

Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

December 16, 2009

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Ariyetta	Jaclyn	Margaret
Blue	Latrice	Nancy
Daniel		

Members absent:

Anthony
Sheila

Community present:

Bill	Laird
Jacob	Tanya
Kristine	

Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order by Jaclyn, serving as Co-Chair, at 6:10pm.

Christine stopped by the meeting to update everyone on Dara. Dara has been detained by immigration for the last month and a half. Immigration attempted to send her back to Laos, but they are currently in a war state and are not accepting anyone. Her case has been reopened, but a lot of her services are being cut. A card for Dara was circulated.

The December 16th agenda and November 18, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

The Nomination of Ariyetta was presented to the committee and approved.

Public Comment

None

LGBTQ Focus Group

The committee heard feedback from Blue, Jaclyn and Nancy on the LGBTQ focus group which was held the afternoon of December 16th. Five participants plus Blue attended.

Nancy led one group with three very different people and experiences. One person had all good experiences and received good services. He is HIV positive.

Jaclyn led the other group. Her group consisted of one talkative participant, one that would contribute when asked to elaborate and one that didn't have much experience.

The facilitators all thought the focus group was worth it and would have liked to see a larger turn out. Jaclyn suggested for future focus groups that they not be near holidays and in a more easily accessible facility.

Nancy requested that the CAC host a second LGBTQ focus group. Jaclyn suggested, and it was agreed to, that the committee will discuss the possibility of a second LGBTQ focus group after the report is complete though it would not be in addition to the suggested 3 per year, but would take one of those slots.

Feedback from GB, IAC, Funders Group

Bill gave a summary on the December 7, 2009 IAC meeting.

IAC

Landlord Liaison Project

LLP currently has 39 partnering agencies/programs. Each agency/program receives an orientation when accepted into the program that covers expectations as a partner, client application process, and financial assistance forms and process.

They have 103 households currently housed which include 196 different individuals. 41 households are currently active with the LLP team in housing search. They have served an equal amount of families and single adults.

71% of households are chronically homeless or have been homeless for a long period of time.
51% of all households have received some type of financial assistance from LLP.
19% of all households are veterans.

They have 67 landlords/property management companies signed on as partners with LLP. This allows them access to 151 properties ranging from large, multi-unit apartment complexes to single family homes.

They have been involved in 52 interventions/mediations (38 different households) with landlords and case managers with housed clients.

Jaclyn shared her experience with the LLP. Jaclyn went to the LLP seeking assistance to help her find a home using her Section 8. LLP denied her assistance because she was already had a place to live. Jaclyn suggested that the program expand to assist low income people look for new housing when they need it.

McKinney

The 2009 McKinney Application was submitted on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 with a total request for approximately \$21.7 million which includes:

- 64 Supportive Housing Program (SHP) renewal projects (approximately \$14.7 million)
- 2 Shelter Plus Care grants (approximately \$5.4 million)
- 2 Permanent Housing Bonus Projects (just under \$1 million)

\$1.43 billion (essentially the same as announced in 2008) are available nationally for 2009.

The 2009 application included a few new components:

- The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) renewal selection process is to be expedited. Renewal applications only verified basic information and provided certifications. Ranking of renewals was not required.
- HUD encouraged the use of Recovery grant programs as a source of leverage and provides additional points if the Continuum of Care is coordinating with specific HUD-managed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs. In addition, our application described how our Continuum of Care is coordinating with the ARRA Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program.
- HUD changed the scoring system in 2008 from 60 points to a 100 point scoring system. Generally, this was positive since it provides a better spread of points for specific criteria. The weight of specific criteria also changed. The scoring areas include strategic planning, data collection, as well as performance. The CoC "Performance Criteria" includes "stability" in Permanent Supported Housing (stays that are 6 months or more); percentage of participants moving from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing; and percentage of those exiting programs with income from employment. HUD has increased performance measurement goals. Our CoC performance is consistently above the HUD target goals.

Sales Tax Discussion

Bill gave an update on the Governor's budget, stating that it completely cut chemical dependency. \$7.6 billion out of a \$38 billion budget is touchable, the rest of the monies are mandated. The Governor has said that this is not an acceptable budget, we need revenue.

There has been some discussion of raising sales tax and receiving a sales tax rebate based on annual income. It would work much like the earned income credit for low income households. Nancy felt that this would be another benefit that excludes people whose only income is GAU & SSI.

Funders Group

HMIS – the HMIS team would like to provide a regular update on 3-5 targeted evaluation items that reflect the needs of and are aligned with the Funders Group dashboard. Definitions of terms in Safe Harbors queries need to be explicit, clear and aligned with Ten-Year plan definitions. 2010 contract language needs to be more specific. The HMIS/Coordinated Entry for Families workgroup will be convening to discuss the policy issues inherent around coordinated entry for families and the HMIS system.

Planning for funding expirations – the main topics of this discussion were additions to the fund expirations draft table, strategies/timeline, re-evaluation of the ten-year plan and next steps.

Planning for 2010 Meetings

IAC will be focusing on:

- Implementing the family system (Gates & coordinated entry)
- Getting more legislative support
- How do we get more involvement from mainstream systems?
- Emergency Shelter – the discussion of shelter vs. housing is being reviewed

The CAC can assist will preparing formal recommendations to IAC, FG and GB based on the focus groups and to keep the momentum of the 10-year plan going.

Jaclyn feels that the CAC can do more than what is being done behind the scenes. Bill suggested that the committee be more involved in the advocacy work that CEH is doing. CEH can always use more stories to accompany our successes and challenges. The stories need to carry the theme of “if you help it works”, people respond to overcoming adversity. Ariyetta said that hearing a positive story also could help a homeless person stay positive.

Everyone was asked to write up their personal story and email it to Laird.

Public Comment

None

January CAC Meeting

The next meeting, co-chaired by Blue and Latrice, will be Wednesday, January 20th at Plymouth Congregational Church, 6pm – 8:00pm.

On the agenda:

- Funding Renewals
- Governing Board Meeting
- Membership Recruitment
- IAC Representative Nominations

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff