuperative/reengagement strategies, workforce readiness and development, and strategies for working with subpopulations of opportunity youth. Participants will also join the Oretha Castle Haley II site visit attendees at Café Reconcile for a panel discussion with leaders from local community-based providers.

*Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools* is a youth organizing and leadership development organization that uses participatory education and action research to build organizing and leadership skills of New Orleans youth. Youth in Rethink programs develop leadership skills through exploration of the conditions in their own schools; deepen their organizing skills through exploration of how privilege, power, and oppression impact social and political systems; and build a collective vision for New Orleans schools.

*Youth Empowerment Project* (YEP) is a comprehensive community-based agency that works with at-risk, court-involved and out-of school youth. YEP offers eight programs in seven locations that provide 1,000 youth annually with GED and literacy services, jobs skills development, mentoring, intensive case management, enrichment and summer activities, and holistic wrap-around services based on the individual needs of each youth.
New Orleans Works: Participants will visit New Orleans Works (NOW) at the site of its employer partner, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System to explore the history, evolution, and model of New Orleans Works, a National Fund for Workforce Solutions site. Participants will learn about the partnership model, the role of employers, and the key elements of this adult pathway, including program design, delivery, and outcomes. Participants will then explore how New Orleans Works is mapping backwards to adapt their adult pathway to respond to the distinct needs of opportunity youth.

NOW is a public/private initiative led by foundations and regional public workforce systems to generate employer-focused workforce development solutions that offer low-skilled adults (entry-level as well as incumbents) the opportunity for career advancement and enable key industry sectors to fulfill their workforce needs. NOW follows the National Fund for Workforce Solutions model for creating workforce partnerships; building capacity; and fostering systems change that together result in: long-lasting relationships among employers, workers, education, training, and support service providers to create a cohesive pipeline to jobs that offer career pathways.

Tulane Earn and Learn Career Pathways Program and Delgado Community College. Participants will visit Tulane University to explore the core elements of the apprenticeship pathway for opportunity youth in the Earn and Learn program, including the partnership model between Tulane University and Delgado Community College, and how curriculum, wrap-around and programmatic supports, and other core programmatic elements combine into a comprehensive pathway for opportunity youth. Participants will explore the role of employers and the market-driven approach to designing employment pathways in high demand industries, and will hear from apprentices about their experiences in the program.

Earn and Learn Career Pathways Program is designed with a market-driven approach that seeks to meet the needs of regional businesses and opportunity youth. An initiative of the Reconnecting Opportunity Youth division within the Cowen Institute, Earn and Learn employs opportunity youth in a yearlong apprenticeship program that combines hands-on training in jobs at Tulane with career-focused technical and academic skills training through the Accelerated Career Education (ACE) program at partner Delgado Community College. Apprentices are paid livable wages and keep a 40-hour week with 20 hours on the job, and 20 hours in the classroom. Numerous regional employers contributed to the Earn and Learn’s curriculum to ensure that apprentices are trained in the skills employers are seeking.

4:30 PM  Travel to Hotel

5:00 PM – Site Visit Debrief

6:30 PM  La Salle A  Teams will debrief the site visits and consider implications of the day’s lessons for their work in their communities.

5:00 PM – Social Innovation Fund (SIF) Funder Reception

6:00 PM  Frenchman II  The inaugural meeting and reception for the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) funders.
6:30 PM  TRAVEL TO COMMUNITY RECEPTION

7:00 PM – COMMUNITY RECEPTION
8:30 PM THE REFRESH PROJECT / LIBERTY’S KITCHEN
Community Reception for all guests hosted by Liberty’s Kitchen at the ReFresh Project.

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions
Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President of Policy and Public Programs, Aspen Institute
Jeffrey Schwartz, Executive Director, Broad Community Connections

8:30 PM  TRAVEL TO HOTEL

THURSDAY, MAY 7

7:00 AM  CONVENING REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
LA SALLE FOYER

8:00 AM – WELCOME
8:30 AM LA SALLE A
The purpose of this plenary session is to welcome guests to the 2015 May OYIF convening.

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions
Steve Patrick, Executive Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions
Dr. Scott Cowen, President Emeritus, Tulane University
Monique Miles, Deputy Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions

8:30 AM – MORNING PLENARY: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT
9:45 AM LA SALLE A
This plenary will feature local and national perspectives on strategies in designing employer-driven pathways for opportunity youth. This panel will be moderated by Gina Burkhardt, President and CEO, Jobs for the Future.

Gina Burkhardt, President & CEO, Jobs for the Future  (Moderator)
Melissa Ehlinger, Interim President & CEO, New Orleans Business Alliance
Melissa Sawyer, Founder and Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Project
Jana Sikdar, Director, Workforce and Retention, Greater New Orleans Inc.
Jeffery Wallace, Executive Director, Leaders Up

9:45 AM LE SALON

10:00 AM – OYIF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
12:30 PM MELPOMENE
The purpose of this funder-only meeting is to provide an update on the Social Innovation Fund
and the Deep Dive Cities partnership, as well updates on aligning and deepening efforts in building the movement for opportunity youth, including My Brother's Keeper and other work targeted at boys and men of color.

Melody Barnes, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)
Steve Patrick, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)

10:15 AM

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

ACADIAN I

COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: On the Way to Impact: Collaborative Eco-cycles

This highly interactive session will provide an overview of the collaborative eco-cycle, address what happens in each phase and the potential traps in times of transition, and discuss the role of the backbone and activities that backbone leaders can undertake to move forward at different points of the eco-cycle. The session will also feature storytelling from OYIF communities about their experiences in getting stuck at various stages, and the strategies they engaged in to move the work forward.

Fay Hanleybrown, FSG (Facilitator)
Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Kim Oliver, Capital Workforce Partners
Kathy Hamilton, Boston Private Industry Council

ACADIAN II

COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: Building an Equity Lens into Collective Impact

In order to truly solve complex social issues, structural inequality along race, class and culture lines needs to be tackled head on. For this reason, collective impact with its focus on large-scale systems change must include an explicit analysis of equity and power, particularly around race. Inequities along the lines of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and other ascribed characteristics shape the complex problems that collective impact initiatives aspire to change, from the educational to the environmental, from economic to health-disparities. Without rigorous attention to persistent inequities, collective impact initiatives risk ineffectiveness, irrelevance, and improvements that cannot be sustained. In this session you will hear from backbone leaders who have been explicit in using an equity frame in their efforts and learn about the challenges and opportunities in their efforts. Participants will also engage in a discussion about how to build this into the grounding principles of the collective impact approach. Note that this session is a repeat of the May 6, 2015 session.

Sheri Brady, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)
Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, Philadelphia Youth Network
Junious Williams, Urban Strategies Council

PELICAN I

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: Youth-Adult Partnerships in Convening Youth Advisory Groups

This consultancy-style session will explore the Why, What, and How of engaging youth advisory groups in collective impact initiatives. Youth and adult partners from Atlanta, Philadelphia, and
Seattle will share their approaches to establishing and working with youth advisory groups (including emergent and established models), with a focus on why youth advisory groups have been included in each initiative, how youth advisory groups are structured, promising practices in keeping youth engaged, strategies for creating authentic youth-adult partnerships, and successes and challenges. Participants will then have an opportunity to provide feedback to each community on their approach.

Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)
Morgan Cephas, Philadelphia Youth Network
Freda Crichton, SOAR
Louis Negron, United Way of Greater Atlanta
Kimberly Pham, Philadelphia Youth Network
Shanice Turner, United Way of Greater Atlanta
Nicole Yohalem, Community Center for Education Results

**PELICAN II**

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Building Supports for Youth: Navigators, Mentors, and Coaching Models for Supporting Youth**

Comprehensive supports are crucial to ensuring that opportunity youth stay focused on school, complete a program of study and succeed in the labor market. With that in mind, OYIF communities are implementing various models to provide these supports to young people: from coaching and mentoring to success navigators. In this session we will explore student support models being implemented in Del Norte, Maine, and Denver including key strengths, challenges, and lessons learned in each community. Participants will provide feedback based on what they have heard from presenters and on their own experience at home to help inform this critical component of our work with opportunity youth.

Mamadou Ndiaye, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)
Jermaine Brubaker, Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands Opportunity Youth Initiative
Elsa Holgain, Rose Community Foundation
Emily Thielmann, University of Southern Maine - Muskie School of Public Service
Martin Zanghi, University of Southern Maine - Muskie School of Public Service

**LA SALLE C**

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: How to Decide: Strategies for Supporting Youth in Making Educated Choices about Postsecondary Programs and Career Pathways**

Studies show that having a clear path to follow improves students’ likelihood of postsecondary credential completion. How can we help our young people best identify appropriate postsecondary opportunities and connect those opportunities to longer term academic and career goals? In this session, we will look at new evidence that mapping backwards, i.e. identifying career goals to then inform postsecondary pathway choices, can help young people persist to a credential, and/or meaningful career path. We will also discuss both traditional and tech-based strategies used in the field for helping students identify careers that interest them and are in-demand, and that enable them to map that interest to a postsecondary pathway.

Clare Bertrand, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)
Jeff Corey, Seattle Education Access
USING DATA TO GUIDE DECISIONS AND ASSESS IMPACT: OYIF Data Dashboard Preview

This session will preview the OYIF Data Dashboard designed for reporting data on the OYIF Common Indicators for both collaborative progress and youth outcomes. Participant will have the opportunity to walk through all aspects of the web-based dashboard and engage in discussion on key components. The session is open to all and especially welcomes the attendance of OYIF Data Working Group members and OYIF site leads interested in learning more about the data collection efforts across the OYIF.

Cheryl Almeida, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)

11:45 AM
Le Salon

BREAK

12:00 PM
La Salle A

LUNCH

12:30 PM
La Salle A

LUNCH PLENARY: ENGAGING PHILANTHROPY

This plenary will feature private, corporate, and community foundations committed to the well-being of all children and youth in New Orleans. These local and national funders will talk about how they leverage and coordinate their strategies for investing in local programming as well as support for the key strategies for data sharing and collection, policy and advocacy needed to support better outcomes for opportunity youth and the challenges of doing so in a post-Katrina environment. This panel will be moderated by Steve Patrick, Executive Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions.

Steve Patrick, Executive Director, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)
Liza Cowan, South Region Executive, Global Philanthropy, JPMorgan Chase
Carmen James, Vice President for Programs, Greater New Orleans Foundation
Jennifer Roberts, Vice President, Education Grants, Baptist Community Ministries
Christy Slater, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

1:45 PM
Le Salon

BREAK

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Poydras

DEEP DIVE LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETING

The purpose of this invite-only meeting is to convene the inaugural gathering of the Deep Dive Cities Leadership Group.

Katherine Errecart, FSG (Facilitator)

2:00 PM

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
**Acadian I**

**Collaborating for Impact: Telling the Collective Impact for Opportunity Youth Story**

This session will focus on how to design and implement a communications agenda across a collaborative that tells the story of collective impact for opportunity youth. This session will blend and weave strategies for driving collective impact that includes programs and pathways for opportunity youth and leverages data, funding and policy to communicate a shared narrative that can be iterated for different audiences.

*Paul Schmitz, FSG (Facilitator)*

**Pelican I**

**Youth Engagement: Authentic Engagement of Youth In Collective Impact Efforts**

Engaging youth authentically in collective impact efforts can serve many purposes. Youth can inform the design and implementation of a shared agenda and gain critical skills as leaders and owners of the agenda, and their engagement also ensures the effort is sustainable beyond the current tenure of leaders. The purpose of this session is to share youth engagement strategies gleaned from the OYIF communities in Baltimore, Boston, Hopi, and Maine. Strategies include youth leading efforts targeted at policy/advocacy, data/research, designing and implementing a shared agenda, and community organizing. Youth and adult partners from OYIF communities will present their youth engagement strategies and lead tabletop discussions with participants. Participants will also have an opportunity to design their own youth engagement projects to support their youth engagement strategy.

*Monique Miles, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)*  
*Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)*  
*Tiffany Babnimptewa, Hopi Foundation*  
*Paulo Gregory Harris, Ingoma Foundation*  
*Jaquana Gilebrist, Youth Voice Project Participant*  
*Kyle Knox, Hopi Foundation*  
*Jody Christopher Mays Jr., Ingoma Foundation’s Youth Unlocked*  
*Kristin McSwain, Executive Director, Boston Opportunity Agenda*  
*Sierra Reed, University of Southern Maine - Muskie School of Public Service*  
*Martin Zanghi, University of Southern Maine - Muskie School of Public Service*  

**Pelican II**

**Building Effective Pathways: What it Takes to Design Effective Employment Pathways: Lessons from YIPI**

The Youth Industry Partnership Initiative (YIPI) is generating lessons on how young adults can gain a pathway to good wages through a closer working relationship with industries supported by National Fund regional funder staff and collaboratives. This session will share lessons from three OYIF communities that were involved in this pathway design and learning work. Presenters will discuss and explore with the audience what they’ve learned about the business rationale for hiring young adults, which employers have been most involved (and why), important features of program design and what works to recruit and retain youth and connect them to good jobs and/or additional technical training.
**LaSalle B**

**USING DATA TO GUIDE DECISIONS AND ASSESS IMPACT: Shared Data Systems: New Orleans Opportunity Youth Data Sharing Council**

This session explores the data-sharing journey of a group of New Orleans based opportunity youth service providers that are participating in a data-sharing and performance management initiative and adopting the use of the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) system to streamline processes and maximize data sharing efforts between their organizations. The participating organizations seek to: 1) improve case management and data capacity; 2) establish seamless and consistent intake and referral processes; 3) institute a Performance Quality Improvement plan across programs working in the opportunity youth space; 4) institutionalize the practice of making data-driven decisions; and 5) provide data on the patterns and processes of reconnection. In this session participants will learn about the process and resulting products, the successes and challenges so far, and participate in activities and dialogue that explore data sharing as collective action.

**Nicole Jolly, Partnership for Youth Development (Facilitator)**

Dennis Bagneris, Liberty's Kitchen

Darrin McCall, Youth Empowerment Project

Isabelle Sun, Covenant House

Stewart Young, Cafe Reconcile

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**Acadian II**

**DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES / LEVERAGING FUNDING TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN INNOVATION: Getting to Work: Leveraging WIOA for Opportunity Youth**

A number of provisions in WIOA align with OYIF’s collective impact and pathway development work: e.g. the emphasis for both youth and adults on demand-driven career pathways and connections to postsecondary education, as well as on collaboration, and innovation; the requirement that 75% of youth funding go to out-of-school youth; and progress measures that allow for longer term service delivery. In this session participants will explore what several communities put in place under WIA to serve out-of-school youth and will consider strategies communities are/could be using to take advantage of this new opportunity to gain valuable leverage funding for their pathways. We will also consider the implications of what we are learning for the WIOA regulations that are now in the process of being considered.

**Adria Steinberg, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)**

Alex Johnson, Capital Workforce Partners

Ian Gordon, San Diego Youth Development Office

Tamara Atkinson, Capital Area Workforce Board

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**Fulton**

**EQUAL MEASURE EVALUATION SESSION: How Will We Know? Understanding Systems Change Across the OYIF Portfolio**
This session will introduce participants to the evaluation tool being developed to capture systems change across the 21 OYIF communities. During the session, Equal Measure will provide a brief overview of the evaluation, providing more detail about efforts to track systemic shifts across the OYIF communities. Using a small group discussion format, participants will have the opportunity to provide input into specific indicators of “systems change” based on their goals and experiences in their communities. This feedback will shape how elements of systems change are understood and tracked over the course of the evaluation. This session is for OYIF site leads and is intended to inform the OYIF evaluation design. We ask that one representative from each community attend this session.

*Meg Long, Equal Measure (Facilitator)*
*Justin Piff, Equal Measure (Facilitator)*

**3:15 PM**
**LE SALON**

**BREAK**

**3:30 PM**
**LA SALLE A**

**TEAM PLANNING TIME**

Teams will debrief the day and consider implications of the day’s lessons for their work in their communities.

**4:30 PM**
**LE SALON**

**BREAK**

**4:45 PM – 6:00 PM**
**PELICAN I**

**CALIFORNIA OPPORTUNITY YOUTH NETWORK (COYN) MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting of the California Opportunity Youth Network (COYN) is to explore the use of the term “pathways” and to reach shared agreement on how COYN will use this terminology to describe the work across California OYIF communities. In preparation for the meeting, each COYN site will complete a terminology worksheet, and participants will discuss and generate a list of other common terminology used in the work of COYN sites.

*Dana Bunnell, Kids in Common, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (Facilitator)*
*Carol Chodroff, Alliance for Children’s Rights (Facilitator)*

**4:45 PM – 6:00 PM**
**PELICAN II**

**RURAL COHORT MEETING**

The purpose of the inaugural meeting of the rural cohort is to discuss the unique opportunities and challenges that are experienced by rural OYIF communities, with a specific focus on reengagement. Reengagement work in rural communities differs from that in larger urban areas. A number of factors complicate this work, including the fact that youth are not concentrated in one community but are dispersed across counties or regions; services may not be available or information on options may be lacking; lack of transportation can present barriers to participation in programs; and there may be a lack of available staff who can carry out case management or navigation functions. Participants will also discuss the structure and process for the Rural Cohort affinity group.
Friday, May 8, 2015

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM
OYIF YOUTH LEADERS MEETING

Acadian II
This youth leadership track session will engage OYIF youth leaders in developing actionable goals for the work of the OYIF Youth Leaders group for the remainder of 2015.

Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)
Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)

6:00 PM
ADJOURN (Dinner on Your Own)

8:00 AM
BREAKFAST

La Salle A

8:30 AM
SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND (SIF) ANNOUNCEMENT

La Salle A
Jobs for the Future and the Aspen Forum for community Solutions will announce the inaugural communities selected to participate in the Social Innovation Fund.

8:50 AM – 10:00 AM
MORNING PLENARY: INNOVATION IN SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

This plenary will feature global lessons on innovation in system leadership and will posit these lessons in the context of New Orleans and the effort of local leaders to improve outcomes in education and employment – including reducing youth on youth violence – as part of a larger community wide effort known as NOLA for Life. These lessons will be connected to other federal and national efforts that use innovative tools to drive social change. The panel will include Dr. Scott Cowen, President Emeritus, Tulane University; Walter Isaacson, President & CEO, The Aspen Institute; Michael Smith, Special Assistant to the President & Director of My Brother’s Keeper; and the Honorable Mayor Mitchell Landrieu of New Orleans (to be confirmed). The plenary will be moderated by Melody Barnes, Chair of the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions.

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)
Dr. Scott Cowen, President Emeritus, Tulane University
Walter Isaacson, President & CEO, The Aspen Institute
The Honorable Mitchell Landrieu, Mayor, New Orleans (invited)
Michael Smith, Special Assistant to the President & Director of My Brother’s Keeper

10:00 AM
BREAK
Collaborating for Impact: Applying the Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Men of Color

A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Young Men of Color provides a holistic analytic framework and a strategic canvas for improving the life outcomes for males of color. The presentation will provide a survey of research charting economic, criminal justice, family and socio-ecological changes in the U.S. over the past forty years that helps articulate how race, gender and place intersect in ways that drive disparate life outcomes for males of color. Using a visual life course approach, the presentation will demonstrate 1) how well-being is a consequence of multiple interacting determinants; 2) that different trajectories of well-being are the product of cumulative risk, protective factors and other influences over one's lifetime; and, 3) how the timing and sequence of what we experience influences the development and life outcomes of both individuals and populations. Lastly, the presentation will consider the inter-generational implications of this approach and outline principles for applying collaborative strategies to improve population-level outcomes for males of color.

Arnold Chandler, Forward Change Consulting (Facilitator)

Building Effective Pathways: Community College Partnerships: Engaging Colleges in Efforts on Behalf of Opportunity Youth

Community colleges are a critical link in pathways to career-track employment for opportunity youth; however, creating effective partnerships can be a challenge. In this session, two communities that are building on-ramps to postsecondary through close partnership with their community colleges will share their early lessons and aspirations for further development. A national expert on postsecondary pathways for underprepared learners will offer feedback and advice, and engage participants in brainstorming solutions to challenges they may be facing in creating such partnerships.

Lili Allen, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)
Barbara Endel, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)
Sarah Costelloe, Philadelphia Youth Network
Jennifer Keeling, Thrive Chicago

Building Effective Pathways: Employer-Driven Pathways: Early Lessons on Engaging Employers

Engaging employers to inform the design and implementation of pathways increases the likelihood of opportunity youth getting hired and advancing in a chosen career. In this session, two OYIF communities – New York City and Philadelphia – and Leaders Up, an initiative established by Starbucks and its largest U.S. suppliers will share early lessons learned about how to identify, reach out to and continuously engage employers as active partners in designing and delivering demand-driven pathways that lead to labor market success for opportunity youth.
**La Salle B**


This session will engage youth leaders in an in-depth discussion about opportunities and barriers in their communities to increase the life success of youth, including how local organizations, systems, and services can better support youth. This discussion will inform the data collection tools designed for the OYIF evaluation while also offering youth leaders the chance to build knowledge about evaluation practices. Session participants will be confirmed ahead of the session.

*Kimberly Edmunds, Equal Measure (Facilitator)*
*Georgia Kionkis, Equal Measure (Facilitator)*

**Acadian II**

**DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES / LEVERAGING FUNDING TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN INNOVATION: Introduction to WIOA**

Do you have questions about the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)? Want to weigh in on the regulations the Department of Labor is crafting? Want to share your ideas for new policies that would go beyond WIOA to help solve additional challenges facing opportunity youth? This interactive session will focus on Q&A and group discussion with Scott Cheney (Policy Director for Workforce and Economic Development on the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee) and Thaddeus Ferber (Forum for Youth Investment and the Opportunity Youth Network, which is helping drive federal advocacy efforts for opportunity youth).

*Thaddeus Ferber, Forum for Youth Investment (Facilitator)*
*Scott Cheney, Senate HELP Committee, Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member (invited)*

**11:30 AM**

**Le Salon**

**BREAK**

**11:45 AM**

**La Salle A**

**TEAM PLANNING TIME**

Teams will debrief the day and consider implications of the day’s lessons for their work in their communities.

**11:45 AM**

**Poydras**

**OYIF YOUTH LEADERS DEBRIEF**

In this youth leadership track session, youth leaders will share learnings from the convening and identify opportunities to implement what they learned in their communities.
Session leaders will wrap up the convening by raising excitement, energy and momentum for action in the months ahead and by sharing key learnings from the convening. Melody Barnes, Chair of the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions will invite convening participants to share their take-aways from the convening before moderating a panel discussion with youth leaders that will incorporate participant reflections into the dialogue.

Melody Barnes, Chair, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)