



Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

March 15, 2011

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Anthony	Jaclyn	Nancy	Margaret
Ariyetta	Daniel	Paul	

Members absent:

Blue	Dara	L atrice
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Community present:

Gretchen Bruce	Kristine Gullin	James Wlos
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Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Anthony. The January 19, 2011 minutes were reviewed and approved.

One Night Count

The one night count of unsheltered people showed an 11% decrease in street count. Gretchen noted that early reports show a slight increase in the shelter count, bringing the overall one night count to a 4% decrease in 2011 over 2010.

Feedback from Governing Board, Funders Group and Interagency Council

Gretchen gave a summary of what was discussed at the March Funders Group meeting:

- New HEARTH performance standards may be fairly strict and will affect how we measure and provide services. For instance, we have heard that the national goal for shelter stay may be as little as 10 days, though we await final.
- Vets and Human Services Levy is up for renewal. This levy assesses \$.05 per \$1,000 of property valuation, and brings in \$13 million for housing and services, much of it spent in alignment with strategies under the 10YP.
- An idea that came out of the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Oakland, CA. The idea would be for people with vouchers to pay more (e.g., up to 50% of their income) towards rent instead of 30%, which would allow housing authorities to assist more people. Gretchen asked CAC members for their thoughts on this proposal. CAC members thought it reasonable to increase household contribution if it meant serving more people was good. The feedback heard included:
 - People get comfortable and don't move forward
 - There were two thoughts for how this would affect those who are very low income. On the one hand, among those with very low income, the increase from 30% to 50% hardly changes rent amount. On the other hand, these are the people lease able to afford it. Perhaps increase contribution rates only after household income has reached a certain threshold.
 - Maybe set contribution rate at 40% instead of 50%

Jaclyn summarized the February 23, 2011 Governing Board meeting (minutes were included in meeting packet). The latest Safe Harbors report was review and Jaclyn feels the report is coming along and starting to make sense. The Board also heard a Mid Plan Review update and the One Night Count report.

Nancy summarized March 7, 2011 IAC meeting which included:

- Mid Plan Review charrette topic brainstorming
- Presentation on housing and services for veterans in King County and the five year plan to end veteran homelessness
- Watched the 60 Minutes segment recently televised on family homelessness and its effect on kids

Legislative Update

Gretchen gave a brief update on a few specific legislative bills.

- The Housing Trust Fund is usually around \$100 million and has, at times, been as high as \$200 million. In 2012, we will be lucky to have it funded it at \$40 million. In most of the state, this money is used towards low income working force housing. Nancy feels that this is pitting the homeless against the working poor. She stated her opinion that we should discontinue funding so much permanent supportive housing, and create basic housing without attached housing – that the need for most people is just housing. Jaclyn noted that it's her experience that we still need both. She sees a lot of people at PSKS who still need supportive housing, though she agreed that we need to ramp up production of basic housing significantly.
- The group discussed the proposal to allow telephonic consent, and concern over how the data is collected and shared. Gretchen noted that if we are to increase participation, perhaps the conversation with clients needs to be less about "will you share your data" and more about "this is how we protect your data".

April CAC Agenda

On the agenda for April: 1) Mid Plan Review charrette update and 2) Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff