

Funders Group Meeting Summary

May 17, 2010

Funders Group Members Present:		Funders Group members absent:	
Jackie MacLean	Judy Summerfield	Jason Johnson	Arthur Sullivan
David Okimoto	Emily Leslie	Deborah Doyle	Stephen Norman
Alice Shobe	David Wertheimer	Debbie Thiele	Tom Tierney

Funders Group Representatives/Staff Present:		
Bill Block	Cheryl Markham	Debbi Knowles
Gretchen Bruce	Katy Miller	Marty Lindley
Neil Powers	Andrea Akita	Alan Painter

Welcome and Updates

Jackie MacLean, Funders Group Chair, welcomed members, reviewed the agenda and asked for updates.

Funding Expiration Policy Choices / RFP Criteria

The group reviewed and discussed the revised 2010 NOFA Policy Decisions document that was developed as a rework of the previous week’s discussion. It included proposed funding priorities, broken out by Capital and Operating/Services/Rental, and possible implications of setting each of the various priorities.

In the document, capital priorities include:

1. Continue with a commitment to chronically homeless single adults, but fund fewer capital projects for chronically homeless populations than in previous rounds, recognizing that new capital project(s) will have future service and/or operating needs beginning 2012/2013, anticipated to be especially lean years unless new resources are found.
2. Fund at least one disability lifeline capital project in order to leverage state trust fund set-aside (single adult population), recognizing that capital project will have future service and/or operating needs beginning 2012/2013.
3. Prioritize a high service need project in N/E King County, recognizing that depending on local priorities, the project may be capital (future operating and services needs) or scattered site (immediate operating and service needs)
4. For moderate to low service needs projects, prioritize projects that will maximize the overall functioning of the system, such as creation of rapid re-housing and housing a portion of tenants stepping down from high service need projects

Service, Operating and Rental Assistance priorities included:

1. Ensure previously funded capital projects with a contract obligation to provide homeless units receive adequate services and operating funds.
2. Begin the next phase in family homelessness plan, refocusing family services projects to align with the Families Strategic Plan (and secure Systems Innovations Grant matching dollars)
3. Continue with a commitment to chronically homeless single adults, but fund fewer voucher and services programs for chronically homeless populations than in previous rounds, recognizing that New scattered site project(s) will have immediate service & operating needs and capital projects will have services and/or operating needs in future years

Discussion included:

- Members discussed whether “funding fewer capital projects for chronically homeless populations” was simply because there is less money available or whether it is due a policy shift towards prioritizing other populations. There general consensus is it’s both reasons, there is less new service money and we are nearing 73% of our goal for chronically homeless individuals we can begin to focus on other populations.
- Members discussed the language/nuances of what was meant by a high service needs project the East/North King County and whether it should be given a firm priority this year rather than merely encouraged.
- Members agreed it made sense to provide gap funding (approximately 8 months funding) for HGAP projects until the state block grant funds become available. These projects will then need to compete for the block grant funds.

- Members agreed that ALL application reviews will include evaluation criteria that takes into consideration
 - Quality of past performance (including contract performance, voucher utilization, bed/service requirements and HMIS, as applicable);
 - Financial analysis (funding level matched to client need and demonstrated ability to leverage other funding);
 - System reform issues (How the project fits into the larger homeless continuum in King County and connects to other systems / services needed by participants.)

The resulting proposed priorities will be refined based on today's discussion, distributed via email for review, and included in the Governing Board packet for their May 26th meeting in order to obtain their consensus approval of the priorities.

Funders Group Workplan Items for 2010-2011

Members reviewed the discussion from the May 3rd IAC Retreat and recommendations for 2010-2011 Workplan items. It was agreed that the Funders Group has made significant progress on several of their initial work plan items, including our production levels, the Landlord Liaison Project, Coordinated Entry for Single Adults and initial planning for Coordinated Entry for Families (under the Families Strategic Plan) and HMIS Implementation. Members agreed to retain all five original work plan areas and to add four additional initiatives for the 2010 – 2011 period:

- **Increasing Collaborations with Mainstream Systems** – Representatives of the K-12 education system and DSHS/Child Welfare attended the retreat and together we identified a number of ways in which the homeless system and these systems can better support each other and the participants we have in common. Funders Group agreed to add this as a workplan priority to follow up on these ideas.
- **Coordination with Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness** – There is an emerging federal initiative to end homelessness among veterans in the next five years. The Veterans system is beginning their planning process, and it was agreed that leaders within the Funders Group / CEH should participate where and as appropriate to ensure our efforts are aligned.
- **Implementation of the full Gates Homeless Families Initiative** – Initial planning for the Coordinated Entry System for families is complete. The next phase will be full planning and implementation of the Families Strategic Plan, which focuses on Coordinated Entry, Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, Housing Stabilization, and Linkages with Mainstream Services. The Funders Group agreed to add oversight of implementation of the overall Families Initiative to its workplan.
- **Restructuring Services Funding to Increase Flexibility** – Providers and Funders have identified that while we have made great progress in streamlining our NOFA process, some of the program contracts within the NOFAS have become silos unto themselves. The Funders Group will convene a workgroup to explore how this and other funding flexibility might be able to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our system.

These proposed workplan items will be presented to the Governing Board for their concurrence.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm. Meeting summary drafted by Gretchen Bruce, CEHKC Staff.