

Funders Group Meeting Summary

January 10, 2010

Funders Group Members Present:		Funders Group members absent:
Emily Leslie	Arthur Sullivan	Alice Shobe
Jackie MacLean	Tom Tierney	
Dannette Smith	David Wertheimer	
Stephen Norman	Rick Hooper	
David Okimoto	Deborah Doyle	
Funders Group Representatives/Staff Present:		
Debbie Thiele	Cheryl Markham	Alan Painter
Bill Block	Andrea Akita	Linda Petersen
Gretchen Bruce	Katy Miller	Al Poole
Amnon Shoenfeld	Sola Plumacher	

Welcome and Updates

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

IAC and Funders Group Charters

Gretchen distributed copies of the revised draft charters for the IAC and Funders Group, which incorporated edits from several IAC and Funders Group members. Comments and edits from previous editions included:

IAC Charter

- Add term length for membership on Executive Committee
- Clarify issues around general IAC membership and representative categories. (subsequently agreed this is better clarified through a roster rather than within the charter.)
- Include language to affirm that task forces may include non-IAC members
- Include language to stress collaboration between IAC and Funders Group and commitment to seeking stakeholder feedback and support at all levels.

Funders Group Charter:

- Stress collaboration and dialogue between Funders Group and IAC/CEH Advisory bodies to ensure transparency of decisions and community buy-in.
- Clarify that Funders Group may identify key issues or develop their own workplans in addition to key issues that arise from the IAC and task forces convened by the IAC
- Clarify that some key issues may result in policy/systems change and some may have funding consequences. The responsibility of the Funders Group is to deal with those that may have funding consequences and determine which will, or will not, be prioritized and communicate those decisions
- Emphasize the commitment to seek funding (as possible) for those elements that do rise to become funding priorities and for partners to align and coordinate their respective funding in support of those priorities

Funding Cuts

Members reviewed documents from KC DCHS Mental Health and Public Health on impending cuts at the state level. Mental Health will face some cuts, but initial indications are that the cuts won't be as deep as originally anticipated. Public Health, on the other hand, may face staff lay offs and significant service reductions, and is particularly concerned about cuts to maternity health and Medicaid reimbursement for services. Members discussed the difficulty of tracking and making sense of the many cuts across multiple systems. Laurie Lippold with Children's Home Society has developed a comprehensive list, and Bill will obtain a copy and distribute to Funders Group members.

Deborah Doyle reported that 7,000 households across the state will receive notice they are being cut from TANF due to hitting their 60 month time limit. Stephen Norman and Tom Tierney noted that KCHA and SHA are aware that many of their residents will be affected by these and other cuts. (For example, non-citizen immigrants will no longer be eligible for TANF under new state eligibility guidelines. Both KCHA and SHA have a fair number of residents from this population.) They plan to recalculate people's rent based on their new income levels, but noted that it's a zero sum game; covering some households at a deeper level only means they can cover fewer households.

Members discussed how to track and predict the impact of these cuts on the number of households who actually become homeless. There was general agreement that simply losing TANF funding (or some other support) may not necessarily

cause a household to become homeless. Rather, data seems to suggest it's the cumulative effect of multiple issues. David Wertheimer shared that Gates Foundation has studied this question and has been unable to identify definitive trigger points. The best they've been able to identify is extreme poverty and total lack of social capital (family/friends who can help.)

Members agreed to form a workgroup to identify and track (if possible) data elements that may point to marked trends in people becoming homeless. This information will be used to identify which households might be prioritized for supports and also to educate policy makers/elected officials of the impacts of the cuts. Bill and CEH staff will convene this group. Funding cuts will be a major issue within the Mid Plan Review along with the question of what is reasonable to achieve with the resources available.

Safe Harbors

Dannette Smith and Sola Plumacher reported that over the last few months Safe Harbors has completed an in-depth review of its operations. As a result, they have restructured operations and held a meeting this week with Providers to roll out the restructure. The overall intent of the restructure is to improve data quality and provide better support to agencies. One important element will be assigning a systems analyst staff to a particular agency (up to 25 agencies per staff person.) This will allow the systems analyst to be thoroughly familiar with a program's services, budget, contract reporting requirements and data sets, thus allowing him or her to better trouble shoot problems and follow through on resolution.

Data quality is extremely important as millions of dollars are at stake through Federal McKinney and HPRP. These funds have data quality, reporting and participation requirements, and our region has lost funding in the past when we didn't meet these standards – e.g. in 2008 we were not able to complete any portion of the AHAR report resulting in a loss of one million dollars. Sola noted data quality is markedly better from last year, and staff were recently able to complete three separate reports for Seattle, King County and Veterans. We continue to have too many de-identified (missing name, DOB and SSN) client records in which it is not possible to say whether a service record is for a single or duplicate client. This is especially prevalent within data sets for shelters serving single adults. Sola noted that a move to Opt Out for informed consent would significantly help to improve data collection among this population.

Other changes coming to Safe Harbors include a user certification process to assure that users are fully trained and able to input data into Safe Harbors and retrieve reports. In addition, the state has started to pay invoices based on data pulls from Safe Harbors, requiring that agency invoices and units of service submitted to the State for reimbursement match data records and units of service entered in Safe Harbors. Funders Group members agreed that this should become the standard for local contracts as well. (It was suggested that a commitment to this be referenced in the Funders Group charter.)

The next Funders Group meeting is Monday, February 14th at 3:30 in Chinook 115.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Meeting summary drafted by Gretchen Bruce, CEHKC Staff.