



## Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

May 19, 2010

### Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Ariyetta	Daniel	Latrice
Anthony	Dara	Margaret
Blue	Jaclyn	

### Members absent:

Nancy
-------

### Community present:

Bill Block	Kristine Gullin
Gretchen Bruce	Matt Levin

### Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order by Jaclyn and Blue, serving as Co-Chairs, at 6:04pm. The March 16, 2010 minutes and May 19, 2010 agenda were reviewed and approved.

### Public Comment

Matt Levin with United Way of King County announced the Community Resource Exchange will be held September 24<sup>th</sup>. He would like to attend future CAC meetings to get feedback on planning for the event.

Blue had someone ask him if he knew anything about a recent survey regarding moving homeless people out of Seattle for the tourist season. Bill and Gretchen said they had not heard of such a survey being conducted.

Jaclyn announced that on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm PSKS will be holding a memorial for their clients and friends that they have lost.

Blue announced that a costume volleyball tournament is being organized for July at Alki Beach. Robin Hood will be the theme, Rich vs. Poor. Blue will share more details as they become final.

Latrice shared an announcement on a new healthcare plan that she received at work. Washington Health benefits are essentially the same as Basic Health, but with no state subsidy. Bill said that the plan is the State's election of universal coverage.

Kristine gave an update on Paul. He has recovered from his surgeries and is feeling up to joining the committee again. He will be attending the June meeting.

### North King County Housing Stakeholder Forum

Anthony was impressed with the forum though wondered why Seattle projects were left out (he later understood that they were only focusing on housing for north King County.) He really liked all the youth housing opportunities. Jaclyn thought it was great and was particularly interested in Community Psychiatric Clinic (CPC). She has since contacted CPC, and they may be bringing mental health services to PSKS once a week. Latrice was very excited to hear about the Landlord Liaison Project in the context of the forum, and the progress that the project has made. Bill shared that LLP wants to expand and might be ready to fund "landlord locator," an online tool that assists people in finding affordable rent. Bill asked the committee if they would be interested in attending more forums in lieu of regular meetings. Everyone agreed that that would be useful.

### IAC Retreat

Blue explained the retreated started with a review of the first 5-years of the plan and the progress we have made and what is happening in the next few years, then broke into groups. The afternoon sessions focused on connecting with mainstream systems – especially public schools and DSHS/child welfare, and how we can work together to stabilize families. Melinda Dryer, Program Manager, Homeless Children and Youth / Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions; Denise Revels Robinson, Director, Children's Administration / DSHS; and Casey Trupin, staff attorney for at-risk and foster youth / Columbia Legal Services were invited to partake in the conversation.

School districts are required by McKinney-Venter to provide services to homeless students such as free breakfast and lunch; transportation to and from their school of origin (even if staying outside the school's boundaries); and immediate enrollment even without transcripts. However, they have very little training and funding to do so, and so these services often fall through the cracks.

Child Welfare services are another area where CEH can help reach out to homeless families. Forty-one percent of the child welfare system clients have been homeless within a year prior to entering the system, 30% of their clients become homeless a year after entering the system. This will be an important focus area in the coming year.

### **Funders Group**

The Funders Group has been working on the NOFA Priorities which historically has prioritized services and housing for chronically homeless individuals. However there is not as much service money this year and so the focus this year is less on chronic homelessness and more on families and services. The top priorities for the NOFA are to continue to provide service funding to projects that have a contractual requirement to serve homeless individuals and need service dollars to do so; increase (proportionately) the number of capital projects serving single adults, families and young adults; and begin the next phase of family homeless planning

Bill shared that the Funders Group is also refining their annual workplan, and will add several new strategies:

1. Increasing collaboration with mainstream systems
2. Coordination with the five-year plan to end veteran's homelessness
3. Implementation of the full Gates homeless families initiative
4. Restructuring services funding to increase flexibility and efficiencies

Bill then asked Blue to describe his job at Plymouth Housing Group. Blue said he likes the job, but wonders how we can help residents become more self sufficient. New residents are given so much attention when they first move in and as they get better and stronger they receive less attention from the workers. He suggested that more social activities and other strengths-based offerings would help residents and assure fewer relapses.

### **Governing Board**

Bill discussed the agenda for the Governing Board meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on the NOFA priorities, the 2010/2011 Funders Group workplans (described above), and the impact of federal budget cuts for housing over the last 30 years, and how the Governing Board can be involved in helping to advocate for increased resources. Bill shared that the Federal housing budget is less than half of what it was in 1978.

The group discussed the results of changes to GAU as required by this 2010 legislative session. GAU has been changed to Disability Life Line and is limited to 24 months every five years. If it is determined that the recipient needs treatment (substance abuse), they are required to attend to maintain benefits. They have also changed the monthly allowance of \$360 a month to \$50 and a housing voucher. The hope is to encourage people to not live on DLL and to enroll in GAX.

### **Alaska Consumer Advisory Council**

Gretchen shared that she has been working with delegates from Alaska on forming their own Consumer Advisory Council. She asked for feedback on what works (or doesn't) within the structure of the CAC and what advice members might have to a new CAC that is forming. The Committee's response:

- Members – a good blend of members with a respect of culture, varying experiences with homelessness and the system, a passion for the issue and devoted.
- Meetings – provide food, stipends, and childcare. Meetings need to be productive and consistently on the same day, time and safe place every month.
- Leadership – members should be trained in meeting facilitation and are able to run their own meetings with all organization staff present. Members and staff should work together to create committee rules, charter and monthly agendas.

### **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.

### **June CAC Meeting**

Plymouth Congregational Church's needs our meeting space on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and so our meeting time will be 6pm-7pm. On the agenda for June:

- United Ways' Community Resource Exchange update
- Focus Group Brainstorm – ideas for the next focus group, such as the mental health or chemical dependency populations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff