

Governing Board Meeting Summary

January 27, 2010

Governing Board members present:		Governing Board members absent:	
David Bley (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) Dan Brettler (Car Toys) Co-Chair Monte Bridges (PSESD) Tara Connor (Seattle / KC Coalition for the Homeless) Mike Cero (Mercer Island City Council) Jon Fine (United Way of King County) Kathy Lambert (King County Council) Dan Lessler (Harborview) Nick Licata (Seattle City Council) Mike Lowry (Community) Mike McGinn (City of Seattle) Jaclyn Mellon (Consumer Advisory Council) Sheila Sebron (Consumer Advisory Council) Fr. Stephen Sundborg, S.J. (Seattle University) Greg Taylor (Renton City Council)		Shahla Aly (Microsoft) Dow Constantine (King County) Co-Chair John Fletcher (Providence Health Systems) David Freiboth (King County Labor Council) Blake Nordstrom (Nordstrom Inc.) Sue Rahr (King County Sheriff) Norman Rice (Community) Rev. Robert V. Taylor (Community)	
Community:			
Andrea Akita (City of Seattle) Someiriah Amirfaz (ReWA) Bill Block (CEH) Lorri Cox (Public Health) Elliott Day Rene Franzen (KC MHCADSD) James Garrod (Consumer) Miles Gillentine (PSKS/Homeless Youth) Michael Greenwood (VCN)	Kristine Gullin (CEH) Sherry Hamilton (KC DCHS) Laird Heia (CEH) Sara Levin (City of Seattle) Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS) Anna Markee (HCD) Julie McFarland (Friends of Youth) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) Kira MountJoy-Pepka	Stephen Norman (KCHA) David Okimoto (UWKC) Linda Peterson (KC DCHS) Sola Plumacher (City of Seattle) Tom Tierney (SHA) Janice Tufte (ITFH) David Wertheimer (Gates Foundation) James Wlos (Consumer)	

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 September 23, 2009 was accepted as presented.

Dan Brettler, Governing Board Co-Chair announced that King County Executive Dow Constantine has agreed to take on the position and responsibilities of co-chair of the Governing Board. He announced the upcoming One Night Count and encouraged all to participate in the event.

Update & Consent Items

Nominations

There are several nominations to the Governing Board: King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, Mercer Island Councilmember Mike Cero, Seattle Councilmember Nick Licata and Renton Councilmember Greg Taylor replacing respectively: former King County Executive Kurt Triplett; former Seattle Mayor Greg Nichols; Enumclaw Mayor John Wise; Seattle Councilmember Tim Burgess; and Shoreline Councilmember Keith McGlashan. All new members were accepted.

Dashboard

Bill noted the robust 4,111 units that have been opened or are in the pipeline since the beginning of the Ten-Year Plan. To put this number in perspective, Tucson, Arizona has a goal of developing 1,000 units of housing though they have a like-sized population of homeless individuals. Production is slower than it needs to be to complete 9500 units in ten years but we are progressing. Other dashboard items were reviewed under the Funders Group workplan reports.

CEH Progress Report

Bill Block provided an update on CEH progress and challenges.

Highlights:

The Funders Group is fully established, has developed its priorities and work plans, and reports progress to the Governing Board on a quarterly basis. Members consist of King County, the City of Seattle, suburban cities representation, Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, Building Changes, the

Gates Foundation and United Way. The level of coordination created by this group is extremely unusual and has drawn national attention and recognition. It allows us to make coordinated purchasing decisions, integrate housing and services and make joint decisions for funding expirations and renewals.

The Funders Group priorities for the coming year are: production of new housing; increasing access to existing housing, coordinated entry for chronically homeless single adults, coordinated entry for families and full implementation of the Safe Harbors data system. We are changing how the system works by developing and implementing coordinated entry systems with chronically homeless adults and families. Measuring results successfully is a critical element to defining success. Safe Harbors HMIS has implemented a new generation software system for data collection and outcomes in 2009. Agencies are using Safe Harbors to collect data, report outcomes and use the case management tools but much work still needs to be done in order to provide useful, current information for reporting outcomes. For a full report on CEH Progress and Challenges, please visit our website at www.cehkc.org.

Discussion:

HMIS: Some members of the Governing Board expressed great frustration with the Safe Harbors system as it is still unable to provide the outcomes data required to determine the success of programs. However, others expressed that the larger problem was due to state regulations that requires opting “in” which limits the ability of agencies to gather data from their clients in order to input it into the HMIS system.

The Dashboard shows the most improvement where we have focused our investment – Single/Chronic individuals who are homeless. The focus is in this area because of their overall high cost to society.

David Bley encouraged us all to look at the work in context; that though we are short on our goals, there is still a great deal of leading edge work going on. The collaboration is working; the momentum is building and can be a model around the country for how to do this right.

Jaclyn asked about the “zero” noted in capital production for youth and young adults. Bill Block referred to the recent presentation to the IAC by Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director of YouthCare that showed permanent housing may not be the best fit for this population.

Funders Group Work Plan Reports

Homeless Housing Production and Funding Coordination

Bill Rumpf, City of Seattle Office of Housing, focused on the combined funding awards that have been successful over the last 3-4 years. The process as a whole is much more efficient and effective for both providers and funders. It is beginning to work for tax credits and other fund sources as well. Though each city has different requirements/ needs/ priorities, the collaboration is working across the region.

Total development costs for 2009 were \$175 million. These dollars have generated a significant number of jobs and stimulated the economy. Construction costs are coming in about 20% less than anticipated. The State Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is 10 – 15% of these projects however currently there are no dollars appropriated to the HTF. We need the Governing Board’s help to get legislation through that will increase the state HTF.

Reduce Barriers and Increase the Number of Existing Units added to the Homeless System

Jackie MacLean, King County / DCHS, reported that the production strategy for the “Increasing Existing Units” Work Plan includes increasing the number of new subsidies for existing housing. In 2009, 585 new subsidies came online to open doors to market units. The Landlord Liaison Project (LLP), which links high barrier homeless individuals with housing, placed 147 households representing 271 individuals.

Four rapid-rehousing projects were launched in 2009 that will assist approximately 151 homeless individuals and families with moderate housing barriers to move quickly from emergency shelters and the streets into housing in the private rental market. These projects are primarily funded through Federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding.

These projects/programs are effective. We need additional funds for subsidies and more landlords to achieve continued growth.

Discussion:

- It would make sense to increase access and expand the LLP program in light of our current lack of production dollars. This is the case but we would also need an increase in subsidies as many more individuals are unemployed and access to the LLP requires the ability to pay rent. SHA and KCHA are working with us on this.
- Collaboration is working at the Funders Group. While there are differing political needs between entities (as is to be expected) there are no turf wars. A challenge is coming up shortly as several fund sources are set to expire and/or reduce their intake. As a countywide group, we are determining priorities and working together to determine what cuts may need to be made. There is no doubt that tensions will be raised but they will also be workable.
- Section 8 vouchers last for five (5) years. What happens after that? Essentially, we've created a funding cliff unless we get renewals.
- Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata would like details on federal programs to buy properties and information on where the county is purchasing existing programs.

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn asked about the different "front doors" to homelessness, such as the child welfare system and others. We are just getting started coordinating linkages with these systems.

Coordinated Assessment and Entry for Families

Jackie MacLean, King County DCHS, explained that this project is a systems change issue. To date it has been a fragmented structure and we are implementing a common way for families to access homeless services and for providers to quickly link families to the resources they need. The Gates foundation launched the program with funding. The proposed model would coordinate with 2-1-1 to build on the Community Information Line's known presence and expertise in providing referrals to agencies/services, and use of trained intake specialists to conduct assessments using a proven assessment tool, housed at regional hubs that could be co-located with local partners. Agencies & Programs providing homeless housing and services would be required to use the Coordinated Entry system as the portal to services & housing instead of maintaining individual waitlists, which is similar to the Snohomish County model. The value to agencies and clients is that agencies would no longer have to conduct redundant intakes and clients would no longer have to make multiple calls/visits to get on numerous waitlists.

Coordinated Entry via Client Care Coordination for High Need Chronically Homeless Adult Individuals

David Okimoto, United Way of King County (UWKC), highlighted the fact that though he is presenting the information, this work plan, as with all of the others, includes the work of all funders. They are not individually owned by either the county, the city, UWKC, Gates Foundation etc.

The team's greatest accomplishment thus far is the collaboration with providers in populating McDermott Place and Humphrey House. The lease up for McDermott Place was developed by querying data systems for homeless people who are high utilizers of emergency services. The data systems include: MHCADSD's mental health system for people enrolled in the RSN and who are coded homeless; King County Jail bookings (does not code homeless, but this allows for review of jail use among the homeless identified in the other systems); and Psychiatric inpatient and psychiatric emergency services data systems. Jail Health is the primary source for developing the highest utilizers' candidate list for Humphrey House. The Funders Group prioritized this group because they have the most significant and costly need.

Discussion:

- Does the collaboration of data systems decrease the work for the agencies or does it hamper their ability to make their own decisions? At this point, because the kinks aren't worked out completely, it is a bit of both. It would be beneficial to connect this system with mainstream systems to share the costs.
- Are we tracking recidivism and individual's progress into more fruitful/self-sufficient lives? Data on this will build the political and public will to continue the work. The HMIS system isn't where it needs to be but HMIS doesn't provide the full picture. The Criminal Justice Initiative tracks some of these outcomes. The 1811 Eastlake study provides concrete data that exemplifies significant cost reductions to emergency health care systems. The FACT program also provides outcomes data. The High

Utilizers database system will be connecting jails but the jails won't be tracking it. Data and research is an ongoing challenge.

- The value the Governing Board can bring is encouraging the connections to mainstream systems. The GB represents multiple programs/jurisdictions and how we are working together to keep homelessness on our radars. Governing Board members take what they learn at these meetings and bring it back to their own worlds. This group can further encourage connections with mainstream systems.
- A Governing Board member sees three great challenges:
 1. 1811 is great but they need help to cite;
 2. Schools – if you flunk something in 9th grade the likelihood of not finishing high school increases dramatically;
 3. Dept. of Corrections cuts are a problem, especially given that many homeless individuals end up in jail with no funding to make connections. Governing Board advocacy may make a difference.

The jails have a pilot program that provides many re-entry services, but 35% of those in jail report themselves as homeless when they come in.

Full Development and Implementation of HMIS – Sara Levin, City of Seattle, Human Services

Sara acknowledged the challenges in the system but also noted that we are significantly better off than we were a year ago. Safe Harbors has increased program participation from 161 in 2008 to 205 in 2009. More than 300 users learned how to use the new system. Reporting was simplified and agencies are being trained to generate reports on their own. 86% of publicly funded programs are participating in HMIS. 84% of client records are complete. The greatest challenge within the HMIS system continues to be exit data.

The barriers we have encountered are: 107 additional programs need to be set up and trained to use HMIS during 2010, which entails training an estimated 200 users. Additional training is needed for many agencies due to staff turnover, etc. Data quality is an enormous issue and affects HMIS' ability to produce accurate housing outcomes. We are faced with competing priorities; Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program implementation slowed down work on other areas of implementation. Given all this, we ask that the Governing Board continue to hold our feet to the fire to provide better data.

Discussion:

- The agencies need to understand the internal benefits to successful data entry, for example, the data could be used for grant reporting, advocacy and political will within their communities.
- Many linkages are occurring across the system and there is much collaboration. The Compass Center is one example of a program achieving great success.
- 60% of the Veterans in our community are recently discharged from the military. We need to access the federal dollars that are coming in for Veterans through the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans are tracked in the HMIS system and Veterans are also part of the housing first strategy. McDermott House has 35 units dedicated to veterans and has Vets and Human Services Levy dollars in its construction.

Policy Discussion: Role of the Governing Board in 2010 to Advance the Ten-Year Plan

Bill Block reviewed the anticipated activities and outcomes of the Ten-Year Plan and noted that though we've accomplished many of the goals, we have fallen short in some areas:

- HMIS: The Ten-Year plan anticipated we would have our Safe Harbors information tracking system in place in the second year of the plan.
- Disproportionality: We have not changed the fact that a disproportionate number of people of color are in our homeless system. This is in part a reflection of the fact that a disproportionate number of people of color are in poverty – reflecting deep societal issues beyond what CEH can address. It is also reflecting the fact that we are not linked well with some of the other institutions whose populations are disproportionately people of color that also affect individual's housing stability.
- Linkages to mainstream systems: The Plan states that in years six-nine, public institutions (jails, prisons, hospitals, foster care, etc) and housing programs will have collaborated to develop programs

and policies to prevent discharging people onto the streets without appropriate housing. Perhaps this is where the Governing Board should focus its energies.

Brainstorm: How does the Governing Board take the Ten-Year Plan forward in 2010

Bill started the group off with the idea of setting up briefings for Governing Board members with mainstream systems policy leaders.

Response: Can economic times help us buy permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals? Where is the incentive to the property owner? Consider “current value” vs. “highest and best use” change in legislative policy to help those facing foreclosure.

Action: Bill offered to create a report on foreclosure related efforts to share with the Governing Board.

- Greg Taylor (who attended a portion of the January IAC meeting) stated that IAC members would like to be more involved with the Governing Board and they also provided the idea to invite federal and state policy makers to the table with the Governing Board to encourage mainstream system policy change. Topics could include discharge planning, development of political will to increase funding and prevention strategies.
- Mike McGinn stated that connecting the work with mainstream systems is key. We need data to see where we are and then track where we are going. We also need to look at how to connect with federal stimulus funds. Review land use policy, group housing and other “out of the box” housing options.
- We should bring additional leaders to the table to define the “low hanging fruit” and determine the most effective means to move those systems forward.

Action: The Governing Board asks CEH staff to develop a short list of areas/linkages/collaboration that the Governing Board can get involved in and provide an executive summary of analysis. In addition, provide a longer list of suggestions and explain why these issues did not make the list.

Public Comment

- Janice Tufte, ITFH recommends that the Governing Board use the advocates that are available to them.
- Kristine Gullin, CEH staff, shared her story of homelessness as a youth plus the steps she took to get out of homelessness and become a market rate homeowner.

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

Laird Heia, CEH Staff