

## Interagency Council Meeting Summary

April 5, 2010

<b>IAC Members Present:</b> Alison Eisinger (SKCCH) Karen Bergsvik (City of Renton) Lynn Davison (Common Ground) Deborah Doyle (DSHS) Bill Hallerman (AHA) Mike Heinisch (KYFS) Bill Hobson (DESC) Michael Hursh (City of Auburn) Kate Joncas (DSA) Paul Lambros (PHG) Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue) Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)		Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink) Blue McKeon (CAC) Stephen Norman (KCHA) David Okimoto (UWKC) Bill Rumpf (Seattle Office Hsg) Michael Ramos (Church Council) Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA) Nancy Sherman (CAC) Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic) Judy Summerfield (City of Seattle) Tom Tierney (SHA)	<b>IAC Members Absent:</b> Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation) Dennis Brown (WA State Dept of VA) Doreen Cato (First Place) Charissa Fotinos (Public Health) Lynnette Hynden (City of Federal Way) Barbara Langdon (EDVP) Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House) Faith Richie (Valley Cities) Marlena Sessions (WDC) Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird)
<b>Community Members Present:</b> Randy Pellam (Community) Jason Johnson (City of Kent) Janet Salm (KC DCHS) Bill Block (CEHKC) Karen Williams (HDC) Harry Hoffman (HDC) Kelli Larsen (KC DCHS) Debbie Thiele (Seattle OH) Chris West (DSHS – Belltown CSO) Marie Koole (Workforce Dev Council) Cheryl Markham (KC DCHS) Alan Painter (KC Executive’s Office) David Wertheimer (Gates Foundation)		Kristine Gullin (CEHKC) Gretchen Bruce (CEHKC) Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) Sola Plumacher (Seattle/Safe Harbors) Terry Pottmeyer (Friends of Youth) Debbi Knowles (KC DCHS) Linda Peterson (KC DCHS) Virginia Weihs (SKCCH) Melinda Giovengo (YouthCare) Colleen Kelly (City of Redmond) Brooke Sharnke (YMCA) Sinan Demiral (Elizabeth House)	Janice Tuft (ITFH) James Wlos (Volunteer @ PSKS) Sally Kinney (ITHF / LCTFH) Andrea Akita (City of Seattle HSD) Natalie Lente (HCHN) Lisa Chin (Jubilee Womens Center) Meghan Altimore (Hopelink) Michael Barrett Miller (Let Kids be Kids) Casey Trupin (Columbia Legal Services) Mona Tschurwald (YWCA – LLP) Bob Ness (Consultant) Carole Antoncich (KC DCHS)

### Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

Stephen Norman and Sue Sherbrook, Interagency Council (IAC) co-chairs opened the meeting. The March , 2010 IAC meeting summary was approved.

### Feedback from Consumer Advisory Council, Governing Board and Funders Group

Bill Block and Blue McKeon reported the minutes from the Consumer Advisory Council, which were included in the IAC packet. In April, the CAC will participate in the Shoreline / North King County Affordable Housing Stakeholder’s Forum on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Shoreline City Hall.

The Funders Group continues its research and analysis of major fund sources expiring/reducing in the coming years in order to plan for impending “cliffs” within major projects. Funding expiration will be a major topic at the IAC Retreat in May.

### Moving Forward – A Strategic Plan for Addressing and Ending Family Homelessness

Debbi Knowles (King County DCHS) presented the near-final draft of the Strategic Plan for Ending Family Homelessness. This plan is the result of a year-long effort to redefine the family homeless system. It shifts the system towards a housing stability focus and was developed with input from a broad array of funders, provider agencies, consumer representatives and community members. The expectation is that by building on existing strengths, bringing successful programs to scale, integrating services and programs and coordinating community efforts, the system can reduce the number of families who experience homelessness and reduce the length of time families spend homeless.

The plan identifies five key areas for enhancements and strategic alignment:

- **Coordinated Entry and Assessment:** To give families a convenient and standard way to find the services and housing they need as quickly as possible.
- **Prevention of Homelessness for Families Most at Risk:** To keep families on the edge of homelessness housed and quickly connect them to the services they need.

- **Moving Families Quickly to Stable Housing:** To move families into permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- **Focusing Support Services on Housing Stability:** To provide individual families with the right services at the right time.
- **Ensuring that Homeless Services Include Linkages to Mainstream Services to Support Families:** To connect families to services they need to maintain housing stability and self-sufficiency.

Questions around the plan included:

Q: What resources are available to support implementation, especially in light of reducing funds from major fund sources that currently support the Ten-Year Plan?

A: Planners anticipate that the majority of funds already exist within the system (e.g., funding for traditional emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.) The shift occurs in how we use those funds, with an emphasis on prevention and rapid rehousing, with case management dollars focused on housing stabilization and linkages to mainstream systems. Some additional funding will be available through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's family homelessness initiative, including System Innovation Grants administered by the Washington Families Fund (Building Changes) over the next 6 years. These matching funds will provide \$1 dollar for every \$2.50 of new or existing funding realigned with the shift in strategies. They anticipate providing approximately \$1.8 million in the first two years combined, ramping up to \$4 million in the fourth year, then ramping back down again. They will also make available approximately \$1 million for the initial two years of the plan for staffing and infrastructure to shepherd the realignment.

Q: What are the practical implementation steps to shift these strategies, and how supportive are funders and providers of the shift?

A: To date, there appears widespread support of these strategies. The strategies were vetted through many stakeholder meetings, and align with recommendations coming from previous task forces within the Ten-Year Plan and other community planning processes. Practically speaking, implementation will occur as existing contracts expire. Subsequent RFP's/RFQ's for those funds will focus on the new strategies in this plan, as allowable by fund source. The same shift will occur for housing placement – as units turn over, placement policies will focus on prevention, rapid rehousing and housing stabilization.

Q: The prioritization of families most in need of services will require significantly more resources, not just realignment of existing resources. How does the implementation plan account for that?

A: The Systems Innovation Grants will provide some support towards initial efforts. Longer-term support relies on our ability to increase efficiencies and strengthen partnerships with mainstream systems to reduce duplicative costs within the homeless system. The Committee to End Homelessness has prioritized coordination with mainstream systems for 2010, and the families plan will support (and rely on) progress in these efforts.

Q: How will assessment occur, and is the tool available for sharing?

A: An assessment tool is being piloted by the HPRP Rapid Re-Housing for Families projects. Families are assessed using a common screening tool, resulting in a level that reflects their housing barriers and strengths. Coordinated Entry and Assessment will allow families to be uniformly screened and placed into programs that best fit their needs, with appropriate housing supports and services. The HPRP tool being piloted is available to share.

Q: What is the role of the IAC in helping to guide implementation of the plan?

A: Debbi will be attending various community meetings in the coming months to vet implementation strategies and begin work on implementation, and the IAC can be one of those groups if they wish to put it on an agenda. Jackie noted that the Funders Group will likely amend its current workplan on Coordinated Entry for Families and expand it to encompass overall implementation. Because these workplans are regularly brought to the IAC, the IAC will have continued opportunities to provide feedback to implementation of the plan.

Additional comments and suggestions:

- Bill Rumpf suggested we learn from the Taking Healthcare Home project, a two-year project (2005-2006) to break down silos across the homeless and healthcare systems. This project demonstrated that one-time changes may not take sustained funding but they can have lasting impact.
- Deborah Doyle stated that as a DSHS administrator, she is looking forward to stronger partnerships between DSHS and the homeless system. DSHS has three main areas of supports: Entitlements, Child Welfare and Health. The budget for these three supports in King County is \$1.8 billion and 22% of all King County residents receive some type of DSHS benefit.
- Sue Sherbrook noted that the plan needs to be more explicit on cultural competency, and recommended that it be added as a principle within the plan.

## **May Retreat**

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The IAC reviewed and approved the draft IAC Retreat included in the packet. The two main agenda topics will be funding expirations/NOFA priorities and mainstream connections.

## **Mainstream Connections**

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### **Education / K-12 Schools**

Casey Trupin (Columbia Legal Services) provided information on homeless children within the school system. The Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reports there are approximately 20,000 homeless children enrolled in Washington state public schools. Casey noted that this is known to be an undercount. Families often try to hide the fact that they are homeless and schools are ill-equipped to identify and support students who are homeless. One of the challenges is that McKinney funding requires schools to provide transportation and other supports to homeless children, but schools often see it as an unfunded (or inadequately funded) mandate.

Casey believes that now is a good time to focus on strengthening partnerships between schools and the homeless system. HUD has recently issued new regulations require better identification and support of homeless students, and will issue a batch of vouchers (6,000) for education/school-focused projects. Good data is coming forth on the prevention and rapid rehousing efforts and the educational benefits for students and costs savings for schools. There is emerging legislation (HB2106) for improving child welfare through proven reforms. As it regards the IAC retreat, Casey recommends focusing the conversation on two questions:

1. How can schools do a better job of identifying homeless students
2. How can we improve relationships between schools and partners. What incentives can we provide to schools to focus their limited resources in support of homeless students.

A few websites with information on best practices around education and homeless children are:

[www.schoolhouselaw.org](http://www.schoolhouselaw.org) (will be live in the next few weeks)

[www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org)

<http://www.k12.wa.us/>

### **DSHS**

Deborah Doyle (DSHS) noted that while most people think of DSHS in terms of public benefits and entitlements, there are two other divisions that have a big impact in people's lives - child welfare and healthcare. Data regarding children who have been removed from their preceding/resulting homelessness are especially significant to the Ten-Year Plan. She and David Wertheimer shared data from recent research of a cohort of 805 families in one study:

- 37% of out of home placements occurred in families who experienced homelessness in the 12 months prior to removal
- 18% of out of home placements were not homeless before the placement, but the parent became homeless after removal of the child
- 25% of placements occurred among households who were doubled up.
- Between 5-10% of out of home placements cite homelessness as the primary cause for intervention.

Denise Revels Robinson, director of DSHS, will attend the May retreat to discuss emerging trends and needs within DSHS and how DSHS and the homeless system can be mutually supportive. Deborah recommends focusing the conversation clarify the data so we know the short- and long-term costs and issues in King County.

## **Funding Expirations & Funding Cliffs**

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Paper copies of the funding expiration spreadsheet(s) were distributed to IAC members. Cheryl Markham (DCHS) explained that this spreadsheet is a tool to understand the funds (and annual level of contracted services/housing) known to be expiring or reducing OR specifically leveraged as part of the NOFA funding process to create whole packages. The sources included in the study are: Sound Families; HHSF (2163, 1359, 2331); State HGAP; VHS Levy; State 2060 Buy Down; Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP); United Way of King County; McKinney; City of Seattle Human Services; KCHA Vouchers; SHA Vouchers.

Cheryl explained that this data will be reviewed more fully at the IAC Retreat, when funders will seek IAC feedback / insight into issues around:

- The amount of funds going off the table and the implications
- What other sources/strategies could be pursued to generate more revenues / operate more efficiently
- If we can't generate additional funds, what principles should be used to decide allocations
- What else is coming down the pike, and how should this be accounted for within future policy/funding decisions

The group discussed that they are looking forward to a productive discussion as IAC members are well placed to identify efficiencies. Members also requested that funders provide specific examples and detailed analysis of the data in order to provide the best insight.

## **HMIS Implementation**

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David Okimoto, reporting on behalf of Safe Harbors, stated that the trilateral group that oversees Safe Harbors (UKWC, King County, City of Seattle) is finalizing Safe Harbor's annual workplan. It focuses on the system's ability to run mandatory reports such as the AHAR and APR and increasing participation among providers.

Paul Lambros requested that the group also prioritize working with contractors to ensure that all requests for data include data elements included in Safe Harbors as there are still some reports that are not aligned with what Safe Harbors can deliver.

## **2010 State Legislative Session**

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Bill Block provided a brief update on the state legislative session to date:

- GAU will be substantially changed, and will have a 24-hour cap and mandatory participation in services for some recipients. The program will be reviewed in five years to see how it's working under this new structure.
- CTED has been reorganized to become the Dept of Commerce, and Mental Health has gone under Aging & Disabilities
- The Becca Bill has been changed to allow for up to 72 hour notification with certain caveats
- Churches won the right to host Tent Cities
- No final word yet on HGAP, Housing Trust Fund or Washington Families Funders Group, though we anticipate significant cuts in funding within each of these programs.

Members noted that the implications of cuts to programs will be huge – especially GAU and Housing Trust Fund.

Stephen Norman reported that KCHA and SHA will receive 110 new VASH Vouchers.

## **Public Comment**

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Melinda Giovengo clarified some of the requirements around Becca notification. Providers will be required to check the runaway website to see if an alert has been issued for a runaway.

Bill Kirlin Hackett provided an update on the car camping solution that his group is working on, and noted that the Tenth Annual Political Will to End Homelessness conference will be coming up this year. More information to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff.