

Interagency Council Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

IAC Members Present: Humberto Alvarez (SKCCH/Solid Ground) Karen Bergsvik (City of Renton) Dennis Brown (WA State Dept of VA) Tom Carr (City Attorneys Office) Mark Dalton (DSHS – Belltown CSO) Lynn Davison (Common Ground) Charissa Fotinos (Public Health) Bill Hobson (DESC) Bill Hallerman (AHA) Mike Heinisch (KYFS)		Paul Lambros (PHG) Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue) Jackie MacLean (King County DCHS) Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink) Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House) David Okimoto (UWKC) Alan Painter (City of Seattle HSD) Michael Ramos (Church Council) Dave Ramsay (City of Kirkland) Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA) Christine VanderWerf (CAC)	IAC members absent: Rhonda Berry (City of Tukwila) Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation) Doreen Cato (First Place) Dini Duclos (MSC) Barbara Langdon (EDVP) Kate Joncas (DSA) Clark Kimerer (Seattle Police Dept.) Stephen Norman (KCHA) Faith Richie (Valley Cities) Adrienne Quinn (Seattle Office Hsg) Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic) Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird) Tom Tierney (SHA)	
Community Members Present: Bill Block (CEHKC) Gretchen Bruce (CEHKC) Kristine Gullin (CEHKC) Janice Tuftte (ITFH) Andrea Akita (Seattle HSD) Margret Graham (WDC) Linda Peterson (KC DCHS)			Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH) Colleen Kelly (City of Redmond) Kelli Larsen (KC DCHS) Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue) Susan Rogel (YouthCare) Carole Antoncich (KC DCHS) Lisa Cipollone (SHA)	Sally Kinney (ITFH) Sinan Demirel (ROOTS) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) James Wlos (PMA) Meghan Altimore (Hopelink) AnnaMichelle Justice (CAMP) Harry Hoffman (HDC)

Welcome and Introductions / Approval of Meeting Summary

Sue Sherbrooke welcomed members to the meeting. The March IAC meeting summary was accepted as presented.

Recap from the Consumer Advisory Council

Christine VanderWerf reported that the CAC is proceeding with nominations to select a CAC representative to the IAC now that Randy has stepped down. She also reported that the CAC remains concerned about the number of people surviving on the streets without shelter, particularly now that the winter shelters have closed. The CAC will hold three focus groups this year, reaching out to parents on the eastside, immigrants and refugees, and LGBTQ youth. Finally, members are looking forward to participating in the Homeless Needs Assessment to be conducted Monday night April 13th.

Recap from The Funders Group

Jackie MacLean reported that the Funders Group continues to discuss service and budget needs of capital projects coming online in 2009, which will, in large part, set the funding priorities for this year's Coordinated NOFA. The Funders Group is also working towards development of a set of principles to guide joint funding decisions, which will be especially critical as our community faces either cuts in funding (and as a result, having to make hard choices about which services should be cut) or increases in stimulus funds (which services should be enhanced.) IAC members discussed that one of the issues that needs to be resolved is the imbalance of services-only projected funded through McKinney, which has caused our Continuum of Care's McKinney application to be less competitive over the years.

Shelter Needs & Shelter Costs

Building on last fall's conversation on the continued need for emergency and interim housing, Bill Block reported that the workgroup comprised of several shelter providers compiled a matrix with a sampling of shelters, populations served, services available, staffing, and approximate costs per bednight, and per year/per person. This matrix represents estimates of costs that reflect a number of different factors, including the level of staffing and counseling available at the shelter which in turn often reflects the severity of disability of the people being served. In addition, state licensing laws, particularly with respect to under 18 youth, impose a number of requirements. Finally, several programs do not reflect the "cost" of property, although all facilities have an implicit cost. Accordingly, these numbers should be used only as a very general indication of potential costs, and not as exact calculations or as providing uniform "apples to apples" comparisons.

The group discussed how this information can be used to make informed decisions about which housing models should be funded, enhanced given limited dollars. Comments included:

- Is it possible to compare efficacy among programs and their ability to place people in permanent housing. Should we provide more funding towards programs with higher efficacy?

- Conversely, given the high costs of permanent shelter and the lag time in building permanent housing, should we instead focus on the simple provision of emergency shelter, given the relative affordability of shelter versus permanent housing?
- How were (should) occupancy rates figured into the tallies?
- How does regional availability of shelter factor into the analysis, and should we set baseline targets for availability in each region?

This topic will be further discussed at the June retreat.

State Legislative Session

Bill Block provided an update on the Washington state legislative session. Briefly:

- The document recording fee is still moving forward, though it is uncertain what the split between local and state allocations may be, and whether it will be assessed as a tax or fee.
- Federal stimulus funding may be used as a backfill for other state cuts
- Senator Lisa Brown proposed an income tax on households earning more than \$250,000 per year. Members discussed whether an entity like CEH should take a stance on an issue such as this.

Bill noted that this year's legislative session is constantly shifting, and so it's difficult to track or weigh in on specific issues. Given that, it is most important to call legislators and voice principle support for sustaining a strong safety net.

Federal Stimulus Funds

Linda Peterson reported that planning and applications for federal stimulus funds are under way. The County will receive approximately \$1.8 million and will also administer, on behalf of several of the larger suburban cities such as Bellevue, Kent, etc., an additional \$1.4 million. Funds cannot be used for shelter, but prevention and rapid rehousing are eligible uses. The county has convened planners from throughout the region to prepare for submission of the application. Additional opportunities outside of King County include:

- FEMA – which is administered by UWKC, and can include funding for shelter
- TANF – States can receive additional TANF funds if they enhance their local state match
- Weatherization – there is up to \$6 million in weatherization funds. Some of these funds could support job training programs
- WDC/Employment and Training – WDC anticipates receiving \$8.5 million for dislocated workers and other programs aligned with WIA. It does include up to \$3 million for summer youth employment programs for young adults up to age 24.

June IAC Retreat

IAC members discussed what agenda topics for the June Retreat (June 1st at New Holly). Ideas included:

- Role of IAC as it relates to The Funders Group
- Tracking/Counting housing units under the Ten-Year Plan
- Planning for the 2nd five years of the Ten-Year Plan
- Emergency Shelter needs, costs and options
- Recap of previous workplans/achievements
- Update of economic trends and impact within King County
- McKinney services funding
- Continued discussion of Funders Group financial plan, principles, priorities (especially in connection with McKinney services funding issue) Outcome and next steps of legislative session
- Alignment of federal stimulus funding with long-term strategic initiatives

Public Comment

- James Wlos voiced support for car camping as an affordable option for shelter
- Janice Tuft expressed concern that many people will likely lose Basic Health coverage this year
- Bill Kirlin-Hackett noted that loss of affordable units is not included on the CEH dashboard, and encouraged this data element to be included.
- Marilyn Mason-Plunkett encouraged IAC members to contact state legislators and the Seattle Times to voice concern over the Seattle Times Op Ed encouraging cuts to GA-U.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Bruce