

Funders Group Meeting Summary

November 09, 2009

3:30 – 5pm

Funders Group Members Present:		Funders Group members absent:
Emily Leslie	Alan Painter	Jason Johnson
Jackie MacLean	Adrienne Quinn	Stephen Norman
David Okimoto	David Wertheimer	Arthur Sullivan
		Tom Tierney

Funders Group Representatives/Staff Present:		
Bill Block	Katie Miller	Sola Plumacher
Lisa Cipollone-Wolters	Kollin Min	Amnon Shoenfeld
Laird Heia	Linda Peterson	Debbi Thiele
Cheryl Markham		

Welcome and Updates

Jackie MacLean, Chairperson of the Committee to End Homelessness Funders Group opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and asked for updates.

Adrienne Quinn, City of Seattle Office of Housing announced that the Seattle Housing Levy passed with the largest margin ever at 65%.

HMIS

The HMIS team would like to provide a regular update on 3 – 5 targeted evaluation items that reflect the needs of and are aligned with the Funders Group dashboard. They are currently soliciting input on what those items should be. Sola presented potential queries for the team's consideration. A few of these are:

1. Number of agencies and programs represented in the Safe Harbors Data set.
2. Average length of stay in each program type (Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Safe Haven (SH)), excluding SSO.
3. Number of clients moving from one housing or service type to another – from ES to TH or ES to PSH or TH to PSH.
4. Recidivism of households returning to shelter.

Discussion:

- Definitions of terms in Safe Harbors queries need to be explicit, clear, and aligned with Ten-Year plan definitions.
- The HMIS compliance language currently used in funding contracts states that agencies must have 80 percent of complete client entry data in Safe Harbors and 50 percent exit data. This language is too loose. 2010 contract language needs to be more specific.
- David Wertheimer announced the Gates Foundation and Building Changes will convene the HMIS/Coordinated Entry for Families workgroup. The team will include:
 - Jackie MacLean, KCDCHS
 - David Okimoto, UWKC
 - Sola Plumacher, City/HMIS
 - Alan Painter, City/Human Services
 - Debbi Knowles, KC Family Homelessness Project
 - Pierce and Snohomish Counties
 - DSHS
 - Dept. of Commerce

Together, this group will discuss the policy issues inherent around coordinated entry for families and the HMIS system.

Adrienne Quinn, City of Seattle, Office of Housing recommended including a representative with a permanent housing background, specifically Debbie Thiele, City of Seattle, Office of Housing. The housing authorities should also be included.

Planning for Funding Expirations

Jackie framed the discussion of evaluation process development for the future funding expirations/renewals by first identifying the resources provided in the Funders Group materials.

Document Resources Review

The "Principles for Decision Making" document was developed by the IAC and Funders Group. It provides guiding principles for homeless funding and decision factors for both renewals and reapplications in funding rounds.

Second is a tasks list and draft timeline for accomplishing these tasks including:

1. Establishing categories to be evaluated
2. Identifying the funding sources that will be involved in the process
3. Establishing the criteria that will be used
4. Establishing the scoring valuations
5. Actual scoring and
6. Managing the fall out.

The timeline completes by the 2010 NOFA when the PACT/FACT grant runs out.

The third document outlines potential policy, implementation and system criteria and can serve as a jumping off point to begin the discussion.

Lastly, is the fund expirations draft table that includes:

- Fund Source
- Project/program funded and use of funds
- Start and End dates
- Use of unexpended dollars for extension
- Constraints on renewal
- Other Funds in the Project
- Constraints on other funds
- Potential replacement funds
- Existing contingency plan for non-renewal of funds

Discussion about additions to the fund expiration draft table

- Dollars need to be added to the table
- Vets and Human Services Levy will be on the ballot November 2011
- Family and Education Levy will be on the ballot in November 2011
- Need to add Seattle Housing Authority and Sound Families
- We need to look at capital and services/operating dollars and define them all as all pieces of the puzzle need to be evaluated at the same time in order to determine where the renewal needs and long term funding needs are.
- We need to look at the complete, full funding list and then look at individual programs.

Strategies/timeline discussion:

- Consider tiering all strategies that are agreed upon – for example: Tier 1 – Great strategies; Tier 2 – OK strategies and Tier 3 – Not so sure.

- The timeline shows three trips to the IAC for review. The evaluation/decision making process needs to be transparent but perhaps three reviews are a bit overdone.
- Knowing the projects' evaluation status will help in the plan development for future levies.

Determining the overall dollar amount we're dealing with, defining the details on the strings attached to specific fund sources, and knowing their evaluation rating is necessary before we go further in the evaluation process.

Re-Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan

We need to consider how the evaluation plans tie in with the re-evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan. If there are significant changes, do we go about our work differently and need to re-evaluate our focus areas? Are we done with Housing First?

Next steps for funding expiration work

1. Develop an inventory of projects currently funded.
2. Bundle projects by category and sub categories.
3. Develop a checklist of common demographics for each project e.g. dollar amount, when current funding expires, who holds contract type of money, whether it is a best practice or notable in some way.
4. Provide some view of performance for each project based on the current contract deliverables (knowing that there may be apples and oranges here so a common view for all won't be possible).
5. Provide this information several years out.
6. Complete documents by Wednesday, January 6 for circulation as the Funders Group meeting is the following Tuesday, January 12th.

The team to pull this information together includes: Cheryl Markham (lead), Katy Miller, Debbie Thiele, Judy Summerfield, Kristen Winkel, Lisa Cipollone-Wolters, Sola Plumacher, Neil Powers and Bill Block.

If we do this right, there will be cuts. We need to be prepared to inform the City and County Councils, Mayor and Executive of likely project cuts well ahead of time.

Shelter Discussion

David Okimoto requested that a conversation about the need for shelter be included in the agenda. Jackie complied.

Per David, based on National and local data, there appears to be more demand for shelter beds. UWKC is interested in developing a shelter needs survey to gather data on this subject and asked who might be interested in participating.

Katy Miller stated that many HPRP projects are targeting families and are already gathering some of this data. There was discussion about the need for a clearer understanding of what the survey questions might be. Once this information is clarified, David may convene a team for further discussion to include Sola Plumacher, Katy Miller, Carole Antoncich, and Andrea Akita.

Budget Issues

- Dow Constantine takes office as the new King County Executive on November 24th. King County will likely see the budget striker on Thursday, November 19th and the Council will adopt the budget on Monday, November 23rd.

Submitted by Laird Heia, CEH Staff