

## Interagency Council Meeting Summary

January 11, 2010

<b>IAC Members Present:</b>		<b>IAC Members Absent:</b>
Humberto Alvarez (SKOCH/Solid Ground) Karen Bergsvik (City of Renton) Dennis Brown (WA State Dept of VA) Lynn Davison (Common Ground) Deborah Doyle (DSHS) Charissa Fotinos (Public Health) Bill Hallerman (AHA) Mike Heinisch (KYFS) Bill Hobson (DESC) Michael Hursh (City of Auburn) Lynnette Hynden (City of Federal Way) Paul Lambros (PHG) Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue)	Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS) Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink) Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House) David Okimoto (UWKC) Alan Painter (City of Seattle HSD) Adrienne Quinn (Seattle Office Hsg) Michael Ramos (Church Council) Dave Ramsay (City of Kirkland) Marlena Sessions (WDC) Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA) Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic) Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird) Tom Tierney (SHA)	Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation) Doreen Cato (First Place) Kate Joncas (DSA ) Clark Kimerer (Seattle Police Dept.) Barbara Langdon (EDVP) Stephen Norman (KCHA) Faith Richie (Valley Cities) Nancy Sherman (CAC)
<b>Community Members Present:</b>		
Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue) Meghan Altimore (Hopelink) Someireh Amirfaiz (ReWA) Bill Block (CEHKC) Kelli Carroll (KC Council) Lisa Chin (Jubilee Women's Center) Marci Curtin (City of Seattle) Sinan Demirel (ROOTS) Debora Gay (KC CSD) Melinda Giovengo (YouthCare) Malcolm Grothe (SSCC)	Kristine Gullin (CEHKC) Laird Heia (CEHKC) Harry Hoffman (HDC) Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH) Donald Lachman (WDVA) Vince Matulionis (UWKC) Julie McFarland (Friends of Youth) Katy Miller (KC DCHS) Linda Peterson (KC CSD) Sola Plumacher (Seattle / Safe Harbors)	Brooke Scharnke (YMCA) Mary Shaw (UWKC) Janice Tufte (ITFH) Liz Wall (YouthCare) Derek Wentorf (UWKC) Karen Williams (HDC) James Wlos (PSKS)

### Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

Sue Sherbrooke, Interagency Council (IAC) co-chair opened the meeting. The December 7, 2009 IAC meeting summary was approved as submitted.

Sue asked IAC members to hold all day March 1, 2010 for the IAC retreat. Time will be set aside on the February IAC agenda to set the retreat agenda.

Deborah Doyle, Regional Administrator for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; Sara Levin, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, City of Seattle, and Michael Hursh, Human Services Manager for the City of Auburn were approved for membership to the IAC.

Adrienne Quinn, Director of the Office of Housing, City of Seattle, resigns her position as of February 5, 2010. Adrienne will be vice president for public policy and government relations for Enterprise Community Partners, a nationwide affordable housing and community development organization that has a strong presence in Seattle, and will move to Washington D.C. Bill Rumpf, the office's deputy director, will serve as acting director after Adrienne leaves.

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

Nancy Sherman was not present to provide feedback on the December CAC meeting. The Governing Board has not met since the last IAC meeting nor has the Funders Group.

### Combined NOFA Awards

Cheryl Markham, King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Housing and Community Development (HCD) Programs reviewed the awards for the Combined NOFA, Capital Funding for New Affordable Housing. A total of over \$9 million dollars was awarded this funding round to projects serving a variety of population groups around the county.

Katy Miller, DCHS, HCD reviewed the Combined NOFA awards for Operating Support, Rental Assistance & Supportive Services for New and Existing Housing.

By the numbers:

- 37 applications were received requesting \$43.7 million
- Approximately \$12 million was awarded from King County MIDD, Veterans and Human Services Levy, HHSF, Washington Families Fund and UWKC
- 168 Section 8 subsidies from KCHA and SHA were awarded.
- 17 projects were awarded multi-year funding commitments and many of the projects receive funding from multiple sources.
- 11 of the projects are linked to new capital units coming on line in 2010.
- 12 of the projects will commit some or all of the units to the chronically homeless
- 9 Projects are in Seattle; 6 Projects in South King County; 2 Projects in East King County

### **Youth and Young Adults: Current Best Practices for Helping Homeless Young Adults**

At the November IAC meeting, Mike Heinisch, Kent Youth and Family Services, requested the CEH Youth and Young Adult Committee bring the current best practices and recommendations for Youth to the IAC. Following are highlights of the presentation. For specific details, please contact Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director of YouthCare at [melinda.giovengo@youthcare.org](mailto:melinda.giovengo@youthcare.org).

To begin, Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society, opened the presentation and shared some of background:

- YYA providers have always had the utilization challenge. How is it that Youth providers are always complaining about lack of funding and support – and yet there are regularly open beds in Youth? This presentation will provide you with a more thorough understanding of the youth population that will help answer this question and others.
- There is a request on the table from the CEH Youth and Young Adult committee to add an additional youth provider member to the IAC.

Tim, a student at South Seattle Community College, provided his story. He is a young man who is the oldest of 6 kids. His mother is single and could no longer care for the family. Therefore, he entered the foster care system at age 16, aged out at 18 and into life couch surfing and living in his car. To get help he went to the YMCA where he was able to get information on jobs, receive food and clothes, take a shower, prepare for interviews, receive job employment classes and other services. Everything was right there – easy to access. Because he received this constant support and education, he was able to get into college and begin to think about his future.

“Being homeless hurts your pride. The “Y” helped. It gave me self esteem. I got to take a 7 week job training program and now I have a job and am in college.”

Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare, walked the IAC through a developmental model for ending youth homelessness in our community, described a system of intervention, and closed with a recommendation by the United Way of King County.

Overview of the developmental model based on the work of Elizabeth McCauley, PHD ABPP.

Adolescence marks a period of increased vulnerability with many problems related to control of emotions and behavior.

Adolescents are experience changes in all spheres of life: physical and cognitive development; school, family peer expectations. It is a period of increased risk taking behavior and a risk period for onset of major mental health problems. Anyone who experiences life with a teenager knows all of this intimately well. You never quite know which personality will be showing up each morning, afternoon or evening.

Adolescents are establishing behavioral patterns: exercise, sleep, diet and building the foundation for major life roles in education and relationships. It is also a period of active brain development and plasticity.

The normal developmental challenges include preparing for entry into the adult world of work and romantic partnerships, increased independence from his/her family and increased independence from his/her family and increased ability to make independent decisions and life-style choices. Adolescents live predominantly with fellow young adults and experience instability as reflected in frequent and often normative changes in residence, relationships and work situations. This is normally a time of instability in order to grow – for our kids and homeless kids.

#### How do Homeless Youth fit in?

The issues of homeless youth typically include family disruption through abuse/rejection/coercion/lack of support. The adolescent response to these issues presents itself in poor emotional regulation, impulsive behavior and emotional immaturity. The result can be homelessness, mental health problems, substance use/abuse and sexual risk taking – which often causes the cycle to begin again.

In today's economic times, there is huge financial stress at home and children are showing up saying "my parent(s) can't afford me anymore."  
Adolescents need that "box of security" around them so they have something to push against in order to test their skills and environment. For kids on the street, the box has evaporated.

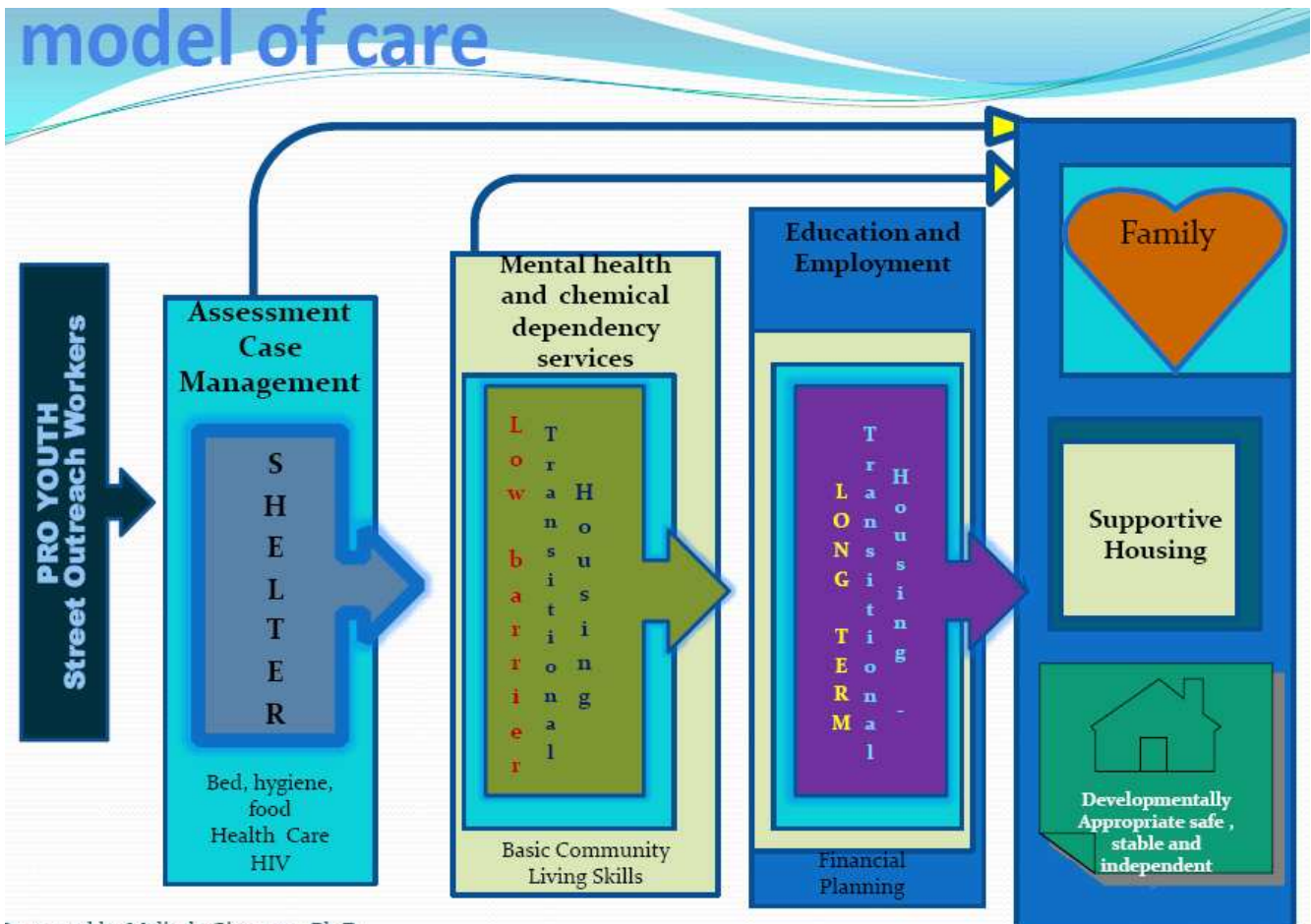
Knowing the developmental process of adolescents, what are the implications for program development? To begin, providers need to ensure a safe, protective environment – a "safe box" within which the kids can make coached, healthy decisions.

- Provide comprehensive care in a "one stop shopping" environment.
- Provide flexible services that are welcoming to the non-committal and recognize the need to build trust – slowly.
- Include evidenced based approaches like Trauma Focused CBT
- Provide the adolescent the opportunity to have a voice and to play a strong role in the planning and implementation of their future.
- Develop scaffold building of multi-generational relationships and work skills.

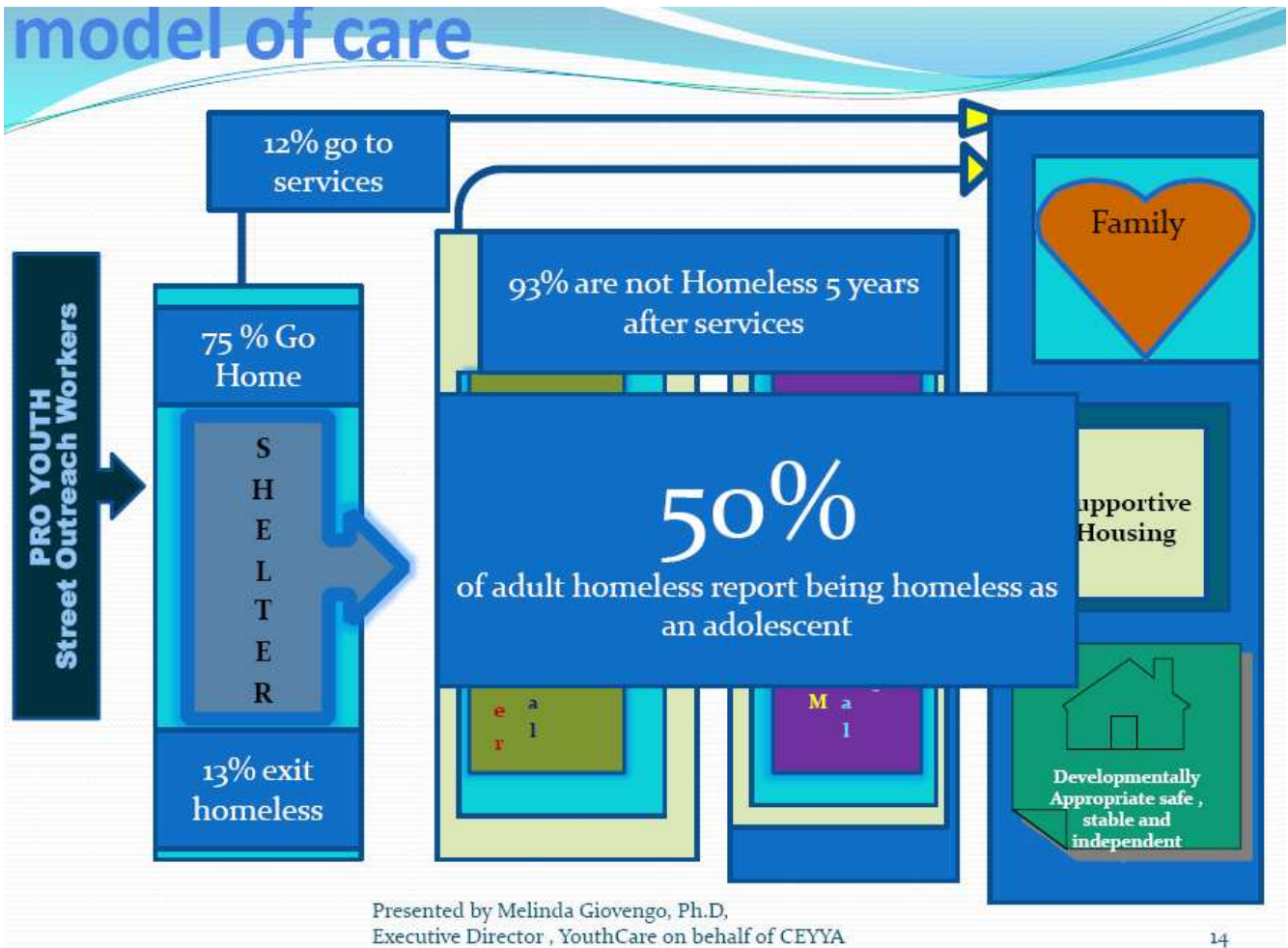
Outreach and Drop in care allows us to meet youth where they are and begins the process of developing trust. Never judge behaviors; instead offer safer alternatives. Trust must be built before asking for change.

Providing basic needs such as food and clothing helps providers develop credibility and provide safety. Case management provides hope and a vision for the future – which then empowers youth with a sense of self direction and efficacy where they begin the internalization of a locus of control. We work with the youth to help them identify their goals which then empowers them to have the confidence to move forward.

The recommended model of care is below.



Presented by Melinda Giovengo, Ph.D,  
Executive Director , YouthCare on behalf of CEYVA



This slide highlights many things but particularly that 50% of individuals who are homeless as adults report being homeless as an adolescent. We need to get the kids on the very front end in order to decrease the number of homeless individuals in the long run.

Youth and Young adults by the numbers:

- Rising Out Of The Shadows (ROOTS) served 443 unduplicated young adults in 209 and had 1761 turn-aways.
- YMCA capacity for 18-21 year olds is 43 Transitional Beds and 45 Permanent beds. YMCA determined their need for 524 beds in 2009.
- YouthCare's total unduplicated count in 2008 was 2,057 and 3037 in 2009; An increase of almost 1,000 kids in one year.
- YouthCare housed 336 youth in 2009 and needed to house 3,037.

Conclusion presented by Mike Heinisch: If we don't fix the youth homelessness problem our adult homelessness program will grow. We ask for a strategic delivery system. How do we work the continuum to work for the youth?

David Okimoto, United Way of King County (UWKC) stated that Mary Shaw, UWKC is the lead of the work currently going on with youth homelessness at UWKC. UWKC will facilitate a planning process to map out the full continuum/resources needed to support youth and will be hiring a consultant to help with the process. The plan will build on all of the previous efforts designed for youth – it will not be recreating the wheel

Mike Heinisch wrapped up the discussion. Permanent housing is not a solution for the youth and young adult homeless population. We need to be flexible, just as we know our own growing teenagers need the flexibility to test out their futures. It's how kids work – our kids and homeless kids.

Discussion:

Q: What is the specific age range for Youth and Young Adults?

A: Approximately 12 – 25 years old but they are broken into two categories – under 18 and then 18-25. We need a continuum for the full spectrum.

“Transitional housing” in youth terms appears to mean lack of flexibility.

A: The challenge is the definitions of this term define how the dollars can be spent.

### Governing Board Review

Bill lay the groundwork for a discussion on what areas the Governing Board should focus its energies in the coming year. Focusing on the need for resources and to continue their work increasing political will is a given.

In the “Activities and Anticipated Outcomes” table on p. 3 of the Ten Year Plan you can see that we have made significant strides in many areas and we need to do more. Specifically, three activities are lagging in the timeline.

1. HMIS was projected to be fully operational in the first year. With the new system, we should be finally turning the corner on that project.
2. There are still disproportionately more people of color in the system as in the general population.
3. We need more involvement of our mainstream systems – jail, psychiatric diversion projects and the respite housing project.
  - a. “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.”

The integration of mainstream systems, not just the institutions but also the school system and the workforce development system, into the efforts to end homelessness is an area where the Governing Board could be of great help, both in brainstorming approaches and in actually creating change.

Accordingly, one potential area of focus could be the integration of mainstream systems into our efforts. I am sure, however, that there are other areas that members of the IAC would want to suggest, so, again given that resources and political will are a constant ask, suggest areas where it may be both practical and productive for Governing Board members to focus their energies.

IAC Recommendations:

Brainstorm with the Governing Board (GB) members using their expertise come up with a joint IAC/GB advocacy issue i.e.: integration of mainstream systems.

Get behind efforts to have the state share data/be more integrated i.e. the discharge bill

Host a think tank with the GB members as the draw

People are more involved in things they help create. How do we engage them in the process to own it.

Focus them on prevention strategies for youth. 50% of kids who start homeless continue to be homeless. That is a staggering statistic for the Governing Board to sink its teeth into.

Have the GB invite key policy makers at the federal and state level and host a symposium.

Brainstorm 2-3 mainstream system change symposium ideas to the Governing Board.

### HMIS

David Okimoto, UWKC, announced that the tri-lateral committee will be hosting the special HMIS meeting that was requested after the December IAC meeting. Information will be forthcoming on the details. He encouraged that in preparation for this meeting, be sure that each agency speaks with one voice.

Please get questions to Sola ahead of time at [sola.plumacher@seattle.gov](mailto:sola.plumacher@seattle.gov)

Sola Plumacher, City of Seattle, Safe Harbors Manager, reviewed the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) that was recently submitted to Congress. AHAR includes the number and characteristics of people who use homeless residential services and their patterns of use. Congress mandated this report in legislation for the HUD McKinney-Vento funding.

Four table shells were submitted in this report. Of the four tables submitted, it is likely that only one will be accepted. The recurrent challenge is accurate exit data. For details on this report, please contact Sola.

The Cumulative Data Quality Program report continues to show significant improvement.

Discussion:

Q: What aren't the other data shells going to be accepted?

A: Incorrect or lack of exit data which will again be discussed at the Partners meeting on January 19.

### Legislative Advocacy

- The state legislative session started on January 11 and is short. The budget comes out on January 12.
- Bill received training on positive value messaging which shows how to explain how improvements to end homelessness also help the community.
- GA - U will not be called Disability Lifeline.
- Speaker Chopp has a plan to put \$100 million in the State Housing Trust Fund
- If you are a 501C3 you can lobby. Get your boards involved.

### February Agenda

Sue laid out agenda items for February to include:

- Funders Group Expiring/Renewing Fund Source discussion
- Coordinated Entry for Families
- One Night County survey feedback
- UWKC Shelter survey feedback
- Michael Ramos Shelter Discussion
- Agenda setting for the IAC retreat
- Discussion around how the IAC can be more involved with the Governing Board

### Public Comment

- Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director, YouthCare thanked Adrienne Quinn for all of her hard work and introduced YouthCare's new
- James Wlos: Supports the youth programs and agrees that it is very important to fix the problem when they are young.
- Sinan, ROOTS, announced the Thursday afternoon Town Hall at 7:30pm. Norm Stamper and other great youth specialists will be speaking.
- Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (ITFH) encouraged individuals to call him for coffee if they need encouragement to continue the fight.
- Someireh Amirfaiz, Executive Director of ReWA noted that we need to include refugees and immigrant families into the discussions. The Youth presentation was great but was very culture specific.
- Karen Williams, Housing Development Consortium, noted that the December IAC meeting summary, Advocacy section needed to include the statement that she made: "The absence of an overall advocacy strategy for the 10 Year Plan makes it difficult to be as effective in that area as could be possible".

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

Laird Heia, CEH Staff