



Funders Group Meeting Summary

June 13, 2011

Funders Group Present:			Funders Group absent:
Deborah Doyle	Jackie MacLean	Alice Shobe	Kathy Gerard
Rick Hooper	Stephen Norman	Arthur Sullivan	Jason Johnson
Emily Leslie	David Okimoto	Catherine Lester (for Dannette Smith)	Tom Tierney
Others Present:			
Bill Block	Amnon Shoenfeld	Gretchen Bruce	

Welcome and Updates

Jackie MacLean, Funders Group Chair, welcomed members to the meeting. The previous month's meeting summary was reviewed and accepted. Jackie explained that although normally attendance is "principals only", Catherine Lester was invited to attend today's meeting in Dannette's absence to meet colleagues from around the county. This is her second week as Deputy Director of City of Seattle Human Services Department. The City of Seattle's Human Services website has a webpage introducing Catherine to the community [here](#).

Funders Group Membership / Meeting Protocol

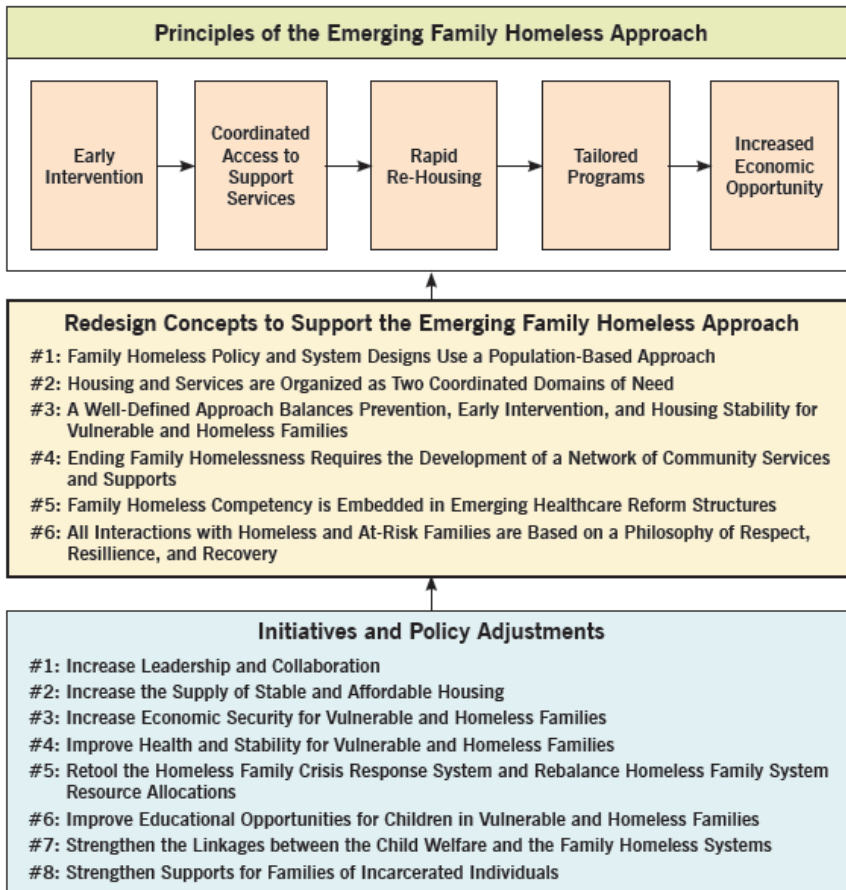
In line with recent conversations about the structure and role of the IAC and the Mid Plan Review, Funders Group members have discussed how to best structure the Funders Group. Members agreed that recent meetings have tended toward general updates, and need to become more policy focused. To remedy this, several changes in attendance and expectations were agreed to among Funders Group members.

- Funders Group meetings will focus on policy considerations, and time spent on updates will be limited. Informational items will be shared as written documents rather than as verbal presentations.
- Future Funders Group meetings will be principals only –alternates and staff will be in attendance only if specifically requested for the purpose of a presentation. The reasons for this are to assure consistent attendance at meetings and facilitate an informed discussion among principals.
- Sufficient time will be spent at the end of each meeting setting the next month's agenda, and agendas will note expected actions (e.g., update vs. decision.)
- Meeting packets will be sent to key staff and principals.
- CEH staff will be responsible for drafting thorough meeting summaries and distributing the summary along with the next month's agenda to all members and key staff within four days of each meeting.
- Directors and staff will need to track upcoming agenda items and schedule internal briefings accordingly. Funders will work closely with their staff to identify emerging policy considerations that need to be brought to the attention of the Funders Group.
- Directors will arrive at FG meetings able to relay key information, field questions, and converse with other FG members towards the goal of arriving at decisions within the allotted time frame.
- CEH will distribute a roster of Funders Group members and key staff to assure transparency in communication.

Ending Family Homelessness in WA State

The Executive Summary for *Ending Family Homelessness in Washington State: An Emerging Approach* was shared at the meeting (available online at: <http://www.buildingchanges.org/our-work/advocacy>). Alice noted this paper was developed by Building Changes to provide leadership and policy support at the local, state and national level around family homelessness. It builds on Sound Families and other national research around family homelessness, particularly highly vulnerable families. They have shared the paper with HHS and USICH, and the plan aligned with the National Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Building Changes envisions this to be a living document, and may issue updates in the future (e.g., healthcare reform considerations around homeless families.)

Alice noted that one thing the paper has done so far is gain agreement amongst stakeholders on the importance of focusing on the most vulnerable households as a means to ending family homelessness. A snapshot from page 13 of the Executive Summary highlighting the essential elements of the policy recommendations is shown on the next page.



Members asked about the alignment between this policy paper and the work of the three counties that have Gates-funded families initiative. Alice noted that work within the three counties has many commonalities with the paper, but there are also areas of divergence since family homelessness looks different in King, Pierce and Snohomish County than it does in, say, Okanogan. Members noted that it will be important to assure consistent messaging about critical policy elements for ending family homelessness so local leaders don't become confused between Building Changes plan and their local county plan.

Members also suggested that Building Changes prioritize the various policy elements covered in the paper. Given limited resources, such a prioritization would help a local jurisdiction evaluate which elements are most critical and have the greatest effect on ending family homelessness (and should thus be funded first) and which are add-ons and could be delayed. Alice agreed this would be helpful, and a future update may include this.

Healthcare Reform

Amnon was invited to the meeting to provide an update on Healthcare Reform and shared a copy of a recent policy paper: *Transforming Health for King County's Low-Income and Underserved Residents*. Amnon noted that healthcare reform is moving very quickly with significant policy considerations coming up. The attendant fallout in contracting, funding and impact on related social services will be significant, and members agreed that it will be important to closely track developments. Despite the possibility that elements of healthcare reform may be repealed, the State of Washington and local planners are proceeding as though it will occur, because otherwise we would be truly behind in our planning and implementation.

The three overarching goals of healthcare reform are to:

1. Reduce healthcare costs
2. Increase access to healthcare
3. Increase quality of healthcare and the experience(s) of people seeking healthcare

Washington State is thus far proposing consistent implementation strategies across the state. Most experts, however, believe that healthcare is local, and implementation must allow for regional needs and differences. One concern is that the state has limited staffing focused on this planning effort. Significant policy decisions will need to be made, and quickly, and could occur without adequate stakeholder involvement. We may miss critical elements in healthcare reform simply due to inadequate staffing to track developments and opportunities. King County planners are devoting staff time to engage local stakeholders to identify how healthcare reform needs to roll out in King County.

Another consideration is that for-profit corporations may apply for healthcare contracts when an RFP is released, and experience shows that this type of provider typically focuses on primary healthcare, with only limited response to behavioral and mental health needs. Numerous bodies of research document that stable housing and supportive services reduce healthcare costs. Said another way, you can't contain healthcare costs if you don't address homelessness and related needs such as jail, diversion, and behavioral health. All the same, current indicators are that the state plan will focus more on primary health, and the payment model and allowable costs are yet to be defined.

A third concern is that implementation of healthcare reform will take significant resources. Given the economic climate, the state and local counties don't have new resources to assist with this effort. The state may dismantle existing efforts in order to divert resources towards the new structure, before the new structure is in place and ready to serve people.

Members agreed to read the policy paper, stay informed of ongoing developments, and continue to monitor developments in order to develop a coordinated response.

Resetting the Goals of the Ten Year Plan

Bill noted that at the Governing Board on May 25th, Governing Board members agreed that the plan should remain a "ten year project" with goals for that ten year period, while also remaining committed to ultimately "ending" homelessness. Members discussed that this would require that we change our goals to reflect what we can realistically expect to achieve by 2015, and while our ultimate long-term goal should remain ending homelessness in the long run. The restated goals for years 2011-2015 may not include achieving an end of homelessness for all populations within the ten years, and in 2015 we would need to determine the next steps to achieve the ultimate goal of ending homelessness. Within this context, we might also outline what it would take to end all homelessness by 2015.

Members discussed how to implement the resetting of goals. There is a Funder Staff meeting on Tuesday the 14th. Staff will be asked to identify for each Funders Group Implementation Plan what is realistically achievable in the next five years (although with stretch goals) and to lay out a proposed path for the next five years. The Task Force work will need a longer time period. The Implementation Plan goals and timeframes will be brought to the July 11th IAC meeting and July 12th Funders Group meeting for their input in order to bring back to the Governing Board at their July 25th meeting. (As noted, timelines and milestones for YYA, Single Adult Emergency Shelter and Immigrant and Refugee task forces may take longer to develop pending the work of the task force.) Members agreed that calculating the cost to end homelessness by 2015 does not provide meaningful information, and so staff will not be asked to do this portion of work. If we remain true to the goal of ending homelessness among chronically homeless individuals by the end of 2015, and among veterans by 2015, then we would have 'closure' on those elements. We would then have reason to ask for continued community support towards the longer term goals for all populations. Bill will introduce this proposal to staff at the June 14th Funder Staff meeting.

Next Month's Agenda: Tuesday, July 12th

- Resetting the Goals of the Ten Year Plan –minimum of 30 minutes discussion on the deliverables proposed by the Funder Staff personnel (and follow up to CEH Bodies of Work handout)
- HEARTH policy considerations (if at this point yet – check with Kate & Eileen)
- Investment Priorities and upcoming policy considerations based on feedback from the IAC.

Political Will

Alice asked that each member answer for their agency:

- Does each entity allocate specific staff (or staff time) to building political will towards ending homelessness?
- What are emerging opportunities to build political will – both in the short term (next six months) and long-term (12 months to 2 years.) Members agreed that as a whole we are good on short term efforts aimed at garnering political will (e.g., legislative agenda) but lose focus on long term goals.

Members agreed the text from the original Ten Year Plan on building Political Will can serve as a good foundation for exploring these types of opportunities.

Announcements

Stephen noted that KCHA / SHA just received their allotment of regular VASH vouchers along with 10 new project based vouchers, for a total of 145 VASH vouchers.

KCHA received 25,000 applications for its lottery wait list during the recent two week application period.

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