

# Puget Sound Tax Accountability Account Stakeholder Group

County-City Building  
930 Tacoma Ave S, Rainier Conference Room  
Tacoma, WA 98402

## DRAFT

### Summary Meeting Minutes

PSTAA members in attendance: Maureen Sorenson (Amara); DeAnne Hamilton (Bates Technical College); Joyce Loveday (Clover Park Technical College); Shanna LaMar (College Success Foundation); Jeannie Nist (Communities In Schools); Susan Barbeau (First5FUNDamentals); April Shine (Graduate Tacoma); Gina Anstey (Greater Tacoma Community Foundation); Andrew Austin (Metro Parks); Deidre Soileau (Pierce College District); Rebecca Chapman (Pierce County); Jason Escareno (Pierce County); Wolfgang Opitz (Pierce County); Jaime Prothro (Pierce County Libraries); John Welch (Puget Sound Educational Services District); Dorothy Gibson (Sound Alliance – SHAPE); Bill Ryberg (Tacoma Community College); Jason Scales (Tacoma Community House); Nancy Sutton (Tacoma Pierce County Health Department); Rodney Robinson (Treehouse); Michael Wark (UW Tacoma)

Others in attendance: Mercy Daramola (Puget Sound Educational Services District); Juliette Schindler Kelly (College Success Foundation)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:02 am.
  - Jason spoke briefly on Endowments. There is interest from the Stakeholder group to pursue, but the county's finance/legal recommend not to pursue.
2. Introductions.
  - Members introduced themselves and what agency they represent.
3. Presentation by Jaime Prothro, Pierce County Libraries
  - Jaime explained how the Pierce County Libraries (PCL) are funded. 94% of income in through property taxes, and is currently a challenge to get levies passed. PCL has reciprocal borrowing agreements with other PC library systems. PCL has 30 educational databases, and provides resources such as online homework help and individual tutoring, resume/interview prep and advice. Jaime explained how early learning is their biggest service initiative. This includes story times and baby times, connectors for new moms and dads, engaging babies with stories, block play. The block play program provides STEM skills

- that home resources may not have. Used in ECEAP and child care. The block play can be brought to locations. The classes offered through PCL are geared for learning and enjoyment. Reading reduces stress and improves literacy.
- PCL is keen to reach underserved communities and those who cannot get to a library, such as homebound people, or those on Anderson Island.
  - Jaime described the Pierce County Reads program, a summer reading program for all ages. She also covered some of the programs the library offers, such as digital literacy for adults, STEM for youth, Microsoft training, and the partnerships the PCL has built to provide services across the county.
  - Jaime described the RFI submission for bookmobile service and fleet vehicles for transport. This would incorporate more STEM services to take to community activities.
  - Jaime was questioned about partnerships with other organizations, including programs mentioned at the stakeholder group, such as the Whole Child Access Pass. Jaime said they have a “Card in Every Student’s Hand” campaign, and would be open and interested in partnerships with other organizations.
4. Presentation by Shanna LaMar, College Success Foundation, Juliette Schindler Kelly, College Success Foundation, John Welch, Puget Sound Educational Services District who is also a College Success Foundation Board Member
- Shanna introduced the College Success Foundation (CSF) who serve underserved students who do not have the same opportunities for postsecondary education and workforce opportunities as other students. The organization was launched in the year 2000 with a very large Gates Foundation grant. Participants include those on free and reduced lunch (low income), students of color, foster children, and 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students. In Pierce County, the program is offered in Tacoma Public Schools including the five comprehensive high schools, six middle schools, and the University of Washington - Tacoma.
  - The program starts in middle schools with early awareness and engagement. In high school, the focus is pipeline/pathways, advising and navigation, career advising, and tying in with other community partners. Those in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade receive more high school graduation and college entrance, and scholarship support.
  - Shanna explained how CSF has its own staff placed in the middle schools, high schools, and at University of Washington - Tacoma. CSF has a 96% high school graduation rate for the students they support, and 59% graduate from college.
  - CSF is looking for funding to expand beyond TPS into the Bethel, Clover Park, and Franklin Pierce School Districts. In addition, they would like to focus more support on foster youth. Shanna explained how the staff work with high school students over the summer at the high school level and as they transition to college. They also have a presence at UWT, and a goal is to have that support at more PC college campuses.
5. Presentation by Maureen Sorenson, Amara
- Maureen gave the background on Amara, it’s roots as Medina Infant Services, and their strategic plan to putting the child at the center, and how they can impact children before they enter care.

PSTAA Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2019

- Maureen explained the process before entering an Amara foster home. This includes a home where children stay for 3-5 days while the state does mindful placement. There are over 100 volunteers, and therapeutic specialists involved to assist the state in their work, including helping to identify relatives, and working with placements to help match children.
  - Pierce County has double the number of foster children as King County, in spite of being less than half the size in population.
  - As well as the foster care program, Amara has a post-adoption program, which is the only one in the nation. It partners with Pierce County Juvenile Court.
  - Maureen described future plans for Amara. They have acquired 29 acres in the Midland area to build an integrated multiuse campus. Currently needs are being assessed.
  - Stats were given: 1,500 foster children in Pierce County. Each has 3-6 placement changes, and each move causes a 6 month loss in academic learning.
6. Group Discussion
- The next hour was devoted to group discussion and questions about how to approach the strategic plan and what questions the Council want answered. Request to have the council give better guidelines and also to know what the limitations are for funding.
7. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

**The next meeting of the PSTAA Stakeholder Group is scheduled for January 18, 2019. The agenda will be provided to members prior to the meeting date.**

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