



## Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

October 19, 2010

### Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Anthony	Dara	Margaret
Blue	Jaclyn	Paul
Daniel	Latrice	

### Members absent:

Ariyetta	Nancy

### Community present:

Bill Block	Van Crowder
Gretchen Bruce	Kristine Gullin

### Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Latrice. The September 15 minutes were reviewed and approved.

### Public Comment

Jaclyn announced that PSKS is accepting donations of formal wear for their clients to wear to the PSKS fund raising dinner on October 23 at Westlake.

Blue announced that Plymouth Housing Group is currently hiring for various positions.

### Feedback from Governing Board, Funders Group and Interagency Council

#### ***Governing Board***

The Governing Board will meet on October 27. The agenda includes approving the 2011 legislative agenda, discussing the federal strategic plan with Jim McDermott, engagement of the Governing Board, mid-plan review and selected work plan reports.

#### ***Funders Group***

The Funders have been focusing on the mainstream coordination with children's administration work plan. They are working with child administration to help them partner with housing authorities to increase access to housing and services to better stabilize families.

United Way of King County has completed a report on a YYA investment plan. It was discussed how to coordinate their efforts with the K-12/CPS mainstream coordination plans.

#### ***IAC***

The IAC had a presentation at the September 13 meeting given by Someireh Amirfaiz, Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), on immigrant and refugee's vulnerability to and experiences of homelessness, and current best practices for helping this population.

At the IAC October 4 meeting, heard a report on the Landlord Liaison Project. They are currently only placing clients with a year of case management. The LLP evaluation report for the project's first year was included in the meeting packet. The role of the IAC within CEH activities was also discussed and how the IAC can be more productive.

Bill suggested that the CAC may want to also discuss their current role and if they want to take on projects in addition to focus groups.

### Mid-Plan Review

Reviewed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Mid-Plan Review Scope of Work. The questions being asked are:

1. What do we want?
2. What have we done?
3. What haven't we done?
4. What does it take to end homelessness?

Members discussed whether people choose homelessness. One member stated he doesn't think people choose to be homeless. He was never homeless until he came to Washington to accept a job, which fell through. He was clueless as to where to go for help and had to learn the system which caused him to slide back even further. He applauds what we're doing under the Ten Year Plan. Another member shared that it's his experience that some people do choose to be homeless. This member was able to maintain his job and apartment despite his habit but felt that because he had an apartment, he was "better" than his friends because they were on the streets. He made the choice to join his friends.

He decided one day that he had had enough and went to Harborview and asked for treatment for his addiction. He walked out 30-days later sober.

Members next discussed how to make use of resources that don't appear to be fully utilized. One member wondered why churches, parking garages, etc, don't open at night to allow homeless people to lay their mats out for the night and with the use of volunteers it would be cost effective. Another member noted that she used to think the same way until she worked for a shelter and understood everything that went into running one; volunteers would very likely be ill-equipped to handle the stuff that can happen.

Bill reported that, as it relates to emergency shelter, Mayor McGinn formed a committee to decide whether to give Nickelsville a permanent home. Bill noted that one challenge of creating additional emergency shelter is that the goal of the Ten Year Plan is to end homelessness (e.g. create permanent housing) and funding constraints limit what we can build.

Members asked why there aren't more prevention programs so that people don't become homeless in the first place. Bill noted that there are several prevention programs available, but it is hard to really figure out who will become homeless vs. who is just facing a rough patch, and so targeting enrollment becomes the tricky issue.

### **Focus Group**

Gretchen gave an update on the LLP focus group planning and briefly reviewed the Evaluation Report for the Landlord Liaison Project's first year. (The LLP Evaluation Report dated August 2010 was included in the meeting materials.)

The LLP project is going well, and the evaluation report states that it is highly valued by landlords, providers and clients. 85% of the landlords state they would not have rented to LLP clients without the LLP supports being in place. In fact, the major concern that landlords have is that they wish LLP had more tenants to refer to them. LLP has placed 407 households with some 750+ individuals, where the goal was to have placed 250 households by now.

As it relates to the focus group, Gretchen has contacted LLP and they have agreed to assist with recruiting clients / participants to the focus group; the goal is to have 12-15 clients participate. The majority of their clients live in south King County. We will plan to host the focus group in south King County in the evening on either November 8, 9, or 10.

Members volunteered for the planned focus groups.

LLP Clients – Latrice, Dara and Margaret

Service Providers – Jaclyn

Homeless with Disabilities – Paul, Anthony, Daniel

### **November CAC Agenda**

On the agenda for October:

- Focus group recap
- State cuts
- Vote on new IAC representative

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff