



## Ready by 21<sup>®</sup> Convening: Quality Counts and Southeast Challenges

April 15-16, 2010; Dupont Hotel, Washington, DC

### Agenda

#### APRIL 15, 2010

- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00 Welcome, Overview
- 9:15 – 9:45 Introducing People and Projects
- 9:45 – 11:00 Building Capacity for Change: Lessons Learned and Emerging Opportunities
- 11:00 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 12:30 Separate Meetings by Initiative
- Quality Counts: Cross-site sharing of accomplishments and next steps
- Southeast: Review audit findings
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch in restaurant
- 1:30 – 3:00 Panel Discussions
- Positioning Quality, Moderated by Karen Finn*  
Panelists: Candy Markman, Matt Beck, Elizabeth Devaney
- Building the Capacity of Leadership Groups, Moderated by Merita Irby*  
Panelists: Polly Lusk-Page, Kara Clark
- 3:00 – 3:20 Break
- 3:20 – 4:20 Interactive Learning Sessions – Round 1 (select one)
- Technology to Track and Align Your Ready by 21 Efforts – Dupont B
  - Improving Youth Program Quality – Kalorama
  - Emerging Federal Policy Opportunities – Georgetown
  - Building Lasting Coordinating Structures – Dupont A
  - Engaging Youth: From Planning to Action – Dupont A
- 4:30 – 5:30 Interactive Learning Sessions – Round 2 (select one)
- Engaging Education and Business Stakeholders in Ready by 21 – Dupont A
  - Tracking Programs and Participation – Dupont B
  - Aligning Policies and Resources - Dupont A
  - Improving Youth Program Quality – Kalorama
  - Linking Organizational Performance with Ready by 21 – Georgetown
- 6:00 – 7:00 Reception
- Dinner on your own

## APRIL 16, 2010

- 8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30 Peer Learning on Hot Topics
- 9:30 – 9:45 Break
- 9:45 – 10:45 Interactive Learning Sessions – Round 3 (select one)
- Results Based Planning/Master Planning – Dupont B
  - Improving the Quality of Youth-Serving Systems: Roles of United Ways – Kalorama
  - Beyond Programs: Tracking Comprehensive Community Initiatives – Dupont B
  - Communicating about Ready by 21 – Georgetown
  - Mapping the Programmatic Landscape – Dupont A
  - Redefining Outcomes: Tracking Youth Readiness – Dupont A
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Separate Meetings by Initiative
- Quality Counts: Panel Discussion
- Embedding Quality Improvement Capacity in Existing Infrastructure;*  
*Moderated by Nicole Yohalem; Panelists: Steph Root, Sonia Johnson*
- Southeast: Team Planning Time
- 12:00 – 12:45 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:45 Separate Meetings by Initiative
- Quality Counts: Panel Discussion (1:00 – 2:00)
- Institutionalizing Big Picture Planning; Moderated by Karen Finn*  
Panelists: Matt Beck & Colleen Monaghan, Suzanne Hershey
- Discuss Opportunities to Stay Engaged (2:00 – 2:45)
- Southeast: Team Planning Time (1 – 2:00)
- Workstation/Evaluation Overview (2:00 – 2:45)
- 2:45 – 3:15 Reflections: Partners, Places and Pittman



All youth ready for  
college, work & life.

## Ready by 21™ Convening: Quality Counts and Southeast Challenges

Dupont Hotel, Washington, DC

April 15-16, 2010

### Participant Contact Information

#### Atlanta

Brad Bryant  
Interim Point Person for Ready by 21  
State Board of Education

Missy Dugan  
Chief Operating Officer  
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta

Etha Henry  
Executive Vice President of Community Engagement  
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

Katrina Mitchell  
Senior Director, Smart Start  
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

#### Austin

Laura G. Garcia  
Director of Community Building - Education  
United Way Capital Area

Suzanne Hershey  
Consultant/Facilitator  
CommunitySync/Ready by 21 Coalition

#### Chattanooga

Gloria Moore  
Humanities Supervisor  
Hamilton County Department of Education

Linda McReynolds  
Senior Vice President of Organizational Development  
United Way of Greater Chattanooga

Elaine Swafford  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Chattanooga State Technical Community College

Julie Thomsen  
Partner Relations and Community Impact  
United Way of Chattanooga

#### Columbus

Rose Ellen Adams  
Executive Director  
Childhood Connections

Jacque Douglas  
Director  
Council for Youth Development

#### Georgetown Divide

Debbi Herr  
Director, School Health and Safety  
Black Oak Mine Unified School District

Stephanie Root  
Consultant/Coordinator Quality Counts Initiative  
Black Oak Mine Unified School District

Adrian Ruiz  
Co-Director  
Youth Development Network

## **Grand Rapids**

Lynn Heemstra  
Executive Director  
Our Community's Children

Rhae-Ann Booker  
Director for Pre-College Programs  
Calvin College

## **Indianapolis**

Christopher Collins  
Community Initiatives Coordinator  
Marion County Commission On Youth, Inc. (MCCOY)

John Brandon  
President  
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY)

## **Iowa**

Amy Croll  
Executive Director  
Community! Youth Concepts

Steve Michael  
Executive Officer  
Department of Human Rights  
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Mary Schissel  
Mason City Youth Task Force

Caroline J. Stout  
Manager, Early Childhood & Youth Development  
United Way of East Central Iowa

## **Louisville**

Brodrick Clarke  
Deputy Director of Programs  
Muhammad Ali Center

Rebecca DeJarnatt  
Community Outreach  
Office of Youth Development

Chris Locke  
Associate Director, Community Building  
Metro United Way

Bernard Minnis  
Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity and  
Poverty Programs  
Jefferson County Public Schools

Mary Kate Poling  
Senior Vice President of Community Impact  
Metro United Way

Mary Gwen Wheeler  
Mayor's Senior Advisor for Education & Youth  
Louisville Metro Government

## **Nashville**

Louisa Avery  
Training & Professional Development

Laura Hansen  
Project Manager  
Office of the Mayor

Candy Markman  
Planning Director  
Mayor's Afterschool Initiatives

Michael McSurdy  
Vice President of Programs  
Oasis Center  
The Youth Opportunity Center

Danielle Mezera  
Director, Mayor's Office of Children & Youth  
Nashville Mayor's Office

Ronnie Steine  
Metro Councilmember-at-Large  
Metro Council

Anderson Williams  
Director of Consulting  
Oasis Center

## **New York**

Matt Beck  
Youth Development Specialist  
NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Christine Flynn  
Youth Bureau Administrator  
Onondaga County Department of Aging & Youth

Colleen Monaghan  
Orange County Youth Bureau

Phyllis Morena  
Coordinator Ready by 21 QCI  
C/O Division of Health and Human Services

Rachel Wilson  
Orange County Youth Bureau

## **Northern Kentucky**

Kara Clark  
Vice President of Communication and Strategic Initiatives  
Vision 2015

Polly Lusk-Page  
Executive Director  
Northern Kentucky Education Council

Patricia Waldsmith  
Director of Community Impact  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

## **Oklahoma**

Mary Alice Ahlgren  
Program Director  
Camp Fire USA Green County Council

Sonia Johnson  
Director  
Oklahoma Afterschool Network

## **Rhode Island**

Elizabeth Devaney  
Deputy Director  
Providence After School Alliance

Joseph Morra  
Manager of Quality Initiatives  
Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance

## **Richmond**

Sandra Booth  
Manager of Community Initiatives:  
Children, Youth and Families  
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

Barbara Couto Sipe  
Vice President, Community Impact  
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

Damon Jiggetts  
Program Director - Elementary Schools  
Communities In Schools of Richmond, Inc.

## **St. Louis**

Ron Jackson  
Executive Director  
St. Louis for Kids

Claire Wyneken  
Senior Vice President  
Wyman Center

## **Staff/Consultants**

Kiley Bednar  
Program Manager

Newell Eaton  
Ready by 21 Coach

Danielle Evennou  
Policy Associate

Ian Faigley  
Program Manager

Elizabeth Gaines  
Policy Director

Jennifer Hahn  
Principal  
Douglas Gould and Company

Patricia Haubner  
Douglas Gould and Company

Merita Irby  
Chief Program Officer

Emily Jensen  
Policy Associate

Caitlin G. Johnson  
Communication Manager  
Managing Editor, Spark Action

Kris Minor  
Consultant

Larry Pasti  
Director, Field Services

Karen Pittman  
President and CEO

Stephanie Randall  
Program Associate

Nalini Ravindranath  
Senior Program Associate

Rob Schamberg  
Forum for Youth Investment

Pam Stevens  
Ready by 21 Coach

Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom  
Senior Program Manager

Raegan Williams  
Executive Assistant to Merita Irby

Nicole Yohalem  
Director of Special Projects

### **Mobilization Partners**

Caroline Brachman  
American's Promise Alliance

Angela Johnson Davis  
Strategy, Innovation and Research Director  
American Association of School Administrators

Dorian Friedman  
Director, Workforce Readiness  
Corporate Voices for Working Families

Ayeola Fortune  
Director of Partnerships  
United Way Worldwide

Melissa Hough  
Vice President, Workforce Readiness,  
Business and Community Engagement  
Corporate Voices for Working Families

Kristin Johnstad  
Senior Consultant  
Search Institute

Heather Padgett  
Senior Consultant  
United Way Worldwide

Sharon Adams-Taylor  
Associate Executive Director  
American Association of School Administrators

Sara Toland  
Senior Manager, Workforce Readiness,  
Business and Community Engagement  
Corporate Voices for Working Families

Lynette Ward  
Learning Exchange Director  
Search Institute

Jennifer Weber  
Manager, Workforce Readiness,  
Business and Community Engagement  
Corporate Voices for Working Families

### **Technical Partners**

Joe Bertoletti  
Project Manager  
David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Justin Bibb  
Director of Research  
Gallup Organization

Paul Evensen  
Senior Vice President  
Community Systems Group

Karen Finn  
Partner  
Results Leadership Group

Ted Geisler  
Sales Manager  
nFocus Software

Adam Luecking  
Chief Executive Officer  
Results Leadership Group

Ananda Roberts  
President  
nFocus Software

Pat Seppanen  
Senior Research Associate  
Rainbow Research

Charles Smith  
Director  
David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Shawn Stelow Griffin  
Senior Program Associate  
The Finance Project

Jeffrey Stowell  
President  
Community Systems Group

Samantha Sugar  
Research Associate  
David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

### **Guests**

Colleen Jenkins  
K-20 Industry Strategist, Education Practice  
SAS Institute Inc.

Wes Rehm  
Systems Engineer  
SAS Institute Inc.

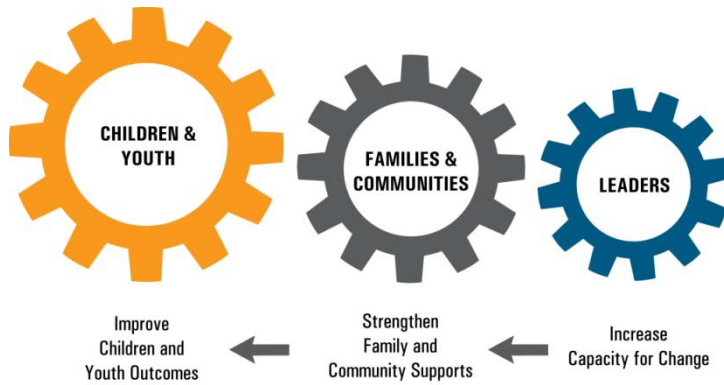
Phil Strand  
Director of Education Practice  
SAS Institute Inc.

Vivian Tseng  
Senior Program Officer  
William T. Grant Foundation

Megan Witherspoon  
Altria Client Services  
Underage Tobacco Prevention Programs

## THE READY BY 21® QUALITY COUNTS INITIATIVE

Communities across the country are committed to ensuring all youth are Ready by 21 – ready for college, work and life. While improving youth outcomes (the yellow gear) is the goal, to get there at scale the focus needs to be on helping leaders (the blue gear) improve their community's landscape of supports and opportunities (the grey gear).



The Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative provides community, agency and elected leaders from select cities and states with a bold challenge, an infusion of national and local momentum, and an accompanying suite of policy-building strategies and tools. The supports are designed to help improve the quality and reach of community programs across sectors and strengthen and align policies that guide resource allocation, accountability and workforce development.

The Ready by 21 “big picture approach” is child and youth-centered, research-based and action-oriented. It is designed to help leaders – in the Quality Counts sites and beyond – do business differently by moving from core principles about children, youth and community supports to common language, tools and planning frameworks that offer a new way of looking at and acting on information. While there is no uniform process for all communities, all sites do face the same challenge: coordinated action in all four of the Ready by 21 Quality Counts *target areas*:

- **Program Quality and Workforce Capacity.** The Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative is based on the belief that participation in high-quality programs can influence key developmental outcomes for children and youth. At the heart of quality programming lies quality youth development practice. In addition to a systemic focus on the professional development of youth workers and managers, Quality Counts communities will consider other factors that contribute to building a strong, stable, skilled workforce including recruit, retention, career pathways and organizational capacity.
- **The Program Landscape.** Building a quality improvement system that reaches across the range of youth programs in a community requires accurate information about the programmatic landscape. Therefore sites will be compiling basic information about services and gaps including who is served, what is offered, when programming is available, and why, where and how agencies do their work.
- **The Policy, Resource, Leadership Landscape.** All of the work of the Ready by 21 Quality Counts sites occurs within a broader community and state context. A shared vision; supportive policies, structures, and funding; and leaders and decision-makers who are engaged and supportive are critical to building and sustaining a quality improvement system. Ready by 21 tools engage leaders in youth-centered “big picture” planning and decision-making on behalf of children and youth and build demand for quality within the youth-serving community and the public.

Seven communities and five states were selected to participate in this two-year initiative, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies. For more information, go to [www.forumfyi.org/qc/home](http://www.forumfyi.org/qc/home).

## States

**Iowa.** The Iowa Collaborative for Youth Development (ICYD) is a network of state agencies established in 1999 to align and coordinate youth policies and programs. ICYD is combining a statewide strategy with a particular focus on Linn County, Polk County/Des Moines, and 10 North Central counties.

**Kentucky.** Kentucky Child Now (KCN) was established in 1998 to promote the healthy development of Kentucky's Children and youth at the state and community levels. Lexington and Louisville have been identified as pilot communities for this work.

**New York.** The Office of Children and Family Services is leading New York's Ready by 21 Quality Counts statewide effort, partnering with local departments of social services and county youth bureaus in four specific counties: Broome, Orange, Onondaga and Rockland.

**Oklahoma.** The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) is a statewide advocacy organization that provides a strong voice for children and youth in Oklahoma. Within OICA, the Oklahoma Afterschool Network (OKAN) will lead Oklahoma's Quality Counts work, which combines a state-wide agenda with a focus on Tulsa and Norman.

**Rhode Island.** Rhode Island After School Plus Alliance is a statewide advocacy and capacity building intermediary, and the Providence After School Alliance is a public/private entity focused on building a sustainable system of after-school supports. This is a statewide strategy with a focus on the Newport, Central Falls, and Pawtucket.

## Communities

**Austin, TX.** Ready by 21 Austin, a city-wide coalition of youth-service providers, educators, government agencies and youth advisors, is spearheading Austin's Quality Counts initiative, in partnership with the United Way Capital Area.

**Columbus, IN.** The Bartholomew County Council for Youth Development is the third generation of system-building work in Columbus, Indiana focused on children and youth and will lead the Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative.

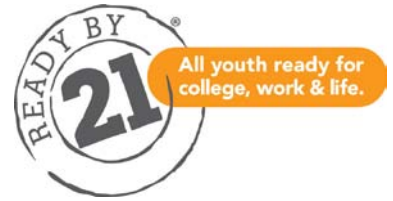
**Georgetown Divide, CA.** The Black Oak Mine Unified School District has played a central role in building the Ready by 21 Coalition in the Georgetown Divide, a mountain community in rural El Dorado county in northern California. Through a partnership with the Youth Development Institute, the initiative will enhance professional development opportunities for youth workers locally and across the Sacramento region.

**Grand Rapids, MI.** The Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network in Grand Rapids, Michigan is a community collaboration dedicated to ensuring that every child in the greater Grand Rapids area has access to quality after-school programs.

**Indianapolis, IN.** The Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY) leads the Indianapolis Ready by 21 Quality Counts effort and is using the initiative as an opportunity to align several related initiatives in the city in the areas of youth development, child welfare, educational achievement, crime prevention and juvenile detention reform.

**Nashville, TN.** For nearly 40 years Oasis Center has worked to improve the individual and community conditions that impact youth wellbeing in Nashville. Oasis will collaborate with several other agencies to lead Nashville's Ready by 21 Quality Counts work.

**St. Louis, MO.** St. Louis for Kids provides leadership, coordination, technical assistance and advocacy to the region's youth serving organizations, with a focus on improving the quality, accessibility and sustainability of programs. St Louis for Kids will partner with the Wyman Center on the Quality Counts Initiative



## READY BY 21 AND THE SOUTHEAST CHALLENGE

All young people need to be prepared to succeed in college, work and life. But in our country, only four out of ten are ready for a productive adulthood, and two in ten are in serious trouble. With effective local leaders and public structures like schools, community centers and libraries working together, communities can prepare a competitive workforce, strengthen social networks, support families and help all young people realize their potential. Using innovative strategic planning tools designed to maximize resources and developed by national experts, Ready by 21 mobilizes communities including state and local leaders to improve the odds for youth.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?** Ready by 21 is a strategy that helps communities improve the odds that all youth will be ready for work, college and life. It taps the expertise and dedication of leaders within communities, meeting them where they are and helping them chart a course for better outcomes for young people. Using innovative strategic planning tools developed by National Partners, Ready by 21 coaches, supports and mobilizes communities to amplify their efforts to prepare youth for success.

**ABOUT THE READY BY 21 NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP.** An unprecedented coalition of organizations representing government, education, non-profit, business, research and philanthropy sectors, the National Partnership is a “dream team” of the country’s most effective agencies. It works with trailblazing leaders who are shaping youth and community development policies and best practices. Its’ combined reach is over 650,000 state and local leaders who impact the lives of more than 1 million children and youth.

**ABOUT THE SOUTHEAST CHALLENGE.** The Southeast Challenge is a regional initiative of the Ready by 21 Partnership which is working with Southeast cities and states to develop core leadership capacity in four areas: developing broader partnerships, bigger goals, better data and decision-making and bolder strategies.

At the core of the Ready by 21 Strategy are 13 sets of standards that define excellence in four key areas that are critical to leaders’ capacity to improve child and youth outcomes: 1) building broader partnerships, 2) setting bigger goals, 3) using better data for better decision-making, and 4) implementing bolder strategies to improve the quality, consistency and reach of the formal and informal supports children and youth need.

These standards are designed to inform the concrete work leaders are currently doing or planning to do in their communities, tasks that range from developing a top-level leadership group to mapping the program landscape and creating an youth program quality improvement plan, to collecting data about child and youth wellbeing.

Each of the cities participating in the Southeast Challenge will conduct a Leadership Capacity Audit against these standards. Each audit will be tailored to meet leaders in these cities where they are, and will be conducted in the context of their current activity. The Capacity Audit gives communities the opportunity to step back, look at all of these pieces, affirm their importance with stakeholders, identify ones they are currently working on or have been charged to start working on, identify limitations that could be undermining their capacity to progress, and ask questions about the tools and technical assistance available from the Ready by 21 Partnership.

In addition to ongoing coaching and technical assistance from the Partnership, leaders from these cities will participate in peer discussions regarding ideas/strategies for getting farther, faster, and share progress reports within their communities, their states and Ready by 21 Leadership networks. All cities will receive support to conduct capacity audits and be eligible for matching funds and will receive services subsidies.

The Ready by 21 National Partnership invited Louisville, KY; Nashville, TN; Chattanooga, TN; Richmond, VA; Atlanta, GA; and Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati, OH to be members of the Southeast Challenge. The individual commitments these communities have made to date on behalf of children and youth suggested they were well poised for cross-system improvement and already have many of the pieces in place for fully actualizing such a system.

The National Partnership initially looked at the largest 65 metropolitan areas in the Southeast. Through collective intelligence of the Partnership, we narrowed that list to a field of 15. From that group, the above cities were selected based on interest in the Ready by 21 approach and their readiness as a group of leaders to work collaboratively to continue their efforts to improve the odds for youth to be ready for college, work and life.



All youth ready for college, work & life.

READY BY 21 CONVENING: QUALITY COUNTS AND SOUTHEAST CHALLENGES

# Concurrent Interactive Learning Sessions

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round One

April 15, 3:20 – 4:20

## **Technology to Track and Align Your Ready by 21® Effort**

Leaders trying to change the way they do business can simultaneously experience information overload *and* a lack of good data. Learn about different approaches to ensure planning processes and community commitments are results-oriented and data-driven. Discussion leaders will share tools for setting baseline goals for improving child and youth outcomes, school and community supports, monitoring progress, creating feedback loops and public reporting.

*Paul Everson, Community Systems Group; Ananda, Roberts nFocus; Adam Luecking, Results Leadership Group; Karen Pittman, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont B

## **Improving Youth Program Quality**

Investing in “Point-of-Service” quality – the programmatic spaces where young people and adults meet to advance youth development and learning – is an effective way to change the odds for children and youth. This Interactive workshop will explore *bolder strategies* to improve the quality of experiences available to youth in a wide variety of settings. Presenters will summarize the research based Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) and discuss strategies for building lower stakes accountability systems based on standardized assessment of quality at the point of service. A Quality Counts site representative will share their experiences with system building.

*Charles Smith & Joe Bertoletti, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality*

Kalorama

## **Emerging Federal Policy Opportunities**

With the passage of health care reform, pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly No Child Left Behind), and some Recovery Act funds still up for grabs, the time is now to coordinate federal funds at the state and local level to support the ever-important insulation of the education pipeline. The “insulation” includes basic services, e.g., health, as well as learning and engagement supports, e.g., after-school programs and youth employment opportunities.

*Elizabeth Gaines, Forum for Youth Investment; Dorian Friedman, Corporate Voices for Working Families; Shawn Stelow-Griffin, The Finance Project; Brad Byrant, GA State Board of Ed*

Georgetown

## **Building Lasting Coordinating Structures**

This workshop will focus on building strong coordinating structures that are broad in scope, have both authority and visibility, and have the staffing and resources to perform key functions. We will share what we have learned about the functions and practices of effective coordinating structures and then the floor will be open for participants to share specific challenges and seek advice from partners and peers.

*Merita Irby, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont A

## **Engaging Youth: From Planning to Action**

Involving a “full range of stakeholders” includes finding meaningful ways to involve young people themselves in community efforts to improve child and youth well-being. Young people are participating in big picture planning, policy advocacy, and community change efforts across the country. Join this discussion and learn how your peers have engaged youth in powerful ways in leading their Ready by 21 efforts.

*Rob Schamberg, Forum for Youth Investment; Pat Seppanen & Lynette Ward, Search Institute; Anderson Williams, Oasis Center; Debbi Herr; Black Oak Mine School District*

Dupont A

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round Two

April 15, 4:30 – 5:30

## Engaging Education and Business Stakeholders in Ready by 21

The education and business sectors represent critical stakeholders in any strategic effort to change the odds for children and youth. Representatives from two of the Ready by 21 Mobilization Partners – the American Association of School Administrators and Corporate Voices for Working Families – will lead this discussion, offering guidance and examples of efforts where schools or business have taken leadership roles or have come to the table as productive partners. Bring your own successes to share and challenges to troubleshoot.

*Bryan Joffe & Angela Johnson Davis, American Association of School Administrators; Sara Toland, Jennifer Webe, & Melissa Hough, Corporate Voices for Working Families*

Dupont A

## Tracking Programs and Participation

Louisville is working to achieve excellence in graduation rates and aligning resources in their community. Gain insight into what Louisville has discovered and what has made others like Boston, St. Louis, Washington DC, Northwest Indiana, Hawaii, and Grand Rapids follow suit. Learn how these communities are using data to better analyze a wide-range of critical information while creating relationships between community-based organizations, social-service agencies, public schools and government entities.

*Ananda Roberts, nFocus*

Dupont B

## Aligning Policies and Resources

Learn how states and cities are tracking their investments in young people in new and exciting ways. Many are moving from the traditional department centered budgeting to youth centered budgeting in order to better understand how their investments align with their goals. The Forum for Youth Investment and The Finance Project together created *Adding It Up: A Guide to Mapping Public Resources for Children, Youth and Families* to assist leaders who want better data to inform their decision making. Practical tools for doing this work will be shared.

*Elizabeth Gaines, Forum for Youth Investment; Shawn Stelow-Griffin, The Finance Project*

Dupont A

## Improving Youth Program Quality

Investing in “Point-of-Service” quality – the programmatic spaces where young people and adults meet to advance youth development and learning – is an effective way to change the odds for children and youth. This Interactive workshop will explore *bolder strategies* to improve the quality of experiences available to youth in a wide variety of settings. Presenters will summarize the research based Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) and discuss strategies for building lower stakes accountability systems based on standardized assessment of quality at the point of service. A Quality Counts site representative will share their experiences with system building.

*Charles Smith & Joe Bertoletti, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality*

Kalorama

## Linking Organizational Performance with Ready by 21

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the Results-Based Accountability™ (RBA) approach to measuring and improving the performance of organizations and community quality of life in a way that aligns with the Ready by 21 approach. RBA is based on a “change-agent” model that helps communities to align the efforts of various programs, service systems and strategies to more effectively impact results for children, families, adults and communities.

*Karen Finn, Results Leadership Group*

Georgetown

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round 3

April 16, 9:45 – 10:45

## **Results Based Planning/Master Planning**

Join this session and learn about the power of planning with the end results in mind. Participants will learn about how different communities and states are developing results-based master plans for children and youth. Presenters will draw on tools and resources developed by the Forum for Youth Investment and Results Leadership Group. Learn tips for bringing a broad range of stakeholders together around a shared vision and common goals, and learn what makes a master plan a “Ready by 21” master plan.

*Karen Finn, Results Leadership Group; Merita Irby, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont B

## **Improving the Quality of Youth-Serving Systems: Roles of United Ways**

As a key funder of programs and a respected community convener, local United Ways are in a prime position to support, promote (and require!) the development of quality programs for youth. But often they are hamstrung by historic relationships and ways of doing business. This session will explore how United Ways can move beyond the old ways, improve the quality of UW-funded programs, and support the development of community systems and adoption of community-wide quality standards. We will also discuss how quality improvement fits with and supports Ready by 21 efforts in communities. Two local United Ways will share their experiences, and the bulk of the time will be open for discussion.

*Ayeola Fortune & Heather Padgett, United Way Worldwide*

Kalorama

## **Beyond Programs: Tracking Comprehensive Community Initiatives**

We agree that our communities need a well-coordinated and comprehensive effort to assure that young people are Ready by 21 – But how in the world do you keep track of such an effort? What is comprehensive? What do you count? Who does the counting? And, How does it all add up? This session provides an introduction to the basic building blocks of evaluating comprehensive community efforts to improve outcomes for youth.

*Paul Everson, Community Systems Group*

Dupont B

## **Communicating about Ready by 21**

The goal of this session is to increase participants' comfort and confidence with using core Ready by 21 messages. A senior trainer from Douglas Gould & Co. will lead this interactive session which will address the essentials of clear message delivery and persuasion. Participants will learn tips for and have a chance to practice communicating complex materials in a media-friendly manner.

*Jennifer Hahn, Douglas Gould & Co.*

Georgetown

## **Mapping the Programmatic Landscape**

Few communities have a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of what is available for children and youth during the non-school hours. Information about program goals, focus, population served, hours, etc. is difficult to find, if it exists at all. And yet such information is critical for supporting referral systems and missing from most community planning and prioritization efforts. Review principles for effectively mapping the program landscape and see a demonstration of Austin's web-based Youth Services Mapping system.

*Kiley Bednar, Forum for Youth Investment; Suzanne Hershey, Austin Ready by 21 Coalition*

Dupont A

## **Redefining Outcomes: Measuring Youth Readiness**

Though many leaders are committed to ensuring young people are *ready* in a comprehensive sense – ready for college, work, and life – communities tend to know a lot about student success (or lack thereof) in the context of schools. We track attendance rates, dropout rates, grades, test scores. We typically lack information on the total child and on the total array of community supports beyond schools. This session will focus on strategies for filling this critical gap with data on developmental outcomes that can be regularly gathered and reported.

*Pat Seppanen, Search Institute; Justin Bibb, The Gallup Organization*

Dupont A