

Governing Board Meeting Summary

September 23, 2009

Attendance:

Governing Board members present:		Governing Board members absent:
David Bley (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) Patsy Bonincontri (City of Bellevue) Dan Brettler (Car Toys) Co-Chair 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) Dan Lessler (Harborview) Mike Lowry (Community) Jaclyn Mellon (Consumer Advisory Council) Sheila Sebron (Consumer Advisory Council) Rev. Robert V. Taylor (Community) Kurt Triplett (King County Executive) Co-Chair John Wise (City of Enumclaw)		Shahla Aly (Microsoft) Tim Burgess (Seattle City Council) Kathy Lambert (King County Council) Keith McGlashan (City of Shoreline) Greg Nickels (City of Seattle) Blake Nordstrom (Nordstrom Inc.) Sue Rahr (King County Sheriff) Norman Rice (Community) Fr. Stephen Sundborg, S.J.
Community:		
Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue) Carole Antoncich (KC DCHS) Bill Block (CEH) Lorri Cox (Public Health) Melinda Giovengo (YouthCare) Kristine Gullin (CEH) Sherry Hamilton (KC DCHS) Laird Heia (CEH) Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH)	Marilyn Littlejohn (City of Seattle) Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS) Julie McFarland (Friends of Youth) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) Kira MountJoy-Pepka Mary Nichols (Millionair Club) Stephen Norman (KCHA) David Okimoto (UWKC) Alan Painter (Seattle HSD)	Linda Peterson (KC DCHS) Sola Plumacher (City of Seattle) Adrienne Quinn (Seattle Office of Housing) Grace Reamer (KC Council) Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA) Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird Society) Janice Tufte (ITFH)

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 June 17, 2009 was accepted as presented.

Update & Consent Items

CEH Progress Report

Bill Block provided a brief update on CEH progress and challenges. For details, please review the CEH Progress and Challenges document provided in the Governing Board packet of materials.

Dan Brettler, Governing Board, Co-Chair, discussed how, based on feedback from previous Governing Board meetings for the need to provide more efficient, concise, data for the Governing Board's review, a great deal of work went into the development of the Governing Board information packet for this meeting. The change was noted and appreciated. The Board also encouraged the need to outline concise data around possible challenges with specifics on how the Governing Board can help.

Dashboard Review Discussion

After a brief review of the CEH Funders Group Dashboard, there was discussion around the need to allocate space for the successes as well as the challenges to provide a complete picture of the issue at hand.

There was also a question around goal definition for CEH. Is CEH's goal to end homelessness or to facilitate the development of 9,500 units of housing?

The comment was made that metrics are very important to show success, knowing that the baseline keeps changing.

Update and Consent Items

Nomination of Monte Bridges

At the last Governing Board meeting several members urged that the educational community be represented on the Governing Board. In response to that request the nominating committee and the Governing Board approved the nomination of Dr. Monte Bridges, Superintendent of Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) to

the Committee to End Homelessness Governing Board. PSESD is a public education agency serving nearly 400,000 public and private students in preschool and grades K-12 in 35 school districts across the greater Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan region of Washington State.

Advocacy Agenda

This year, in an effort to coordinate messaging among all of the sponsors of our legislative breakfast (Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, United Way of King County, Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, Housing Development Consortium, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, The Church Council of Greater Seattle and Building Changes), a paper outlining the three basic goals was developed that includes legislative requests to:

1. Increase the available stock of affordable and supported Housing, including a return of the Trust Fund to the \$200 million level and providing the operations and maintenance funding critical to the housing it creates.
2. Coordinate and maintain housing and services, including adding funding to the Washington Families Fund.
3. Prevent people from becoming homeless, highlighting the need for our state institutions, prison, mental health, juvenile justice and foster care systems to make stable housing a priority in their discharge planning.

In addition, CEH developed its specific agenda, supporting all elements of the three basic goals noted above, plus additional non-monetary requests: that the state use existing funds more efficiently, and that it provide revenue tools for local funding systems to meet human services needs.

Discussion:

- Revenue increases need to be discussed unless the foundations want to fill in the gaps.
- A discussion around sales tax streamlining for on-line purchases is currently taking place. Downstream, this could create additional tax revenue for our state.
- Clear messaging to the state legislature is vitally important. We need to be connecting where the money currently being used is directly affecting people's lives; show a specific return on investment.
 - Provide cost avoidance/revenue enhancement numbers to show return on investment.
- We need to match rehab services and Worksource to get people back to work.

The Governing Board moved and approved the legislative agendas with David Bley abstaining.

Adrienne Quinn, community member, provided a Seattle Housing Levy update, requesting that Governing Board members talk to their boards and any other committees they are on, to explain that the Seattle Housing Levy should be supported, that it is a renewal of an existing levy and it is sized so that it will be able to continue at the same rate as the previous levy.

Funders Group Work Plan Reports

1. Production: Jackie MacLean, King County Department of Community and Human Services, presenting

Production Goals Highlights:

The Production work group met their production goal of 300 development units to come on-line in 2009 with a total of 214 units already online in the first half of the year and an additional 130 scheduled to come online in the second half of the year.

The second part of the production goal was also exceeded. The goal was 250 new subsidies, including 100 with services supporting higher needs. A total of 298 new subsidies for existing housing came online in the first half of 2009 with a total of 820 subsidies expected by year end. Of those vouchers 200 are for Veterans and Family Unification Vouchers. In addition, new subsidies will be awarded through the Fall RFP with new rental contracts beginning in 2010.

Barriers:

If the Seattle Housing Levy doesn't pass and the Housing Trust Fund isn't renewed at \$200 million, the new unit construction numbers will fall dramatically. Collections for document recording fees and MIDD sales tax are roughly 40% lower than expected. There is neither State Housing Trust Fund capital funding nor essential state Operating and Maintenance funding for the 2010 funding round. Unless the legislature authorizes such funding the 2010 session, our progress in creating capital units will be significantly affected.

Systems Change Goals Highlights:

- Create a single city/county/philanthropic funding cycle for homeless projects. *Complete Sept 2009.*
- Seek to persuade WSHFC to align their timeline with local and state Housing Trust Fund awards to shorten funding assembly period. *Deferred*
- Create pipeline monitoring capacity of countywide service and operating funding need for homeless housing, so that projects can secure complete funding in a timely manner. *Complete Feb 2009.*
- Enhance the intake and care coordination for high utilizer/chronically homeless units that will open in 2009, and for existing projects. *Initiated March 2009*
- Given decline in capital resources, put increased emphasis on cost efficiency. *Report and in process.*

Role for the Governing Board:

Wherever possible, help on federal advocacy priorities; seek a supplemental budget appropriation for state Housing Trust Fund; support the Seattle Low Income Housing Levy.

2. Reduce Barriers and increase number of existing units added to the homeless system: Jackie MacLean presenting

Production goals highlights:

The Landlord Liaison Project (LLP) goal is to place 150 households. To date, there have been 58 households placed in housing and 150 are expected to move in by the end of year.

System change goals highlights:

- Create better relationships with landlords and better placement. There are 61 landlords enrolled, representing 92 properties and 24 service agency partners enrolled in the LLP. The LLP received feedback from service providers that the two-year case management requirement is a barrier to participation and therefore, the LLP recently reduced this requirement to 1 year. After this initial year, agencies continue to be available to consult with LLP and help problem-solve how to support the client in remaining housed.
- Create a process to evaluate LLP Project and inform future year contracts for scattered site projects funded prior to LLP. An evaluation plan for the Homeless Housing and Services Fund contracts and LLP will be finalized by early October and an evaluation of programs will begin in January 2010. A coordinated evaluation strategy system-wide is being developed to ensure that all evaluation work is aligned.

Role for the Governing Board

If you know institutional landlords, educate them on the effectiveness of the program and encourage them to get involved; advocate at the state level for barrier-reducing legislation such as making tenant screening reports portable for a period; advocate at federal level for additional subsidies; advocate at state and federal level for coordination of services with housing resources.

3. Coordinated Entry for Families: Jackie MacLean presenting

Production goals highlights:

As you know, the primary goal of this workgroup is to implement a common way for families to access homeless services and for providers to quickly link families to the resources they need. Steps to get there are:

- Develop defined point(s) of entry into the system, perhaps using regional hubs linked to the places at-risk and homeless families seeking help regularly go for assistance. *In process.*

- Develop and use standardized, strengths-based, culturally appropriate screening and assessment protocols and tools by designated staff specifically trained in the intake process. *Complete system assessment completed as part of Gates Foundation initiative. Pilot uniform assessment tool being used with federal stimulus rapid rehousing program.*
- Develop consistent coordination among providers and systems for services and referrals. *In process.*
- Use of HMIS as the data base for coordinated entry. *In process.*

Greatest challenge is determining how to integrate with Safe Harbors/HMIS. The ability to add “coordinated entry” to the work plan for Safe Harbors remains a challenge until implementation issues are resolved.

4. Coordinated Entry for Single Adults: David Okimoto, United Way of King County presenting

Production goal highlights:

- The Client Care Coordination Collaboration Group (City, County, UWKC) has been convened.
- The coordination with medical, mental health and criminal justice systems to improve sharing of information has been challenging but is not a barrier and work progresses.
- Trying to coordinate the waitlists is working more smoothly than anticipated.
- An initial coordinated entry process has begun with LIHI’s 75-unit McDermott Place and for chronic alcoholics transitioning into vacant units at AHA’s 92-unit Wintonia.

5. HMIS: Alan Painter presenting

Where we are:

We need to know who we’re serving and if we’re successful.

We have successfully merged data integration where we merge certain providers’ systems data with the Adysis Safe Harbors system.

We are collecting a demographic report for 2008 that will be out later this year. Having this demographic data sets the stage for outcomes data. We do not, however, yet have good outcome data.

Challenges:

There is a legacy of frustration with HMIS and program agencies struggle with using Safe Harbors based on its legacy. We need to move this from a challenge to an asset by showing how useful the data is and by emphasizing the importance of inputting outcome data. We need to show how the data is useful to us, to individuals who are homeless, to providers and show how it helps us improve the system and therefore get more people the housing and services they need to become stably housed and self-sufficient. HMIS will only work if we all see the benefit of it.

Role for the Governing Board:

Keep asking us for data as data is the big picture that creates the success stories.

Discussion:

Q: What happened to create the challenges?

The new system allows for data integration. The next step is the training on the reporting feature that will benefit the agencies. Transparency makes the story sound bleak. The data we have been getting is demographics (age, race). We don’t have outcomes data because it wasn’t being provided to HMIS. We need to provide training in order to make this happen. Once this is complete, the new system will pull it all together and will provide concrete outcomes data.

C: Difficult to feel positive about the HMIS system when we are still looking at 2008 data in October of 2009.

A: The system is still new and being revised at the same time. Training has been required for all of the agencies throughout this process. As agencies are trained and systems changes minimize, the turnaround for providing timely data will improve.

Q: How are we doing regarding the HMIS/McKinney connection?

A: The HMIS system is fully compliant for federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program data collection and reporting requirements allowing us to track the over \$7 million in stimulus funding to be spent over the next three years in King County to support those are homeless or at risk of homelessness as result of the

recession. This provides us an additional 2 points for McKinney. We continue to progress in all other areas of concern.

C: It is quite clear that we lack strong skills in data collection. The providers don't understand the importance of collecting data, the usefulness of it and the necessity of it to provide better services and therefore better lives for our clients. There seems to be a clear disconnect between the messaging received at the agency and consumer level. We need to develop a messaging campaign to provide consistency.

C: The data needs to be available much more quickly.

C: We need to discuss what the *ideal* state is, instead of fixing the system to satisfy us just for today.

Q: Are we modeling our system on others that have already been successful?

A: Yes. We did a national review and chose a system that has been successful in other parts of the country.

Q: What are the resource requirements?

A: All new providers must use HMIS. The City will work with new providers to help them get set-up on the HMIS system.

Policy Discussion – How far does the homeless system follow a client?

Bill Block framed the baseline for the discussion by laying out 3 potential goals:

1) The homeless system should continue to help clients until they achieve the situation that we hold as the ideal "base" – paying no more than 30% of income for housing, a safe job with opportunity for advancement, the beginnings of asset accumulation to deal with emergencies and the children with schooling and family supports that will let them achieve a better outcome than their parents.

2) Clients should be helped to a position where they still face some hardships, but further upward progress is likely once they leave the homeless system. This would mean perhaps some level of rent burden but no shared housing, education to the point where job advancement is a possibility, financial literacy and sufficient income so that the parent is required to hold only one job and has the time (and training) to help children with homework but where other opportunities for after-school programs for the children, culture, travel and the like are substantially limited by lack of resources and where loss of job or illness may result in a crisis.

3) People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness should be helped by the homeless system to the point where their likelihood of becoming homeless drops to the same percentage as similarly situated households. The system would have to recognize that they might need to have some greater advancement than people who have never experienced homelessness because a prior episode of homelessness is a significant predictor of future homelessness, but they would still be dealing with ongoing difficulties. Thus they would still probably be severely rent burdened, might be sharing housing as so many in poverty do, would have the same uncertain access to work advancement or additional educational opportunities as similarly situated people, and the children in the household would face the same schooling challenges as other children below the poverty line. We might call this level "Housing Stability Only."

Discussion:

- The question becomes, at which point do we take control of our lives.
- We need to set a reasonable standard e.g.: 50% of median income as a goal.

Q: Have other systems wrestled with this?

A: Yes. In Columbus, OH, for example, if people are doubling up and a landlord is ready to evict a tenant because of this, the agency will talk to the landlord and ask them to allow it, rather than trying to find additional housing for those individuals who are doubling up. As you can see, they have a very different expectation than we do.

- This is the Committee to End Homelessness, not the Committee to End Poverty.
- What is missing from our current system? It appears that we disincentivize people from becoming successful. We need to look at this more closely.
- The CAC worked with this question at their last month meeting and there was discussion about the disincentive to be successful. Perhaps the CAC could develop focus group discussions around this topic to gather data.
- We need to focus our energy because we can't do it all. We should stick with housing first.
- Many people can't make a living wage but the labor industry provides good jobs.

- If you look at this question expansively, our job is to give people the wherewithal to stabilize their lives so they can be supported through the next steps of stability by other systems – e.g. the schools, Workforce Development.
- This discussion needs more time and we should add it to our agenda for the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Bill Kirlin-Hackett invited everyone to the Political Will to End Homeless conference scheduled for Wednesday, October 21.

Jim Theofelis stated that we have made progress for youth in foster care and youth and young adults need to remain a high priority in the work we are doing.

Jaelyn Mellon said we need to review the need for sexual orientation as a demographic for determining discrimination for homeless individuals.

Military Sexual Trauma is an issue that needs to be looked at. Those affected by it can't use vets/government assistance because it is too close to home.

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

Laird Heia, CEH Staff