

Governing Board Meeting Summary

July 28, 2010

Governing Board members present:		Governing Board members absent:
Dan Brettler (Car Toys) Co-Chair Dow Constantine (King County) Co-Chair David Bley (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) Mike Cero (Mercer Island City Council) John Chelminiak (Bellevue City Council) Tara Connor (Seattle / KC Coalition on Homelessness) Jon Fine (United Way of King County) David Freiboth (King County Labor Council) 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) Sue Rahr (King County Sheriff) Sheila Sebron (Consumer) Greg Taylor (Renton City Council) Robert V. Taylor – by phone (Community)		Monte Bridges (Puget Sound Educational Services District) John Fletcher (Providence Health Systems) Blake Nordstrom (Nordstrom Inc.) Norman Rice (Community) Fr. Stephen Sundborg, S.J. (Seattle University)
Community:		
Bill Block (CEH) Debbie Thiele (Seattle OH) Kristine Gullin (CEH) Sherry Hamilton (KC DCHS) Gretchen Bruce (CEH) Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS) Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue) Linda Peterson (KC DCHS)	Kristin Winkel (KCHA) Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) Paul Lambros (Plymouth Housing) Sara Levin (Seattle HSD) Kollin Min (Gates Foundation) Andrea Akita (Seattle HSD) Deborah Doyle (DSHS)	David Okimoto (UWKC) Sola Plumacher (City of Seattle) Janice Tufte (ITFH) Bill Kirlin Hackett (ITFH) Peggy Papsdorf (Suburban Cities Association) Alan Painter (KC Executive office) Alice Shobe (Building Changes)

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 May 26, 2010 was accepted as presented.

Update & Consent Items

Dashboard

Bill Block briefly reviewed the CEH Dashboard included in the packet. All workplans are proceeding. Landlord Liaison Project has achieved 307 placements by mid-year, ahead of its annual goal of 250. Coordinated Entry for Single Adults is proceeding, with 82 individuals placed in 7 buildings. Bill noted that the dashboard will be updated by the next Governing Board meeting to incorporate the new Funders Group workplan elements (Coordination with K-12, Child Welfare, etc.)

Members asked about recent / local trends in housing need. Bill explained that while the One Night Count numbers have not increased, other indicators do show a rising level of need overall. Community Information Line 2-1-1 reports that calls for rental and utility assistance are more than double from two years ago. Tara Conner reported that the wait list for Plymouth Housing Group is two years, the longest its ever been. Some analysts believe that these indicators may continue to rise as some of the social supports that people rely on are due to end, such as extended unemployment benefits and GA-U. On the positive side, Bill shared results from a community survey on people's attitudes towards homelessness. People continue to report a commitment to ending homelessness with very strong agreement with the statement, "our communities are better off when all people are housed" with 86% of respondents in agreement (27% in strong agreement.)

Bill noted that ultimately, our ability to end homelessness will rely on state and federal supports. (See discussion on Federal Strategic Plan in meeting summary below.) At the state level, early indications are that the Department of Commerce will ask for \$200 million for the Housing Trust Fund. Governor Lowry explained that this funding may be achievable despite the overall \$3 billion shortfall in the state operating budget as the capital budget is separate from the operating budget and has different restrictions.

Mid-Plan Review

The Governing Board discussed conducting a Mid-Plan Review, particularly in light of the new National Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and the Washington State Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness. Members agreed it's a good time to formally assess what we've accomplished under The Plan, what remains to be done, and where our resources are best spent in the next five year. Members also agreed that the Ten-Year Plan does not need a wholesale revision and that it will be important to keep a mid-plan review focused on what actions should be taken in the next five years. With that in mind, members discussed what might be included in such a report.

- How do we align with the Federal Plan and how can we leverage resources and opportunities that will emerge as a result of that plan? Where do we need to better connect to the Veteran's plan? Where do we need to better connect / jump start local regional plans (East & South King County plans, YYA, Families)
- Answer the basic question: "How are we doing?" Gather information from across the spectrum. What do various constituencies say: Customers; Community; Partner Systems, Funders, Providers, etc. What is it like to use the current system as it has evolved under The Plan?
- What is the impact of the current economy and other emerging realities? Is it time to recalibrate The Plan (e.g. number of units, populations, strategies, years to accomplish, resources available/needed, etc.)?
- How do our efforts compare with national best practices and other Ten Year Plans? There is significantly more national and local research and data than when we first drafted the plan. What is different now regarding best practices, changing populations, other considerations that should be taken into account?
- Check in on the Shelter Task Force report. We have focused our investments on long-term solutions of homelessness, but need to remember that there are people who are homeless on the street every night. How do we address ending homelessness in both the long-term and short-term?
- As the Committee to End Homelessness, focus on the two key words *End* and *Homelessness*. Our goal is not to *manage* homelessness, nor end *poverty*. We need to keep strategies aimed towards ending homelessness – what are our resources, what are our barriers, what do we need to do differently. Keep it focused, with deadlines and stated deliverables.
- Recognize that in many ways homelessness is a symptom of societal issues. Which issues are ours to address? Which issues are the responsibility of other systems, and how do we renew our connections with these systems and enlist / support them in tackling the changes that they need to shepherd? Partners may include Employment, Corrections, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, etc. One Governing Board member recommended that people view the documentary Unnatural Causes <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/> to increase understanding of societal causes of poor health, inequality and homelessness.
- Is the current structure of the CEH appropriate, and are we making best use of the skills, knowledge and resources of our partners in ending homelessness on the CAC, IAC, Funders Group, Governing Board?
- Recommendation that we work with neutral entities who are experienced in providing cost-effective research and evaluation.

Members agreed that researching and answering all these questions would be daunting. It was agreed to convene a Task Force to develop a scope of work for the Mid-Plan Review comprised of members from the Governing Board, Interagency Council, Funders Group and Consumer Advisory Council, and request that they come up with a recommendation for the content of the Review. Key elements would include 1) What have we accomplished; what are the key gaps; and how does it all relate to local and national research, emerging best practices and accomplishments of other Ten-Year Plans? 2) Based on this background what are the Committee's priorities for the short-term (years 6 & 7 of the plan) and longer term (years 8, 9 & 10) and what is the attendant work plan to move forward?.

Councilmember Licata suggested that we convene a group to specifically discuss the issue of shelter, and also that we develop a way to seek input from system participants on the question, "How are we doing?"

Bill Block suggested that a consultant that does not have strong ties to our efforts would be useful both in helping with a neutral review of our efforts and in determining whether there are national best practices that we have not yet incorporated. There are funds in the “special projects” set aside of recording fee monies for such assistance.

CEH Funders Group Workplan Updates

Lead members of the Funders Group presented updates on the Funders Group workplans, included in the Governing Board packet. All workplans are progressing as anticipated.

Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness

The Federal Government has released a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. The plan has four goals:

1. Finish the job of ending Chronic Homelessness in the next five years
2. End homelessness among Veterans in the next five years
3. End homelessness among Families & Youth and Young Adults in the next ten years
4. Set a path for ending all types of homelessness

Bill noted that two things stand out in the Federal Plan and the presentations that have accompanied its roll out. First, the high level officials who have created it understand fully the implications and needed resources, and have made a personal commitment to its success. The second key element of the Federal Plan is its emphasis on cross-system collaboration, at both the federal and the local level. Two of the initial initiatives (focused on families and chronically homeless individuals) are releasing housing vouchers in a process that will reward local systems that achieve cross-system coordination of federal funding.

Given the emphasis on cross-system collaboration, the White House held a “How To” session on cross-system collaboration and invited three Ten-Year Plans to present on how they’ve modeled successful collaborations. Seattle/King County was one of those plans, along with Ohio and Minnesota.

General Discussion

Governing Board members discussed the link between homelessness and employment. Long-term studies show that ‘make work’ programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps or WEA reap long-term benefits for economic growth and housing stabilization. It provides the individual with job skills, and the community with economic infusion and other societal benefits. Data shows there is a subset of middle aged men who have been homeless for most of their adult lives. Research suggests that these men never gained solid job skills during the recession of the 70’s and have been left out of the job market ever since. Members discussed if there’s any way to prioritize hiring laid off construction workers for some of the capital projects being developed under the Ten-Year Plan or other green building projects, or how to get young people trained and skilled so that they aren’t left out of future job markets.

Public Comment

Janice Tuft suggested that as part of conducting the Mid-Plan Reviews we go to places like Issaquah, Bothell and Maple Valley to see how homelessness has affected those communities, and the Urban Rest Stop to hear from people directly about how the system is (or isn’t) working for them at this time.

Bill Kirlin Hackett invited everyone to attend the 10th Political Will Annual Conference, Wednesday September 15th at Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle. The title of the conference this year is, “5 Years... Are We on Track?” with keynote speakers The Reverend David Bloom (founding director of IFTH) and Richard Lemieux (author of Breakfast at Sally’s)

Sheila Sebron reported on the need for community-based rehab services for veterans, and urged members to renew their commitment to homeless veterans and explore opportunities to help veterans get back to work.

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

Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff