



Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

March 16, 2010

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Ariyetta	Dara
Anthony	Jaelyn
Daniel	Latrice

Members absent:

Blue
Margaret
Nancy

Community present:

Doug	Kristine
Joseph	Gretchen

Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order by Jaelyn and Anthony, serving as Co-Chairs, at 6:10pm. The February 17, 2010 minutes and March 16, 2010 agenda were reviewed and approved.

Public Comment

Jaelyn shared that she is attending the U-District meetings (U-District Conversation on Homelessness). Through the meeting, she has learned of the Wages program through the YMCA on Rainier (2100 – 24th Ave S) that provides paid internships and rental assistance.

Jaelyn also announced that on March 30 from noon to 1:30pm, census counters will be at PSKS to count their currently homeless clients. Please spread the word, the count is open to all.

LGBTQ Focus Group Summary

The LGBTQ focus group summary report was included in the meeting packet and reviewed. Jaelyn was a facilitator at the focus group and gave her input. She felt that it was good, though there was a small turn out which she thought was due to the location being difficult to find and access. There were two older women in her group which had been through a lot of the same housing programs. They shared that they have felt uncomfortable by staff and neighbors at times and would like to see specific housing. They also felt that Capital Hill was more for the younger LGBTQ population.

Feedback from GB, IAC, Funders Group

Gretchen gave updates on various committees under the CEH Umbrella.

Interagency Council: IAC recently discussed coordination of mainstream systems and planning for their retreat on May 3, 2010. Draft minutes of the March 1, 2010 IAC meeting, which includes notes on both discussions, were provided in the meeting packet.

Funders Group: Funders Group has been working on researching where the dollars are going in the homeless systems. There are some time-limited sources that will be expiring while other sources, such as the document recording fee, is lower due to less home sales. Examples of sources expiring include the Vets Levy at \$6.5 million annually if it is not refunded. The purpose of the work is to help prioritize funds in the upcoming NOFA, and answer related questions such as:

- What funding is at play in the coming year(s), given expiring and reducing funds and what is the anticipated “ask” among the projects applying this coming cycle?
- What services, populations, regions and program models are currently being funded, and do those remain our priorities or should any of those be shifted
- What are the implications of capital projects coming online this year? Should we continue to make capital investments given the demand for service dollars?

Single Adults: Single Adults committee heard a presentation on prevention and rapid re-housing and how single adults can access these services/programs. Dave Murphy, with KC Mental Health and Chemical Dependency provided an update on FACT, PACT and FISH – several of our intensive service and voucher programs for high needs adults. Results of those programs are well documented, and show reductions in use of related emergency services such as jails and emergency rooms (and costs associated with use of those systems.)

Jaclyn stated that she feels there needs to be more medical support for people in housing. She knew a diabetic on the streets who was supported by friends watching out for her who recognized the signs of her diabetes. Once she got into housing, she didn't have anyone watching out for her. She fell into a diabetic coma, and with no one there to observe her, she passed away.

Youth & Young Adults: YYA is working on developing a housing model, working around the concepts that Melinda Giovengo presented at the February 17, 2010 CAC meeting. Youth and young adults need a guided path (or stepping stones) into adulthood and independency. The YYA committee plans to educate the community on the housing model and language.

Families: Families Committee members have been providing feedback to the Gates Family Initiative and how to deliver it effectively, efficiently and be cost-effective.

Eastside: Eastside has a strong planning group that meets each month to coordinate delivery of services and planning on the eastside. They are researching expiring funding specific to eastside projects so they can plan for the impact on the eastside.

South County: Planners and providers heard a presentation on the HPRP (stimulus funds) Families Prevention project and how to refer clients to this new projected funded through stimulus funds. They also provided feedback on where and how homeless system needs to be better coordinated with mainstream systems.

Legislative Session Update

Jaclyn was happy to announce that she went to Olympia to lobby the Becca Bill be changed from an overnight shelter needing to notify parents of a child's location after 8 hours to now reporting after 72 hours.

Gretchen gave an update on actions that CEH has been following.

- Housing Trust Fund – still being negotiated, we are hoping for \$50 million to be restored.
- Churches will now be able to host a tent city; the bill is on the Governor's desk to be signed.
- There are still threats to GAU. The current bill in favor proposes a 24-month cap time limit with stronger connections to SSI or GAX. It may also provide a housing voucher program to new applicants who are mentally ill or chemically dependent and require DSHS to evaluate applicants.
- Tenant notice made no progress.

IAC Retreat

The IAC annual retreat will be held on May 3, 2010. This year's focus will be on three topics:

1. Main Stream Systems Coordination
2. Funding
3. How are we doing five years into the 10-Year Plan?

Gretchen asked CAC members, from their experiences, what services need to be coordinated. CAC members offered the following comments:

WorkFirst and WorkSource

WorkSource/WorkFirst need to be better coordinated. Time spent looking for a job while on WorkFirst may not count if you are utilizing resources at WorkSource even if the WorkSource is closer/easier to travel to.

Jaclyn said that her travel time didn't count either which was difficult. She was living in Auburn at the time travelling to mandated services in Seattle, with three hours of her day was spent on the bus.

Community College/Transitioning Off Assistance

Kristine shared her experience of attending community college as a single mother receiving assistance. She discussed how it would have made it easier to have a caseworker at the college or closer to the college to make scheduling appointments around classes easier. She did not receive any transportation assistance, she paid for it with her grant and scholarship money when there was enough left over after tuition and books. Kristine also discussed her struggles after graduation transitioning off of assistance to self-supporting. Her biggest hurdle was the lack of notice she would receive when a benefit was being reduced or stopped.

Latrice stated that now transitional food assistance is based on your income when assistance began and remains the same for the first six months after your income has increased.

SSI and Unemployment

Dan shared his experience with SSI. He was told he could work for one year and receive SSI. After he lost his job he began collecting unemployment while still receiving SSI. SSI told him that he owed them \$6,000 and they also contacted unemployment. He then had to have a trial with unemployment over the phone and it was determined he owed unemployment \$2,000.

Inmate Release and DSHS

Latrice said that the Department of Corrections inmates can apply for assistance 45 days prior to being released from incarceration. Inmates get denied and then need to go into a CSO office when they are released to start the application process over. The caseworkers and counselors at the jails should be able to assist them and get them approved by the time they are released so all they have to do is go to their CSO office to pick up their EBT instead of being released with no money and no assistance.

Schools and Services

Latrice feels there should be more social workers and services available in schools (K-12) to make it easier on parents. A lot of them are new to the system and can be embarrassed, or just don't know where to go.

Work Release and Housing

Jaclyn shared a PSKS client's experience on work release. He needed to look for a job to that provided continual structure and supervision to fulfill his requirements, so he couldn't accept a job that moved him around like cleaning parks or sweeping streets. But he was homeless, and had a difficult time trying to look for both employment and housing. With no housing it was difficult to stay clean while looking for employment.

Public Comment

Jaclyn announced that PSKS is celebrating their 15-year anniversary. They will be hosting their capital campaign in September and need event and table sponsors. Their goal is to raise enough money for their own center with space for the school and a day center that can be open more than 2 days a week.

April CAC Meeting

Gretchen announced that there is an Affordable Housing Stakeholder Forum on April 21 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Shoreline City Hall. It was proposed that we attend this forum in the place of the next CAC meeting and CAC members agreed. Gretchen noted that there may be opportunities to share insights into how the system is working and what types of supports are needed to help people who are homeless obtain and maintain housing. It will be important to provide this feedback from a place of encouraging policy makers and the community for being willing to look at issues of affordable and homeless housing, not cause discomfort for what they are not doing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff