

Interagency Council Meeting Summary

April 4, 2011

IAC Members Present:		IAC Members Absent:	
Dennis Brown (WDVA)	Barbara Langdon (EDVP)	Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation)	Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)
Doreen Cato (First Place)	Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue)	Deborah Doyle (DSHS)	Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink)
Darasavanh Craven (CAC)	Stephen Norman (KCHA)	Charissa Fotinos (Public Health)	Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House)
Manuela Ginnett (SKCCH)	Michael Ramos (Church Council)	Michael Hursh (City of Auburn)	David Okimoto (UWKC)
Bill Hallerman (AHA)	Nancy Sherman (CAC)	Bill Hobson (DESC)	Dannette Smith (Seattle HSD)
Mike Heinisch (KYFS)	Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA)	Kate Joncas (DSA)	Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic)
Colleen Kelly (City of Redmond)	Tom Tierney (SHA)	Clark Kimerer (Seattle Police)	Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird)
Paul Lambros (PHG)		Lynnette Hynden (Federal Way)	
Community Members Present			
Bill Block	Kimberly Walla (Bellevue Parks)	Harry Hoffman (HDC)	Katy Miller (KC DCHS)
Kristine Gullin (CEHKC)	Chris West (DSHS – Belltown CSO)	Janice Tufte (ITFH)	Hedda McLendon (YouthCare)
Gretchen Bruce (CEHKC)	Anna Markee (KC DCHS)	James Wlos (Community)	Kari Hill (Building Changes)
Bill Kirilin-Hackett (ITFH)	Debora Gay (KC DCHS)	Triina Tennelo (KC DCHS)	Vitoria Lin (Building Changes)
Andrea Akita (City of Seattle)	MJ Kiser (Compass Housing)	Janet Salm (KC DCHS)	Kate Speltz (KC DCHS)
Neil Powers (UWKC)	Jim Benbow (VA Puget Sound)	Deborah Kuznitz (KC DCHS)	Linda Rasmussen (YWCA)
Linda Petersen (KC DCHS)	Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue)		

Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

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

Public Comment and Announcements

Kate Speltz noted that funders would soon release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for time limited housing (aka Emergency Shelter / Transitional Housing) based on homeless grant dollars soon to be block granted by the state to the county. Proposals will be due by later summer, with announcements by October so programs can ramp up / ramp down given new funding levels. The goal is to coordinate (to the extent possible) with the upcoming City of Seattle RFI for emergency shelter, as well as the recommendations that may come out of the Mid Plan Review charrette on Single Adult Shelter.

United Way's Community Resource Exchange will take place Friday, April 22nd at Qwest Field.

James Wlos urged that policy leaders take into consideration the needs of people who rely on their vehicles for safe and affordable housing.

Mike Heinisch has been designated a 2011 SuperHero by ParentMAP magazine. Congratulations (and well deserved) Mike!

Five Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness in King County

Debora Gay, MJ Kiser, Jim Benbow and Dennis Brown discussed the Five Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness in King County, emphasizing the joint planning among the VA, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), King County, local providers, and veteran advocates that was at the forefront of developing this plan. The plan emphasizes the following priorities and system enhancements:

- Close the housing gap for homeless / at-risk veterans. Prioritize housing and funding for veteran and their families within local funding rounds where appropriate. Advocate for additional resources and support changes in federal, state and local policy to remove barriers to effective services among veterans.
- Address complex needs among veterans, starting with outreach and prevention. Identify best practice models for serving veterans, and build capacity among agencies serving veterans to implement these practices.
- Work with partners towards system reform. Coordinate services across the network of federal, state and local providers to streamline access to housing and services.
- Enhance data collection of veterans and their housing and service needs

The driving theme for the Five Year Plan is that it will require strong partnerships at every level. Jim Benbow noted that the VA has a history of operating independently, and this emphasis on collaboration is driving significant changes within VA Puget Sound. Dennis Brown likewise noted that WDVA likewise has a five year plan, and numerous action steps within that plan specifically focus on strengthening partnerships. Finally, Kaiser with Compass Housing noted that this plan marks one of the best efforts among the VA and WDVA and local providers in working cooperatively. She noted, however, that the action steps to implement the Five Year Plan will need to be very concrete as opposed to an amorphous goal of “strengthen partnerships” while still remaining flexible to take advantage of emerging opportunities. Other IAC members noted that we will not be able to implement the plan with just existing resources. The “ask” needs to be very explicit – at both the resource and policy level.

Moving Forward: Family Homelessness Initiative

Triina Tennelo presented an overview of Moving Forward, the Homeless Families Initiative. In December 2008, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and United Way of King County awarded a grant to King County to undertake a local planning process to develop a plan that will reduce family homelessness. King County is one of three communities (Pierce and Snohomish are the other two counties) participating in this expanded work of the Washington Families Fund managed by Building Changes. Initial planning efforts are completed. King County is preparing to launch the first steps of the implementation phase focused on creating change in the five key areas that will have the most significant impact on overall system change.

1. Coordinated entry and assessment - give families a convenient and standard way to find the services and housing they need as quickly as possible.
2. Prevent homelessness for families most at risk - keep families who are on the edge of homelessness housed and quickly connect them to the services they need.
3. Move families quickly to stable housing - help families regain stability by moving them into non time-limited housing as quickly as possible.
4. Focus support services on housing stability - provide individual families with the right services at the right time and connect families to services they need and want to maintain housing stability and self-sufficiency.
5. Increase collaborations with mainstream systems - assist families in accessing the services, housing and income supports they need to maintain housing stability.

Triina reviewed a diagram with proposed system change elements – the use of coordinated assessment and placement into interim housing and rapid rehousing. An RFQ will be released in May/June of 2011 for a host agency for the coordinated entry and assessment element. Other next steps include:

- Engaging with immigrant and refugee groups and domestic violence service providers to ensure equal access and cultural competence as it relates to the development of coordinated entry and assessment.
- Reaching out to community stakeholders at regional homelessness planning groups.
- Examining local funding opportunities and collaborating with public and private partners to support the Ending Family Homelessness Initiative.
- Conducting a survey of providers and funders to identify technical assistance, professional development and other resources needed to assure a successful shift in how services and housing are provided.

IAC comments to the presentation included:

- Agencies are looking forward to the shift in coordinated entry and placement in the most appropriate housing and service situation.
- The professional development piece is long needed
- It will be important to work closely with ALL funders because some critical fund sources to existing shelter and transitional housing programs have requirements that are opposite to some of these emerging shifts
- We will need significant new resources to address emerging needs and not dismantle the safety net that currently exists before it is time to do so

- The survey / technical assistance component needs to reach agencies serving in rural areas of King County. They are too often left out of the loop, and rural family homelessness is often left unaddressed.

2011 Legislative Session

Bill Block provided an update on the 2011 legislative session. Highlights (and lowlights) include:

- Verbal consent for enrollment in Safe Harbors is going forward
- Landlords are supporting a proposed document recording fee that will raise up to \$24 million for homeless housing and services. This is a significant victory
- Disability Lifeline remains at risk of severe cuts. This will have a significant impact on homeless housing projects that rely on residents contribution towards housing costs. Though the resident contribution is somewhat modest at the individual level (eg - \$100/mo) taken to scale across agencies it translates to millions of dollars lost in housing supports.

Mid Plan Review

Bill Block provided an update on the what to expect out of the Mid Plan Review. The policy conversations (charrettes) will be held Monday April 25th and Tuesday April 26th at Tukwila Community Center. The key policy items to be discussed at the April 25th and 26th Mid Plan Review are:

1. Emergency Housing for Single Adults
2. Performance Measures and Accountability at All Levels
3. Homeless Young Adults
4. Immigrants and Refugees in the homeless system
5. Systems-level Prevention
6. Political Will

The real work will begin after the charrettes, when the various bodies of the CEH will need to prioritize recommendations and assign leadership for implementation. IAC members provided suggestions for additional outreach to community members that may not be actively tracking the ten year plan, as well as recommendations to provide transportation for people who would be unable to walk the to the Tukwila Community Center from the closest transportation stop.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff.