



Funders Group Meeting Summary

March 14, 2011

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

Welcome and Updates

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

2011 Request for Proposals

Cheryl Markham reported that the timeline for state capital funding will be earlier this year, requiring local funders to hold separate NOFA's for capital vs. operating and services. The Capital NOFA needs to be released fairly soon, and lead staff from entities that participate in the Coordinated NOFA have begun to meet to sort out the details. Staff recommend maintaining 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. If the levy is not renewed, homeless services funding would be affected. Early indications are that the Housing Trust Fund may be set at \$40 million, which is significantly less than previous years. The final amount available through the HTF will significantly affect the availability of leveraged dollars .

Debbie Thiele noted that HUD 202/811 funding (senior and disabled housing) is also at play and there may be an opportunity to leverage significant HUD dollars for this population. If HUD releases an RFP for these funds, staff recommend an expedited review process in order to have a project to submit in time for the HUD deadline.

Katy Miller reported that state continues to move forward with the State Consolidated Homeless Grant for emergency shelter and transitional housing. Lead staff for local funders have begun to meet to coordinate the release of funds and ensure alignment of efforts. Funds to be included in the shelter/transitional housing RFP are THOR, ESG, RAHP, CDBG, City of Seattle Human Services funding and Systems innovation funds (Building Changes/Gates funding.) Staff anticipate a spring/summer NOFA date, with funding announcement by October and contracts beginning January 1, 2012. Debbi Knowles will conduct a series of workshops and provide TA to agencies to help them better prepare for systems changes and new priorities under the families initiative. Members discussed that other populations may need the same type of assistance. Seattle is conducting focus groups among single adults, domestic violence, refugees and immigrants and young adults to better understand their needs and provide assistance.

Mid Plan Review – Charrette Topics

Members reviewed the six charrette topics selected by the Mid Plan Steering Committee. The six topics are:

1. Emergency Housing – best practices, opportunities for systems transformation, need for coordinated entry, reducing shelter stays, performance-based contracts, along with the perennial question of how to balance the need for shelter tonight with a long term focus on permanent housing, as well as effective strategies for unsheltered people.
2. What Does Success Look Like? – How do we measure progress and hold the system accountable? How will HEARTH affect measurements? How can we implement measures across jurisdictions, systems and providers. Can a performance-based system increase graduation/throughput? Where/how can we make hard decisions about what should be funded based on results? There may be some cross over with Political Will.
3. Homeless Young Adults – Identify strategies and systems needed (internally and across other systems) to end

homelessness among young adults. Review also the role of a local homeless program with respect to youth under 18 and how that population fits within the homeless system.

4. Immigrants and Refugees in the homeless system – Identify strategies and systems need (internally and across systems) to end homelessness among immigrants and refugees. How to assure the homeless system does not become a “de facto” parallel immigrant and refugee system.
5. Systems-Level Prevention – Discussion as to how systems and institutions contribute to homelessness, knowingly (because there aren’t enough resources) or unknowingly (because it isn’t a part of the culture of that agency) and create a framework of shared responsibility where roles are clear. May also include discussion as to why the numbers of people who are homeless has not dropped, despite tremendous gains under the Ten Year Plan.
6. Political Will – Discussion of the “big picture” about what CEH, its members and supports can and cannot do to create and maintain political will outside our membership in support of ending homelessness.

Members agreed that these are appropriate selections for the six charrette discussions.

2011 Funders Group Meeting Schedule

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

- Mon, April 11: Finalize capital and operating priorities for upcoming NOFA, Veterans Five Year Plan, State Budget Update, Addition of Workforce Development Council to Funders Group; Coordinated Entry for families
- 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

Updates

Safe Harbors presented at the February 23rd Governing Board meeting and was well-received. Sola distributed an annual calendar of reports that will be forthcoming from Safe Harbors. Safe Harbors will be a regular report on Funders Group agenda henceforth, with a more thorough discussion on a quarterly basis before Governing Board meetings.

McKinney / HEARTH will soon come out with specific measures, though we do know that the core performance measures will include the following: 1) Reduction in the length of time that people are homeless; 2) reduction in repeat episodes of homelessness; 3) reduction in the number of people who are homeless; and 4) thoroughness in reaching homeless persons. Kate and Eileen are forming a workgroup to track / plan for how these performance measures will need to be incorporated in our local HMIS, 10YP measures, and program measures. They also plan to attend the HEARTH Academy in Kennewick in the coming month, and will have more information to share at that time.

State cuts continue to be a big concern. Stephen reported that 25% of all housing authorities residents face cuts in their monthly income, either through TANF, Disability Lifeline or other supports. The group discussed again if/how it is possible to predict or track who becomes homeless as a result of these cuts. Bill reported that a small workgroup met to explore this possibility and came to agreement that the effort to collect and analyze this data would be significant and not a good use of the time required. A JLARC study may be available that has some of this information, and it should be possible to get a copy of that study.

The Veterans and Human Services Levy has been approved for placement on either the August or September ballot. The funding amount remains consistent at \$.05 per \$1,000 valuation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Meeting summary drafted by Gretchen Bruce, CEHKC Staff.