

## Interagency Council Meeting Summary

July 11, 2011

<b>IAC Members Present:</b>		<b>IAC Members Absent:</b>	
Dennis Brown (WDVA)	Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue)	Mohamed Aden (Muslim Housing Svcs)	
Doreen Cato (First Place)	Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink)	Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation)	
Darasavanh Craven (CAC)	Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)	Deborah Doyle (DSHS)	
Nora Gibson (Life Long Care)	Stephen Norman (KCHA)	Manuela Ginnett (SKCCH)	
Bill Hallerman (AHA)	David Okimoto (UWKC)	Bill Hobson (DESC)	
Mike Heinisch (KYFS)	Michael Ramos (Church Council)	Kate Joncas (DSA)	
Harry Hoffman (HDC)	Nancy Sherman (CAC)	Dinah Ladd (Seattle Public Schools)	
Rick Hooper (Seattle OH)	Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA)	Janna Wilson (Public Health)	
Michael Hursh (City of Auburn)	Dannette Smith (Seattle HSD)	Paul Lambros (PHG)	
Jason Johnson (City of Kent)	Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic)	Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House)	
Colleen Kelly (City of Redmond)	Tom Tierney (SHA)	Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird)	
Barbara Langdon (EDVP)	Marty Wine (City of Renton)		
<b>Community Members Present</b>			
Bill Block (CEH)	Tara Conner (Plymouth)	Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue)	Derek Wentorf (UWKC)
Kristine Gullin (CEH)	Megan Gibbard (Teen Feed)	Sinan Demirel (Elizabeth Gregory)	Joan Campbell (Friends of Youth)
Gretchen Bruce (CEH)	Janice Tufte (IFTH)	Brooke Knight (YMCA)	Cheryl Markham (KC DCHS)
Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH)	Kelly Rider (HDC)	Terry Pottymeyer (Friends of Youth)	Gracie Aeschbacher (UWKC)
Ken Taylor (Valley Cities)	Rebecca Laszlo (Community)	Julie McFarland (Friends of Youth)	

### Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

Sue Sherbrooke and Stephen Norman, Interagency Council (IAC) co-chairs, opened the meeting. The meeting summaries from April and May 2011 were approved as presented. Several new members were approved for membership to the IAC to provide representation in important categories. Welcome to:

Mohamed Aden (Muslim Housing Services)	Jason Johnson (City of Kent)
Nora Gibson (Life Long Care)	Dinah Ladd (Seattle Public Schools)
Harry Hoffman (Housing Development Consortium)	Janna Wilson (Public Health)

### Public Comment and Announcements

There was no public comment.

### Governing Board / Funders Group / CAC Recap

Bill Block noted that the May 25<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting focused on the Mid Plan Review. They discussed resetting the goals of the Ten Year Plan, and agreed that the plan should remain a "ten year project" while remaining committed to ultimately "ending" homelessness. This would necessitate resetting the goals for the interim period 2011 – 2015, and may not include achieving an end of homelessness for all populations within the ten years. The Funders Group is discussing what is realistically achievable with the resources at hand, and this conversation will be brought back to the IAC for their September meeting.

Jackie MacLean noted that the Funders Group, like the Governing Board and IAC, has been focused on the Mid Plan Review. Also, in line with recent conversations about the structure and role of the IAC, Funders Group members have discussed how to best structure their meetings, with an aim to make meetings more policy focused. The group has also been discussing Healthcare Reform, as it will have a tremendous influence on local policies and systems. Public Health is hosting a summit on July 28<sup>th</sup> to roll out initial proposals for how to structure healthcare in King County and everyone is invited.

Gretchen Bruce reported on behalf of the Consumer Advisory Council, noting that they too have been discussing the Mid Plan Review. CAC will host a focus group for case managers to hear perceptions of how the Ten-Year Plan is working and how it's influenced the local homeless and housing system. The CAC is recruiting members to assure appropriate representation among stakeholder communities.

### CEH Bodies of Work

Members discussed the system change goals and policy implications within and across the various investment priorities and task forces. The conversation touched upon each initiative one by one:

**Production:** Rick Hooper shared that our region is nationally recognized for housing production under the 10YP. That progress is threatened, however, by economic losses in recent years. Questions to be

considered now are: Are the existing housing production goals appropriate? Are the population goals appropriate? What have we achieved, and how does that guide our efforts for the next five years?

IAC members discussed this question in the context of population specific goals. We have done very well getting very vulnerable people (e.g., chronically homeless) off the streets and into housing, but providers also note that other populations are staying longer in shelters and transitional housing programs because there are fewer resources for non-high need populations. Most of the investment priorities identified through the Mid Plan Review include a housing production component, and finding the balance as it relates to creating housing for the various populations will be a significant part of the discussion at upcoming Funders Group, Governing Board and IAC meetings. Given this, there was general consensus that we need to agree on population goals before setting production goals.

Members asked that Rick and others report on what effect 10YP investment in housing and services has had, particularly as it relates to chronically homeless individuals. We have several studies demonstrating the cost effectiveness of housing first projects. However, we don't know whether the overall numbers of people who are chronically homeless has changed or whether other populations are, in fact, staying longer in shelters, etc. Funders will compile available data and share highlights at the next IAC meeting.

Finally, Harry Hoffman and Rick noted that production of market rate rental housing is heating up, particularly in Seattle. Members asked how this might affect low-income and affordable housing market - whether developers are buying up existing buildings and turning them over into higher-end units.

**Families Initiative:** Jackie MacLean reported that the Families Initiative has come before the IAC several times in the last few months. Implementation of the initiative is moving forward, and the RFQ for Coordinated Entry was released a couple weeks ago, with applications due July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**HEARTH / HMIS et al:** A workgroup has been convened to focus on HEARTH reporting requirements, which establishes just a few main elements: 1) number of people becoming homeless; 2) length of time a person is homeless; 3) placement rates into housing; and 4) recidivism among people placed into housing. Members talked about some of the nuances of these data elements. For example, to be measured on length of stay is not indicative of the services provided as people are staying longer in shelters because they can't afford to move out. Members agreed that it is important, then, to fully understand what the data tells us and what creative options may be available to continue to make progress. It is also important to frame the discussion. One could make the case that more resources need to be invested in housing supports, not that the current investments aren't working.

Stephen Norman asked members if they are confident that Safe Harbors will be able to provide us with the data that is needed to provide accurate reports, inform policy and guide future programming. Some members stated they were not comfortable sharing this information in a public setting. Dannette Smith responded that it is her, and Safe Harbors' goal, to make the system useable at all levels. If people don't share what's not working, then staff can only proceed based on the assumption that the changes they're pursuing are meeting the mark. She sincerely wants to hear from programs if Safe Harbors is not working, as she can only make changes if she knows what needs to be changed.

**Veterans Five Year Plan:** Jackie MacLean noted that the IAC endorsed the Veterans Five Year Plan at its April meeting. The four overarching goals of the Veterans Five Year Plan are to: 1) Close the housing gap for homeless / at-risk veterans; 2) Secure funding and align system; 3) Address veterans' complex needs; 4) Identify and Replicate Best Practices for Serving Vets.

Like other initiatives, this investment priority has overlap with housing production goals. Other policy questions include eligible uses of certain fund sources, such as Grant Per Diem, which can only be used to develop transitional housing. Our 10YP prioritizes permanent housing solutions, not transitional housing, and so it has been challenging to take advantage of this fund source. Stephen Norman asked about the veterans housing production goals, and why the goal for Chronically Homeless Vets is only 20 per year. Given that VASH vouchers are perhaps the only bright spot on the horizon for resources, and those must be targeted to high needs populations, we should rethink that figure. Members asked whether the Veterans Five Year Plan includes families, and Dennis Brown responded that it does.

**Client Care Coordination:** David Okimoto shared that CCC is moving forward and has done well helping to lease up new capital projects geared towards highly vulnerable individuals. Future policy

questions include whether to use this system to fill all vacancies within projects serving single adults in general. He noted that there is also a policy question of assuring that service dollars remain available to fulfill the promise of capital projects developed to provide services to high-needs people.

**Single Adult Shelter:** Jason Johnson noted that the task force charter for Single Adult Shelter included each of the recommendations from the Mid Plan charrette. The first meeting of the task force is Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at which time the task force will likely prioritize the recommendations to identify which can be accomplished quickly and/or have the most benefit given the resources available. Dannette Smith noted that one issue to be considered is how to establish an outcomes framework in the shelter system, and how HEARTH implementation will drive system performance.

**Immigrant and Refugees:** Bill Block reported that Mark Okazaki will chair this workgroup. Rebecca Laszlo is a community volunteer who has agreed to provide staffing through the end of the year. They are in the process of inviting participants and the first meeting is likely to occur the last week of July / first week of August. The task force will include individuals from culturally focused agencies as well as mainstream providers to identify opportunities for the two systems to work together.

**Youth and Young Adults: Task Force and Count Us In!** Megan Gibbard with Teen Feed and Derek Wentorf with UWKC provided results of the May 25<sup>th</sup> Count Us In! census of homeless youth and young adults. Overall, 374 people attended the event on the night of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Of those that attended, 342 young people completed a survey. Highlights of the data include:

- Homeless: Yes – 81% No – 19%
- Gender: Male-56%, Female-42%, and Transgender-2%
- Sexual Orientation: Straight- 72%, LGBTQ- 21%, and Unknown -7%.
- Age: Under 18 - 7%, 18 to 21- 55%, 22 to 25 - 25%, and Over 25 - 3%.
- Race: Caucasian-42%, African American- 25%, Hispanic -13%, Multiple Selection-s 10%, Hawaiian Native- 3%. Asian- 3%, Native Am. -2%, and Unknown- 2%.
- Geographic Coverage in King County: Seattle 61%, South 21%, Eastside 13%, Outside KC: 6%
- Where did you stay last night?: With Family 21%, Temporarily with family 17%, Transitional 16%, Streets 15%, Y & YA Shelter 13%, Adult Shelter 2%, Own 2%, Perm Spptv 1%, and Treatment 1%

This information, and the relationships that providers have with the participants, will help inform the work of the Task Force that is being convened to develop an operating system to end young adult homelessness. David Okimoto noted that several reports have been done identifying the myriad of needs among young adults. What is needed now is the development / articulation of a clear, comprehensive system based on data and need. Local philanthropic organizations have expressed interest in investing in ending young adult homelessness if we can deliver this vision. The first meeting of the task force is next week, and this will be an iterative process among providers and funders to assure that what is proposed is ultimately fundable.

### **Veterans and Human Services Levy**

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Jackie distributed copies of the V&HS Levy annual report, noting that the levy is up for renewal on the August 16<sup>th</sup> primary ballot. The Levy has been instrumental to many of the projects under the 10YP.

### **Announcements**

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Bill Block encouraged members to invite him to their Boards, City Councils, or otherwise schedule opportunities for CEH to provide an update on the Mid Plan Review.

There will be no IAC meeting in August. The next IAC meeting will be Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> (Note – this is the second Monday of the month due to Labor Day Holiday.) The September IAC meeting will include a discussion on resetting the goals of the 10YP, and the policy implications this has for the various populations.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm. Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff