

Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

July 15, 2009

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Blue
Jaclyn
Latrice
Margaret
Nancy

Absent:

Anthony
Christine
Daniel
Linda
Paul
Nina
Sheila

Community present:

Ariyetta
Bill
Kristine
Laird
Leta
Phyllis
Richard
Ronnie
Taylor

Welcome and Introduction.

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

Agenda and June 17, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment

Bill announced that he just came from the Seattle Housing Levy Kick-off. It will be on the ballot in November as the current 2002 Seattle Housing Levy expires at the end of 2009.

Since 1981, Seattle voters have approved one bond and three levies to create affordable housing. Seattle has now funded over 10,000 affordable apartments for seniors, low- and moderate-wage workers, and formerly homeless individuals and families, plus provided down-payment loans to more than 600 first-time homebuyers and rental assistance to more than 4,000 households.

Picnic Update/Planning

Kristine announced that shelter #1 at GasWorks Park has been reserved for the CAC picnic on August 19, 2009 from 6pm to 9pm. Bill suggested that stipends for attending the picnic not be paid out since no official CAC business will be conducted, however transportation stipends will be issued and the committee agreed. Invitations will be sent out and RSVP's are needed. CEH will be providing all the food and beverages.

Refugee and Immigrant Focus Group Planning

Kristine reported that REWA (Refugee Women's Alliance) has agreed to provide a space for the focus group, recruit participants and provide multi-lingual facilitators from their staff. We are waiting to hear REWA's proposed dates and times.

Included in the meeting packet was a list compiled by Kristine of questions asked at previous focus groups. It was asked that the group review the questions and suggest the three to five questions they feel are most important to ask the refugee and immigrant focus group. Latrice asked that they be provided with the long list of questions that the CAC came up with when they first started focus groups. Kristine agreed to follow up with an email sending everyone the questions.

Kristine also reported that in reviewing past meeting minutes, Margaret, Christine and Sheila had all volunteered to work on this focus group.

IAC Retreat Workplans

The updated workplans from the IAC retreat were included in the meeting packet and were reviewed by the committee. Bill answered questions from the members.

Nancy gave comment on the "Access to Existing Housing" workplan, specifically the systems change goal to maximize the use of rental subsidies through coordinated effort. Nancy feels centralizing is good and need to have someone to specialize in each community and/or population so people are not being referred to programs that they do not meet the criteria for.

Jaclyn commented that Portland is having issues with their centralized referral system. Unfortunately, some clients that are being asked to leave one program and then being denied by another program.

Latrice asked about the HMIS workplan that states the timeline to implement the coordinated entry function is late fall 2009. Will it happen? Bill said it appears that this goal is a bit behind.

Blue asked if coordinated entry is like a one stop drop-in center. It was described as more of a one stop screening, so that clients do not have to call each program individually. Screeners will be able to assess the client's needs and refer them to the proper programs.

Ronnie, a potential member from PSKS, asked about housing programs for people with criminal backgrounds since there is no statute of limitations it makes it difficult to find a place to rent. There also needs to be separation between minor and major offenders in a non-bleak environment. Bill replied that the landlord liaison program would cover individuals with criminal backgrounds and poor credit. Jaclyn shared her experience with the project and that she was denied because she was not homeless. Bill said that the landlord liaison project needed to start with just a few programs to ensure its success and work out the kinks. We are now working on expanding the program.

CAC Membership

Four potential members were in attendance and introduced. Taylor and Ariyetta are young single female parents from the eastside referred by Friends of Youth. Ronnie and Richard are males who have aged out of foster care and are not comfortable going to adult services referred by PSKS.

Nancy suggested that we reach out to car campers since that population is not represented on the committee. Bill said we can try, but we may have better luck recruiting car campers with someone who has been a car camper. Nancy thought "Sustainable Ballard" may help and will follow up.

Public Comment

Jaclyn made two announcements. First, PSKS had two clients pass away in the last month. Second, "Westlake Kids" approached PSKS for help, because the benches in Westlake park had been removed and they needed help protesting in an organized/productive way. PSKS is organizing a donut dialogue for the kids with the police and area businesses in August. The City of Seattle is sponsoring the event. They will be providing stipends and refreshments. A venue has not yet been determined. Bill suggested that they look into YWCA Opportunity Place.

September CAC Meeting

The August meeting will be the "CAC Family and Friends Picnic" at GasWorks Park with no official agenda. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th at Plymouth Congregational Church, 6pm - 8:00pm. On the agenda:

- HMIS
- McKinney
- Legislative Advocacy Breakfast Update

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin.