



Funders Group Meeting Summary

April 11, 2011

Funders Group Members Present:		Funders Group members absent:
Emily Leslie	Deborah Doyle	Dannette Smith
Jackie MacLean	Jason Johnson	David Wertheimer
Stephen Norman	Alice Shobe	
David Okimoto	Arthur Sullivan	
Tom Tierney	Kathy Gerard	
Funders Group Representatives/Staff Present:		
Debbie Thiele	Kate Speltz	
Bill Block	Kollin Min	
Gretchen Bruce (by phone)	Alan Painter	
Cheryl Markham (by phone)	Andrea Akita	

Welcome and Updates

Jackie MacLean, Funders Group Chair, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting summary from March 2011 was reviewed and accepted.

2011 Joint NOFA

Cheryl Markham reported on the draft Joint NOFA, which maintains the general priorities from the 2010 NOFA, which prioritized: 1) previously funded capital projects coming online, 2) continued support for the campaign to end chronic homelessness, though at a lesser pace than the first years of the 10YP; 3) support for family housing and services aligned with the homeless families initiative. The overall anticipated funding level is consistent with previous years, assuming renewal of the Veterans and Human Services Levy. The NOFA contemplates approximately 150 high-service needs beds.

Bill Block inquired about the policy decision to split 2331 recording fee money between capital and services. Cheryl Markham explained that this provides a significant part of county capital dollars, and that those dollars are actually targeted to high needs buildings in Seattle, so they are complementary investments. The group felt it would be useful to have an ongoing discussion about how to prioritize flexible dollars as between low-needs capital construction and rapid rehousing investments.

Cheryl also reported on an upcoming RFP for Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter. The City and the County are working to coordinate principles if not the actual NOFA. Modifying family Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter will follow the roadmap of the Homeless Families Initiative. David Okimoto suggested that we need to take a hard look at how we are funding and what we are asking of single adult emergency shelter.

Coordinated Entry for Families

Cheryl Markham reported on the Homeless Families Initiative. Debbi Knowles and her team are meeting with family providers to help them understand the Homeless Families Initiative and particularly the move to coordinated entry. They are also meeting with representatives of immigrant and refugee providers and domestic violence providers to create alternate pathways that will still be consistent with the coordinated entry system. They are working with Safe Harbors to have that system provide the necessary support to coordinated entry. They are working on a budget for start up and operation of coordinated entry and an RFQ to be released in May for a lead agency. At the same time they are working with Building Changes on budget and funding issues. They will be issuing a survey to ask agencies what support agencies (not their clients) will need to implement coordinated entry. The web site has been updated to reflect this work. The Funders Group agreed that this is and needs to be a system-wide initiative in which all of the funders align with the Homeless Families Plan.

Veterans Five Year Plan

Deborah Gay presented the Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness, emphasizing that it requires a new kind of cooperation among the federal, state and local veterans services departments. The plan identifies an immediate housing stock need of 600 -750 units, with an expected 100 more units needed each year during the plan to address veterans returning from OIF and OEF. The system will also have to use different strategies to addressing aging veterans from the Vietnam era and the newer OIF and OEF individuals and families. The next steps under the Veterans Five Year Plan is to create a work program to implement the plan, and the Funders Group will need to be involved in creating that work program. Stephen Norman asked that the plan be very clear on additional resources that will be needed above and beyond what we currently expect to get. Kathy Gerard explained that the VA is modifying several programs to better serve homeless veterans. The group recommended that Kathy try to get a read from D.C. on what sorts of resources can be expected.

Mid-Plan Review

Bill presented an update on the Mid-Plan Review. He noted that the Mid-Plan Review Report will cover what we have done (and how that compares to our original goals), will identify some “consensus initiatives”, including aligning with the HEARTH Act, the Federal Strategic Plan and health care reform, as well as implementing the Homeless Families Initiative and the Veterans Five Year Plan. The charrette process will discuss six areas in which we do not have the level of consensus we have in the “consensus initiatives”. At the end of the day, the Funders Group will need to set priorities among the various suggested initiatives, and create work plans to implement those priorities. A target date for doing that is the July Governing Board meeting.

Next Meetings

Members discussed the funders group agenda topics for the balance of 2011. Topics include:

Mon, May 9: Mid Plan Review Report, Shelter and Prevention priorities for upcoming RFP, NAEH and HEARTH

Mon, June 13: Mid Plan Review - Next Steps and Implementation

Tues, July 12: HEARTH Measures

Mon, Aug 8: Safe Harbors contracting, WDC Skill Up

Tues, Sep 13: Specific Mid Plan Review Initiatives (TBD)

Mon, Oct 10: Political Will

Mon, Nov 14: Specific Mid Plan Review Initiatives (TBD)

Mon, Dec 12

Building Changes asked for time in the May and June meetings to discuss work on the child welfare initiative, implementation of the Gates Homeless Families Grant, and how to deal with Sound Families units.

Updates

Bill gave updates on advocacy, including HB 2048 which would raise \$24 million in additional funding, of which \$16 million will come to the counties. A lot more will be known about the state budget when the Senate issues its budget, but the House budget does include \$60 million for the Housing Trust Fund.

Alan Painter explained that a decision will be made soon on whether to place the Veterans and Human Services Levy on the August or the September ballot. The funding amount is likely to remain consistent at \$.05 per \$1,000 valuation, although an inflation adjustment has been discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Meeting summary drafted by Bill Block, CEHKC Staff.