

Funders Group Meeting Summary

September 15, 2009

3:30 – 5pm

TFG Members present:		TFG members absent:
Jason Johnson	Adrienne Quinn	Jackie MacLean
Emily Leslie	Arthur Sullivan	Alan Painter
Stephen Norman	Tom Tierney	David Wertheimer
David Okimoto		
Funders Group Reps/Staffers Present:		
Bill Block	Cheryl Markham	Judy Summerfield
Lorri Cox	Katie Miller	
Eileen Denham	Linda Peterson	
Laird Heia	Sola Plumacher	
Debbi Knowles	Bill Rumpf	
Sara Levin	Kate Speltz	

Welcome and Updates

In Jackie's absence, Bill reviewed the agenda and made additional comments:

- The funding elements of respite are coming together, and anyone with outstanding requests on respite is urged to fund them.
- At the September IAC meeting it was made clear that the Youth and Young Adult community do not feel wholly included in CEH's efforts. Should the Funders Group consider having a discussion around defining a specific youth/young adult focus item?

Discussion: potential youth focus

KCHA, as mentioned in previous meetings, is very willing to put vouchers on the table for youth if the services are provided.

Linda Peterson relayed that a meeting had recently occurred around unaccompanied youth within the scope of systems integration in County systems which also included DCHS, CPS, JRA, Juvenile detention, jails, the sheriff and others. She will keep us informed of their progress.

UWKC has put \$100,000 towards ending youth prostitution and, with the City and County combining resources, will be adding an additional \$175,000-\$350,000 towards services to homeless youth. These dollars can be used for the Youth and Young adult population and we should consider the possibility of matching these service funds with KCHA's housing vouchers.

Other discussion focused around the unused youth beds in current programs which make it difficult to warrant additional funding when all the beds and services currently available to the Youth and Young Adult community are not fully utilized. We need to evaluate current programs to ensure the dollars are being used effectively before placing more money towards this effort.

The outcome of the discussion was to focus on the current work plan priorities, to educate IAC members on the UWKC work and funding, the KCHA offer of short term section 8 vouchers plus the Systems Integration Committee work.

Adrienne and Bill will be meeting with Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare in the near term to continue the discussion.

McKinney-Vento Funding

Kate Speltz, King County and Eileen Denham, City of Seattle, presented current information on the McKinney funding issues. At the previous meeting, Kate and Eileen briefed the group on the

background and history of McKinney funding and gave a synopsis of where we are to date. These details can be found in the August meeting summary.

Update:

The City and County are currently on hold until the draft HUD regulations come out in November and the final regulations come out in May 2010. There has been a decision from HUD stating there will be no regulation changes for the 2009 funding round. However, it is still very clear that the HMIS system's ability to track performance expectation outcomes will be of great importance in the future.

Specifically, HMIS data that captures:

- Reductions in the length of time persons are homeless
- Repeat episodes of homelessness
- Thoroughness in reaching homeless persons
- Reductions in the number of homeless persons
- Jobs and income growth

ACTION: City and County McKinney staff would like the assistance of IAC members to be part of focus groups to address the upcoming changes in regulations and would like to begin pulling these groups together later this year.

It was clear from the September IAC meeting that IAC members understand the difficult funding decisions the Funders Group will be making over this next year. The need for clear priorities in the decision making process is of utmost importance and needs to be finalized soon.

HMIS

Bill Block framed the discussion by asking Sola to discuss the challenges HMIS is facing and what help the Funders Group can provide. HMIS also needs to hear from the Funders Group, the types of reporting the funders need.

Discussion: Communications

Sola Plumacher, City of Seattle, HMIS Program Manager discussed the communication challenge: what is being said about the effectiveness of the data and the support of the HMIS system on the ground floor vs. the director level. There is strong communication at the contract level; for example, within King County, Kate Speltz (McKinney manager) and Katie Miller (HHSF fund manager) are in close contact with their providers, encouraging them to get the data into Safe Harbors.

ACTIONS: The Funders Group agreed to:

- Call their contract monitors to encourage compliance
- Place the hard data (and potentially embarrassing data to the provider) in front of the IAC on a monthly basis with the purpose of educating the director level on the data their agency is providing to HMIS.
- The SHUG group meets quarterly. The Funders Group will encourage their contract monitors who are at the table to review the compliance data.

Discussion: Reporting

We are up against the challenge of conflicting priorities – Coordinated Entry vs. data integration. It appears that the HMIS system is not technically capable of providing both options. That said, we need to review the possibility of a business practice shift. Sola will be meeting next week with Shala Aly, Microsoft, to discuss this issue. The primary reporting question the Funders Group responded with was: What is the inflow of homeless individuals and what is the outflow (successfully housed).

ACTION: Provide Sola with additional reporting questions.

Work Plan Updates:

The work plans were reviewed and discussed.

Discussion: Production: We need to communicate to everyone what the Housing Levy and the Housing Trust Fund really mean and what happens if they go away. The Housing Levy is the **renewal** of an existing levy that currently funds many of our current programs. The Housing Trust Fund is a great leveraging tool, providing an additional \$4 dollars for every Housing Trust Fund dollar. It also creates construction jobs.

ACTION: Clear messaging needs to be disseminated by the Funders Group and the Governing Board on these two fund sources.

Planning for Funding Expirations:

Cheryl Markham, HCD Program Manager is pulling together the data to show where the capital funding expirations are occurring. Katie Miller, DCHS, provided the funding timeline for Operating, Service and Rental Assistance Award renewals. In this case, there will be continued funding, though a lesser pot to draw from.

Discussion:

Q: Do we have projections of decreased recording fees and therefore some understanding of which and how many projects won't be funded?

Q: How do we evaluate current projects regardless of funding?

Q: If the VHS Levy and MIDD funding can't supplant the decrease in recording fees we could face an even more serious problem.

Q: The question of defunding a program needs to be looked at in terms of additional taxpayer costs due to cutting of programs.

C: We've learned a great deal over the last 5 years. Our earlier goals and priorities need another look through this more experienced and educated lense.

Q: Should we keep service funding in place?

Q: Should we fund rental assistance and not services?

Q: How do we determine priority based on state funding or lack thereof?

Q: As we prioritize, consider population focus changes where less service dollars are needed.

Q: We need to be confident in the fall funding round for capital that dollars for services will follow.

C: This discussion is important and needs additional time and same structure provided for the next discussion.

ACTION: Bill Block will pull together the general categories of discussion for the next Funders Group meeting.

Next FG agenda items:

Have a thorough discussion on the impact of potential services and capital funding renewals and the importance of developing clear, consistent priorities when making funding decisions for future years.

Submitted by Laird Heia, CEH Staff