



Governing Board Meeting Summary

June 17, 2009

Attendance:

Governing Board members present:

Shahla Aly (Microsoft)
David Bley (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
Patsy Bonincontri (City of Bellevue)
Dan Brettler (Car Toys) Co-Chair
Tim Burgess (Seattle City Council)
Tara Connor (Seattle / KC Coalition for the Homeless)
Jon Fine (United Way of King County)
John Fletcher (Providence Health Systems)
David Freiboth (King County Labor Council)
Kathy Lambert (King County Council)
Mike Lowry (Community)
Blake Nordstrom (Nordstrom Inc.)
Sue Rahr (King County Sheriff)
Sheila Sebron (Consumer Advisory Council)
Rev. Robert V. Taylor (Community)
Kurt Triplett (King County Executive) Co-Chair
John Wise (City of Enumclaw)

Governing Board members absent:

Dan Lessler (Harborview)
Keith McGlashan (City of Shoreline)
Jaclyn Mellon (Consumer Advisory Council)
Greg Nickels (City of Seattle)
Norman Rice (Community)

Community:

Bill Block (CEH)
Gretchen Bruce (CEH)
Laird Heia (CEH)
Kristine Gullin (CEH)
Sherry Hamilton (KC DCHS)
Janice Tufte (ITFH)
Cydney Gillis (RealChange)
Linda Peterson (KC DCHS)
Alan Painter (Seattle HSD)
Melinda Giovengo (YouthCare)

Mary Nichols (Millionair Club)
Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA)
Stephen Norman (KCHA)
Marilyn Littlejohn (City of Seattle)
Andrea Akita (Seattle HSD)
Marilyn Mason Plunkett (Hopelink)
Kollin Min (Gates Foundation)
Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)
Kate Speltz (KC DCHS)
Carole Antoncich (KC DCHS)

Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH)
Rick Friedhoff (Compass Center)
Adrienne Quinn (Seattle Office of Housing)
David Wertheimer (Gates Foundation)
Katy Miller (KC DCHS)
Sola Plumacher (City of Seattle)
Paul Lambrose (Plymouth Housing Group)
Humberto Alvarez (Solid Ground)
Debbi Knowles (KC DCHS)
Kelli Larsen (KC DCHS)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) Governing Board meeting summary of February 20, 2009 was accepted as presented.

Video and Comments by Michael Garcia

In May we lost a valued member of the CEH Governing Board and Consumer Advisory Council – Michael Garcia. The Governing board took a few moments to remember Michael and his contribution by sharing a video that was put together by Real Change. Michael talks about his life and the demoralizing challenge of coming out of the criminal justice system with training and energy to start over – but no roof over his head. Michael will be deeply missed. The video can be viewed here:

<http://www.realchangenews.org/index.php/site/archives/2138/>

Update & Consent Items

Nomination of Kurt Triplett, Jaclyn Mellon and John Fletcher to the Governing Board

Several CEH Governing Board members have taken on new roles; Ron Sims, King County Executive, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary of HUD and Dan Fulton has taken the role of President and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Company. Due to the demands of their new jobs, both have resigned from the Governing Board. The nominating committee of the Governing Board recommends that Kurt Triplett, King County Executive, be approved to replace Ron Sims; and John Fletcher, Vice President and Chief Executive of the Washington/Montana Region of the Providence Health System, be approved for membership to replace Dan Fulton.

The Consumer Advisory Council proposed a slate of potential replacements for Michael Garcia, and the nominating committee of the Governing Board recommends that Jaclyn Mellon be appointed to the position vacated by Michael.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Kurt Triplett, John Fletcher and Jaclyn Mellon as members to the Governing Board.

Update on CEH Progress

Bill Block brought the group up to speed on CEH progress and challenges.

Highlights:

- The CEH Funders Group is receiving national attention. Bill Block has been asked to be part of a panel discussion presenting information on the development and strategies of the CEH Funders Group at the Annual National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference in Washington D.C. late July.
- There is empirical proof that the CEH partners are successfully ending homelessness for people traditionally viewed as extremely hard to house. In April the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a peer reviewed study showing the tremendous cost avoidance that housing created for the residents of the 1811 Eastlake project (\$4 million in one year – per person per month costs dropping from \$4,000 per month to \$1,000 per month. Another measure of our success may also be seen in King County's small One Night County increase in comparison to many other parts of the nation, such as Oregon - 37%; Massachusetts - 32% increase in family homelessness; Hennepin County - 20% increase in family homelessness.
- The Federal Stimulus package (ARRA) includes:
 - \$6.4 million to King County for prevention and rapid rehousing;
 - Potentially \$100 million statewide for low income housing credit;
 - Additional \$95 million in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) support;
- State Legislative update:
 - The Housing Trust Fund is down from \$200 million to \$100 million;
 - GA-U is preserved;
 - \$8.5 million increase in THOR;
 - Addition of a four-year \$20 document recording fee, however, it is supplanted at the state level and is currently used as supplementation at the county level;
 - There is also a risk of more state cuts in October.
- Local Update:
 - Mayor Nickels has proposed a renewal of the Low Income Housing Levy at \$145 million, which is an increase over the \$86 million current levy. However, the real estate tax of \$0.17 per \$1,000 is the same level as the 2002 levy. More details are provided in the Seattle Housing Levy section of this meeting summary;
 - The county faces continuing significant budget issues and may be forced to make further cuts.

Challenges:

- The economy;
- State and local funding cuts;
- The natural resistance to changing a system;
- Being in the fourth year of a ten year plan.

Revised and 2010 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

After the meeting, via email, the Governing Board accepted the 2009/2010 meeting schedule that aligns more effectively with the State Legislative schedule:

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Wednesday July 28, 2010

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Role of the Governing Board

Dan Brettler framed the discussion around how the Governing Board can best be utilized going forward in terms of its relationship with the Funders Group. Jackie MacLean, King County, Director, Community and Human Services (DCHS), Adrienne Quinn, Director of Seattle's Office of Housing (SOH), Dan Brettler, Chairman and

CEO of Car Toys and Stephen Norman, Executive Director, King County Housing Authority (KCHA) met as a subgroup to discuss the issue and presented the following recommendations and suggestions:

Oversight Responsibility:

- 1) The Governing Board is responsible for due diligence and oversight of the Funders Group workplan. It is not responsible for approving the workplans.

Strategic Engagement:

- 2) Each Board member contributes specific expertise and connection within their “day job” to enhance CEH (and partners’) priorities.

Advocacy and Endorsement:

- 3) The Governing Board can provide a greater voice as a team to endorse public policy.

Discussion: Role of Governing Board

- There was discussion of the complications created if the Governing Board is asked to formally advocate on local issues (i.e. to lobby a Governing Board member entity). The group concluded that on local issues its more appropriate role is simply to “Advocate for Ending Homelessness”.
- Some suggested that in order for the Governing Board to be a more effective voice, the message needs to be simpler for those that aren’t immersed in the issues of homelessness and housing.
- CEH focus is building more housing and more dollars are always needed, which is an ongoing role for the Governing Board.

Action: CEH staff will continue working with each Governing Board member to define each player’s specific area of focus/contribution.

Challenges facing CEH Initiatives

McKinney-Vento Funding

Jackie MacLean outlined King County’s recent challenge with receiving bonus funds provided by federal McKinney-Vento funding.

Background:

- The federal McKinney-Vento funding brings approximately \$14.2 million into King County for transitional housing, services only, and permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities.
- If the county meets certain requirements, existing programs will be renewed. If we meet a second, higher threshold, we qualify for “bonus” funding that allows us to add programs. We started applying for McKinney early in its existence and for years we have been successful in obtaining “bonus” projects, which is one reason our renewing McKinney funding levels are very high in comparison to most other jurisdictions.
- Last year, for the first year, the county was one point (out of 100) below the threshold for the “bonus” project and as a result did not obtain new funding of almost \$1 million.
- Two areas that had the greatest negative effect on our score were “Housing Emphasis” and HMIS (the data system). Today’s focus is on Housing Emphasis.

Recommended Strategy:

- If we are to increase our McKinney score, we need to change the proportion of housing and services in our funded projects or “reallocation.” “Reallocation” involves reducing or eliminating an existing project and redirecting those funds to a new project that provides permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities (need not be chronically homeless).

The question to CEH and the Governing Board is how to go about creating the system reallocations.

Timeframe:

- The county funds about 60 projects with funding decisions to be made over the summer and then to HUD in September/October.

Discussion: McKinney-Vento Funding

- Staff clarified that both the “Housing Emphasis” and HMIS (the data system) areas are being addressed as we go forward, including the possibility of terminating low performing programs.

- John Fletcher will provide Jackie with Providence's System of Assessment for Reduction plan that was recently very useful within Providence systems.

Discussion Outcome: The Governing Board approves with the Funders Group decisions and understands that decisions to remove funding from low performing programs will be controversial but should be supported.

Gates Foundation Initiative

David Wertheimer gave a brief background and history of the "Theory of Action: Ending Family Homelessness". The theory was developed over an 18 month period from data gathered from across the country and out of this came the development of the 5 key pillars of response to families: 1) coordinated entry, 2) prevention; 3) rapid re-housing; 4) tailored programs; and 5) linkages to economic opportunity. The goal is to provide tailored solutions to each family's needs which are made possible by a high performing system.

In March of this year, Gates entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with city/county/public and private sector entities to take on the next steps.

- The Gates Foundation asks that as each step is undertaken the Governing Board review and provide guidance on the process.

The goal by the end of 2009 is to create the plans for systems change and in 2010 to be affecting that systems change/reform. There will be great pain in systems change, but it is a critical issue and worth its associated challenges and the support of this Board.

The Gates family homelessness team took a trip to Chicago to review their 311 Call Center, where all homeless calls are triaged by intercept/ pillar/ and sequence. It is a highly successful program model. One of the greatest differences between Seattle and Chicago is Chicago's open HMIS system. Clients are more open to sharing their personal information knowing it provides them greater access to services.

Discussion: Gates Foundation Initiative

- Current programs to learn from:
 - Bellevue School District is supplying wrap-around services.
 - GAINS Intercept Model
 - Montgomery, Alabama domestic violence program
- A recurring challenge of the HMIS system is created by our local emphasis on privacy/confidentiality. In order to improve our current system, we are going to have to take this issue on. At the Chicago Call Center the issue of confidentiality is discussed at the front end of the call and it appears that as clients understand the benefits of sharing their personal information, they are more open to providing it.

Seattle Housing Levy

Adrienne Quinn provided information on the upcoming Seattle Housing Levy. With the current 2002 Seattle Housing Levy expiring at the end of 2009, Mayor Nickels proposed a renewal of the Housing Levy. On June 15, after reviewing the Mayor's proposal, City Council voted to place the Housing Levy on the November 2009 ballot.

Key facts:

- \$145 Million Housing Levy over 7 Years
- Community Impact:
 - Produce or preserve 1,850 affordable homes
 - Assist 3,420 households
- [Resolution #31140](#) details
- [Council Bill #116538](#) details
- Building housing creates jobs
- Of the \$145 million, \$104 million goes to preserving and creating housing for low income families and single adults.
- 1500 of the 1900 units built came from the 2002 housing levy dollars.
- 2002 levy prevented over 4,000 families from entering homelessness.

From the City of Seattle, Office of Housing survey, 73% of responders believe it is time to invest. However, some in the business community are feeling the tax pressure.

The Governing Board can help with the levy by speaking with their contemporaries about the benefits of the 2009 housing levy both for the individuals served and for the community.

Discussion:

- Labor will support it but will need clear messaging.
- Other members agreed to discuss the levy with the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA).

Adrienne will forward a one pager with clear messaging on the subject and get it to the Governing Board.

Public Comment

Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare, is concerned about the lack of focus on our youth and would like to bring a proposal to the Governing Board.

Janice Tufte, Interfaith Task Force, recently attended a faith based re-entry coalition meeting (FBRC). All interested are welcome to attend. Meetings are mostly comprised of Chaplains and Department of Corrections' individuals. Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at Mezzo café conference room @ Starbucks on 1st S, 9-noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Laird Heia, CEH Staff