

Funders Group Meeting Summary

October 12, 2010

Funders Group Members Present:		Funders Group members absent:
Jackie MacLean	Stephen Norman	David Okimoto
Arthur Sullivan	Emily Leslie	Rick Hooper
Dannette Smith	David Wertheimer	
Alice Shobe	Jason Johnson	
Deborah Doyle	Tom Tierney	
Funders Group Representatives/Staff Present:		
Bill Block	Cheryl Markham	Lisa Cipollone
Gretchen Bruce	Katy Miller	Debbie Thiele
Sara Levin	Andrea Akita	
Kollin Min	Vince Matulionis	

Welcome and Updates

Jackie MacLean, Funders Group Chair, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting summary from September 2010 was reviewed and accepted.

Safe Harbors Implementation

Dannette shared her background and leadership style in her role as director of Seattle HSD. She noted that she has spent considerable time in her first month learning about Safe Harbors and its capabilities and challenges. She has made a personal commitment to make sure that Safe Harbors has the support and leadership it needs to ensure data quality and accurate reporting, and has convened a small workgroup to assist with this effort. Dannette has set three main goals for the functioning and use of Safe Harbors: 1) availability of good data, 2) analysis of this data 3) and use of the data to inform policies and strategies. She anticipates holding a stakeholder meeting in mid-November to lay out her findings and plan for going forward. She values an open door policy and invited everyone to call her directly on this, or any, matter as she looks forward to building strong working relationships across the region.

Role of the IAC in CEH Activities

Members agreed that the discussion at the IAC meeting on the role of the IAC and other advisory bodies within CEH was productive. The most important issue seems to be providing clarity on which decisions are (should be) made by which body, and doing a better job of identifying critical decision points on the horizon so that the various advisory bodies can weigh in. Funders Group members agreed to review workplans in the coming months to identify upcoming decision points in order to relay these to the IAC and seek feedback at important junctures.

Mid Plan Review

Bill noted that the consultant review panel selected Corporation for Supportive Housing as consultant to our Mid Plan Review, and Heather Lyons will serve as CSH's lead to the project. Heather has considerable experience with local plans, having served as the project director to Portland's Ten-Year Plan for its first three years. For the last two years, she's been with CSH and served on the invitation-only advisory group to inform the Federal Strategic Plan on Ending Homelessness. The Mid Plan Review will be organized around three products (borrowing from the framework of the Families Homeless Initiative): a Landscape Assessment, Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan. Bill noted the Review process will need to be streamlined and organized to move through these three stages in time for May 2011 Governing Board meeting while also identifying and allowing for an appropriate level of community input.

Members generally agreed that the review process and resulting strategic plan and implementation plan should not, necessarily, be a consensus type document that satisfies all stakeholders. Rather it needs to clearly state the top priorities for the coming three to five years, even at the expense of other opportunities. It also needs to be bold about the

level of investment that is needed to end homelessness or, barring that, what we can reasonably expect to accomplish with the resources at hand.

State Block Granting of Various Funding Streams

Cheryl Markham and Katy Miller reported that the State of Washington, through the Department of Commerce, has communicated an intent to block grant several state homeless housing and services funding streams to counties. They first began discussing the idea in late 2009, and in early July released two documents for review and comment: 1) draft guidelines, and 2) draft administrative requirements. The County convened a stakeholder's group that included mental health providers, housing and shelter providers, suburban cities planners, City of Seattle staff, coalition for the homeless members, and others to review the documents and submit comments. This group provided considerable feedback, which Katy used to draft an email that she sent to the State detailing general support for a block grant with specific comments regarding issues that will need to be resolved. Alice noted that Building Changes has also met with the State and provided similar feedback.

One of the issues King County staff raised in the comments is the timing and the difficulty of getting contracts in place by July 2011 under a new system if the process does not proceed rapidly. As a result, the block granting may be put on hold for 2011 or, if it goes forward, perhaps only certain funding streams will be included while the State retains management of others. Cheryl and Katy will provide an update at the next Funders Group meeting.

Housing Authority Applications for Housing Vouchers

Stephen Norman and Tom Tierney reported on recent applications to HUD for housing vouchers, which in several instances has moved to a lottery system for awarding vouchers. As an example, KCHA & SHA applied for 400 FUP and disability vouchers, and will receive 108. They also noted that the hoped-for vouchers under the Federal Strategic Plan are rolling out much slower than anticipated, and come with various restrictions that make it challenging to acquire / use them. In essence, they shared that local partners can expect that it will continue to be a challenge to obtain the necessary numbers of vouchers we need to support the strategies under the Ten Year Plan. Members wondered whether this would be a good item for discussion at the Governing Board. The influence of the Governing Board could be helpful in communicating that a solid foundation of homeless housing supports at the federal level is necessary for the success of the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness as well as local plans.

Governing Board meeting October 27, 2010

Members suggested agenda items for the upcoming Governing Board. Suggestions included:

- Reports on the state cuts, especially DSHS, and the impacts on local programs that serve homeless individuals
- Report on the Veterans Plan and the need to better coordinate efforts under the State and Local plan to end veteran's homelessness. One suggestion was to nominate the head of the VA to the Governing Board, with a request that he appoint a local veteran leader to also sit in the IAC.
- Updates on the various workplans (to be included in the Board Packet, even if not specifically reported on.)
- Highlights of the recent series of stories and reports by the Journalism Fellows on family homelessness
- Short conversation with the Governing Board members about what type of structure / communication they would like to see (similar to the conversation the IAC is holding within its membership.)

The next Funders Group meeting is Monday, November 8th at 3:30 in Chinook 115.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm. Meeting summary drafted by Gretchen Bruce, CEHKC Staff.