



Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

January 19, 2011

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Anthony	Jaclyn	Margaret
Blue	Latrice	Paul
Dara	Nancy	

Members absent:

Ariyetta	Daniel
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Community present:

Bill Block	Griffith Ehler	Rachel Weber
Gretchen Bruce	Kristine Gullin	

Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Latrice. The December 15, 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Public Comment

Jaclyn handed announced the PSKS Squatters One Night Count on January 27 9pm to January 28 9am. This event is open to all ages and PSKS will be providing dinner, breakfast and gifts. The U-District will be having a similar event at Teen Feed from 9pm to 6am with an age limit.

Blue announced that he has started attending Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH).

Feedback from Governing Board, Funders Group and Interagency Council

The IAC did not meet in January. They commented via email on the draft of the updated charters for the Funders Group and IAC.

The Funders Group discussed the State budget cuts and how people will be affected. Deborah Doyle, DCHS, announced that 7,000 families will lose their TANF benefits due to meeting the new 60-month benefit time limit. The Funders also heard about changes to HMIS to improve data quality. The January 10 Funders Group meeting summary was included in the CAC meeting packet.

Legislative Breakfast

Members of the CAC that attended the breakfast were Blue, Jaclyn, Latrice with Dara as a speaker. The total attendance was about 100 people with 10 of them being legislators. Feedback from attendees was all positive and Dara received a standing ovation for her speech.

Homeless Housing Advocacy Day

Gretchen announced that Homeless Housing Advocacy Day is scheduled for February 14 this year. She asked that anyone wanting to attend and in need of a ride contact her via email or phone by February 10. She plans to leave downtown about 7:30am. This is an all day event.

Mid-Plan Review

Gretchen gave an update on the Mid-Plan Review process. The purpose of the Mid-Plan Review is to decide on the key things we need to do in the next 3-5 years and celebrate our accomplishments. In preparation for a very transparent charrette process, a steering committee has started meeting to brainstorm potential policy questions:

- What have we accomplished to date? What is left undone? Why haven't we made more progress? What can we realistically hope to achieve in the next five years given current funding?
- Is a separate coordinated intake system needed for immigrants and refugees?
- How is the emergency shelter system working – are people languishing, using multiple shelters, able to exit and find housing?
- What priorities are emerging from the federal strategic plan and how / where do we need to align with it?
- What should we do over the next five years related to young adult housing and services?
- How do we need to refine our performance measures?
- What is an appropriate performance measure related to political will? Is there a societal obligation to end homelessness, or stated another way: is our community willing to accept a certain level of homelessness?)
- Should we be doing more prevention? What does that look like? What are the costs?
- How are other systems contributing to homelessness, and what changes do we need to be advocating for outside of the homeless system?

CAC members then brainstormed their ideas:

- Shelters need to evaluate their criteria – how to help people who don't qualify?
- How do we catch disabled people before they are homeless? How do we target them?
- How do we move forward with Ten Year Plan if government funding keeps getting cut?
- How can more resources be available upon discharge from institutions?
- How can providers make programs more effective?
- How can we assure that legal immigrants don't become a growing homeless population
- How do we build a better relationship with legislators? How do we encourage them to visit their districts and see the homeless?

Frontline Staff Focus Group Planning

A list of potential questions to ask staff from providers was brainstormed and included:

- What would you change? What works, what doesn't as far as services?
- Are you receiving enough information/communication? How do you hear of resources to provide to clients?
- Has your manager discussed the current budget cuts and how your organization will be affected?
- Would you use a social network for homeless providers to announce what you have available? To research what other providers have available?
- What do you need to provide better customer service? To help your clients get out of homelessness?
- What is the biggest need you see?
- Do you see a pattern in your agency with the homeless? Certain population at different times of the year? More or less at other times of the year?

The target recruitment will be 16-18 participants from various programs with varying clientele from youth to single adults and families. Some suggested organizations to recruit from are:

- Roots
- Orion
- Downtown Senior Center
- Teen Feed
- Lambert House
- North Helpline
- DESC
- First Place
- Valley Cities
- Lazarus
- Angeline's
- Needle Exchange

IAC Nominations

A vote was held to nominate Ariyetta and Dara to the IAC splitting the duties. Ariyetta would attend the eastside and south county meetings and Dara would attend the Seattle meetings. The result was unanimous to have Ariyetta and Dara be representatives.

February CAC Agenda

On the agenda for February:

- Mid-plan review brainstorm
- One Night Count January 28
- Focus group planning – recruitment points
- Vote on new CAC representative to the IAC

Public Comment

No public comment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff