

Interagency Council Meeting Summary

March 1, 2010

IAC Members Present:		IAC Members Absent:
Humberto Alvarez (SKCCH/Solid Ground)	Blue McKeon (CAC)	Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation)
Karen Bergsvik (City of Renton)	Stephen Norman (KCHA)	Dennis Brown (WA State Dept of VA)
Doreen Cato (First Place)	Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House)	Lynn Davison (Common Ground)
Bill Hallerman (AHA)	David Okimoto (UWKC)	Deborah Doyle (DSHS)
Mike Heinisch (KYFS)	Bill Rumpf (Seattle Office Hsg)	Charissa Fotinos (Public Health)
Paul Lambros (PHG)	Michael Ramos (Church Council)	Bill Hobson (DESC)
Barbara Langdon (EDVP)	Dave Ramsay (City of Kirkland)	Michael Hursh (City of Auburn)
Sara Levin (City of Seattle)	Faith Richie (Valley Cities)	Kate Joncas (DSA)
Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue)	Marlena Sessions (WDC)	Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird)
Lynnette Hynden (City of Federal Way)	Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA)	Tom Tierney (SHA)
Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)	Nancy Sherman (CAC)	
Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink)	Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic)	
Community Members Present:		
Someireh Amirfaiz (ReWA)	Kristine Gullin (CEHKC)	Janice Tuft (ITFH)
Bill Block (CEHKC)	Gretchen Bruce (CEHKC)	James Wlos (Volunteer @ PSKS)
Meghan Altimore (Hopelink)	Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH)	Sally Kinney (ITHF / LCTFH)
Karen Williams (HDC)	Katy Miller (KC DCHS)	Andrea Akita (City of Seattle HSD)
Tara Conner (PHG / SKCCH)	Sola Plumacher (Seattle/Safe Harbors)	Colby Bradley (LIHI)
Som Acharya (ReWA)	Terry Pottmeyer (Friends of Youth)	Alan Painter (KC Exec's Office)
Dhanapati Neopaney (ReWA)	Long Tran (ReWA)	Nafiso Samatar (ReWA)
Jeff Sikora (ReWA)	Liz Wall (Friends of Youth)	Idil Mahamud (ReWA)
Harry Hoffman (HDC)	Sharon Anderson (City of Kirkland)	Joe Ingram (Vets Edge)

Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

Stephen Norman and Sue Sherbrook, Interagency Council (IAC) co-chairs opened the meeting. The February 1, 2010 IAC meeting summary was approved, noting that ___ was not in attendance as recorded.

2009 Coordinated NOFA Awards

Katy Miller reviewed the list of projects that were awarded funding through the 2009 Coordinated NOFA. King County DCHS, KCHA, SHA, UWKC, and the Washington Families Fund awarded approximately \$18.5 million in services, operating support, and rental assistance funds to 17 programs. Funding will provide new rental subsidies, operating support, housing stabilization services, and other critical supports to more than 585 homeless households annually. Requests for funding within this NOFA round totaled over \$40 million.

Bill Rumpf reviewed the countywide capital funding awards from the same NOFA round. A total of 6 projects were awarded a total of \$25.5 million through City of Seattle, King County, State and ARCH funds, which fund the development of 238 homeless/high need units.

Feedback from Consumer Advisory Council, Governing Board and Funders Group

Nancy Sherman and Blue McKeon reported that Melinda Giovengo attended the February CAC meeting to share the same presentation recently made to the IAC. The CAC is recruiting members, with a focus on people of color, LGBTQ, veterans, and people who have received services on the eastside and south county.

The Funders Group continues its research 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.

Coordination with Mainstream Systems

Bill Block noted that the Governing Board has shown interest in identifying ways to better link the housing / homeless system with mainstream systems, and is looking to the IAC and the Funders Group for suggestions as to where to focus this effort. To begin, the IAC reviewed some basic questions around current efforts to link with mainstream systems (eg – discharge projects such as FACT/PACT/SHIFT) and discussed:

- What collaborations are working well now.
- What collaborations are we trying that are not working.
- What collaborations are we not even trying that we should.

- Which system's bottom line is most adversely affected by their participant's homelessness (who has most incentive to partner).
- Which systems are such that, linking to them would either significantly prevent homelessness, or greatly increase the ability of people to leave homelessness.

Members discussed that it has been difficult to gain traction on this issue beyond a few highly visible systems in which homelessness is highly evident (eg – jails, sobering centers.) However, the time seems to be right for strengthening connections within and across additional systems and helping these systems understand that homelessness is a mutual concern. Discussion on what linkages are needed or could be sustained include:

- Workforce Development Council. Marlana Sessions noted that state and federal targets for job placement and retention are such that WDC must target people with far fewer challenges than the homeless population in order to meet funding performance requirements. The WDC would appreciate support and assistance in educating federal funders how these performance requirements constrain who they can accept as clients into the system. She also noted that they recently allocated \$100,000 to fund a Navigator position to help participants navigate the WorkSource system, knowing that this funding, in itself, won't be attributable to outcomes and is a non-traditional use of funding.

There will be Employment Smart Growth Conference coming up, with participation by three different federal agencies. There may be a focus of public service employment, and members wondered if Seattle could serve as a pilot to demonstrate the effectiveness of public service employment projects (eg – CETA type projects).

- Child Welfare System. Bill Block noted that a high percentage of families entering the child welfare system are homeless and a very high percentage (35%) of those who are housed lose their housing within one year of entering the child welfare system. We have not had much success making inroads into this system, but it could be an extremely fruitful area of new cooperation for both systems.
- School Districts/Education. Doreen noted that each school district is supposed to have a homeless liaison coordinator per McKinney requirements and some, though not all, have family support workers. These individuals/points would be, perhaps, the best place to make initial connections. She also noted that many doubled-up families don't get counted, so the number of homeless families under-represents the level of need.
- Ask consumers. Blue suggested going to feeding sites or other locations where people who are homeless might be, and asking them directly what other systems they access or what linkages they need to cut through red tape.

Members agreed it's challenging to identify specifics of what can/should be done regarding linkages with mainstream systems. The issues are complex and the leverage points within each of these systems are nuanced. It was suggested we develop a matrix of existing cross-system projects, who they serve, and successes we've had. Then, we could invite these (and new) partners to identify additional low-cost/high impact points for better coordination. This will be a major topic of discussion at the May IAC Retreat.

IAC Annual Retreat

Sue Sherbrooke read the initial list of topics brainstormed at the last IAC meeting, and members refined the list of topics for inclusion on the agenda for the May retreat. Items included:

- Funding expirations and anticipated priorities for the upcoming Fall Coordinated NOFA
- Recap of 2009 IAC Workplan – accomplishments and work still needed;
- What are we doing for unsheltered people
- Mainstream Connections – Coordination with mainstream systems: DSHS/Child Welfare, Education; Employment; Corrections, etc.
- Maintaining the Political Will / Celebrating and Recalibrating the Ten Year Plan. Reflect on “how we're doing” and whether we need to make any fundamental mid-course corrections.

It was agreed that funding expirations and coordinating with mainstream systems are major topics deserving considerable discussion at the Retreat. Beyond that, Bill will help convene a small group of IAC members to

work with a facilitator to flesh out the agenda based input provided. Finally, we'll "tee up" the major retreat items by presenting background information at the April IAC meeting.

Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System

Sola Plumacher reported that Safe Harbors submitted its first set of Annual Homeless Assessment Reports (AHAR) for 2010 to HUD in the last week. There are a series of components to this report, and the first few have been accepted, which is good news. They are also developing a dashboard to assess system use of Safe Harbors and analysis of the data within it. It currently has 10 elements, including data on how many people enter homelessness, how many exit, how many return, etc. This prototype will be available in April or May.

David Okimoto reported on recent efforts to collect feedback from users of the Safe Harbors system. Safe Harbors staff held a series of meetings to learn how they could better support users of the system. The Trilateral Team also hired a consultant, who held a series of stakeholder meetings to gather candid feedback on the system. The consultant rolled this information up into an overall report with suggestions for improvements at the system and staff level. As a result, Safe Harbors has changed some of their work processes, redirected staffing, and is reprioritizing basic functionality of the system. Top priorities are:

1. Complete work to ensure system's ability to produce major required reports such as the AHAR
2. Complete work to ensure system's ability to produce local reports such UWKC outcomes and additional reports useful to agencies for performance management
3. Actively engage Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing programs not required to participate in Safe Harbors
4. Building from there

David noted that Safe Harbors will be implementing a "pay to play" component so that if partners want the system to do more than these priorities, they will need to provide financial support for proposed functions. Humberto Alvarez noted that agencies are already paying in terms of staffing and administrative costs required to support the system within each of their agencies.

2010 State Legislative Session

Bill Block reported on recent developments in the Washington State 2010 legislative session, and areas where education/advocacy is critical:

- Passage of the Housing Trust Fund remains a number one priority
- Funding for GA-U (renamed Security Lifeline) continues to be at risk. The Senate version proposes distributing assistance in the form of a housing voucher and chemical dependency/mental health treatment for those who need it, plus a small cash allotment for personal needs. The person must accept the voucher and treatment in order to receive the benefit.
- The bill to allow churches to host Tent Cities is moving forward
- The bill to parental notification under the Becca Bill up to 72 hours is moving forward
- The legislature has proposed consolidating housing and human services funding through the newly named Department of Commerce and block granting to counties their "share" of funding

Bill will communicate with the IAC via email when there are critical bills that need an urgent push before the legislature.

Public Comment

Joe Ingram noted that while the IAC and members of the CEH have accomplished much under Ten Year Plan, the One Night Count is higher than when we started, and we should all dedicate ourselves to redoubling our efforts.

It was noted that today's IAC meeting is Dave Ramsay's last meeting, as he will be retiring in April from the City of Kirkland. IAC members thanked him for his leadership on this and many other community issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff.