

Interagency Council Meeting Summary

March 7, 2011

IAC Members Present:		IAC Members Absent:
Dennis Brown (WDVA)	Emily Leslie (City of Bellevue)	Michael Brown (Seattle Foundation)
Darasavanh Craven (CAC)	Jackie MacLean (KC DCHS)	Charissa Fotinos (Public Health)
Doreen Cato (First Place)	Marilyn Mason-Plunkett (Hopelink)	Michael Hursh (City of Auburn)
Darasavanh Craven (CAC)	Stephen Norman (KCHA)	Kate Joncas (DSA)
Deborah Doyle (DSHS)	Mark Okazaki (Neighborhood House)	Clark Kimerer (Seattle Police)
Manuela Ginnett (SKCCH)	David Okimoto (UWKC)	Lynnette Hynden (Federal Way)
Bill Hobson (DESC)	Michael Ramos (Church Council)	Tom Tierney (SHA)
Bill Hallerman (AHA)	Nancy Sherman (CAC)	
Mike Heinisch (KYFS)	Sue Sherbrooke (YWCA)	
Colleen Kelly (City of Redmond)	Dannette Smith (Seattle HSD)	
Paul Lambros (PHG)	Kathleen Southwick (Crisis Clinic)	
Barbara Langdon (EDVP)	Jim Theofelis (Mockingbird)	
Community Members Present:		
Bill Block (CEHKC - via phone)	Joseph Adriano (City of Bellevue)	Linda Petersen (KC DCHS)
Heather Lyons (CSH – via phone)	Kimberly Walla (Bellevue Parks)	Katy Miller (KC DCHS)
Kristine Gullin (CEHKC)	Chris West (DSHS – Belltown CSO)	Hedda McLendon (YouthCare)
Gretchen Bruce (CEHKC)	Derek Wentorf (UWKC)	Jason Johnson (City of Kent)
Bill Kirlin-Hackett (ITFH)	Sola Plumacher (City of Seattle/Safe Harbors)	Vince Matulionis (UWKC)
Andrea Akita (City of Seattle)	Janice Tufte (ITFH)	

Welcome, Introductions and Consent Agenda

Sue Sherbrooke and Stephen Norman, Interagency Council (IAC) co-chairs, opened the meeting. The February IAC meeting summary was approved by consensus. Sue noted that the IAC meeting would include a viewing of the CBS 60 Minutes news feature on homeless children and families.

Public Comment

Bill Kirlin Hackett urged people to watch the CBS 60 Minutes segment on homeless families, commenting that it's a good reminder of the issues of homelessness and urgency of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Mid Plan Review

Heather reported that the four community meetings held March 1st and 2nd to solicit input on key policy questions for the Mid Plan Review were well attended, with 40-60 people at each of the meetings. A list of themes that arose from these meetings was included in the IAC packet. The IAC discussed the themes to provide feedback to the Mid Plan Steering Committee on which themes/topics should form the charrette discussions scheduled for April 25th and 26th. Members noted that some of the proposed topics cross multiple categories (e.g., diversity of response across populations and geographic regions) and suggested that these issues be incorporated within all appropriate themes rather than as specific discussions.

Bill noted that some topics may work better as short term task forces. The topic of how to increase access to housing among sex offenders, or how to plan for the burgeoning number of elderly homeless people are examples of potential task forces. Bill also noted that considerable work has already been done on several of the topics, and the CEH should ensure that the community is aware of the results that came out of those efforts rather than revisiting that body of work. Examples include:

- Work by Seattle Office of Housing on zoning and other incentive measures employed by the Office of Housing
- Pace of Production: A strategic plan to increase the pace of production of homeless housing under the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County
- Study on Senior housing and service conducted by City of Seattle 12 - 18 months ago.

The IAC concluded that rather than providing direction on the selection of any particular topic, it would be more beneficial to offer to the Steering Committee suggested criteria to guide the final selection of topics. The IAC proposed, therefore, that final charrette topics should:

- Be selected based on data or other evidence that tells us this topic is something that still needs fixing in our current system, and that can provide future data against which we can measure progress;
- Provide clarity and direction in areas where we currently lack focus;
- Address system level issues;

- Are doable in the next 4-5 years, and (re)energize the community toward (re)investing in ending homelessness;
- Align with regional comprehensive plans in order to leverage resources and political will where possible.

Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County

Debora Gay (KC DCHS) and Dennis Brown (WDVA) reported on the continued development of the Five Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. This effort is one of the CEH Funders Group workplans for 2011, and King County is facilitating the development of the veterans five year plan. An advisory group has been meeting to craft the plan, and members include veterans and housing agencies, with many from organizations that also serve on the IAC. The King County Five-Year Plan will be aligned with the Ten-Year Plan, the federal and local VA Five-Year Plans, USICH's Strategic Plan, and WDVA's Five Year Plan. Like the other veteran plans, the local plan is organized around six Pillars: 1) Outreach and Education; 2) Treatment; 3) Homeless Prevention; 4) Housing / Supportive Services; 5) Income / Employment / Benefits; 6) Community Partnerships. The plan will be completed by early April.

Debora reported on some of the demographic trends among veterans. There are approximately 1,300 homeless veterans in King County. Most are from the Vietnam War era. Up to 45 percent suffer from a mental illness, and up to 70 percent have substance abuse problems, with considerable overlap between mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Concerns run high that the number of homeless veterans will increase given the many challenges that military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are likely to face upon discharge, including employment, mental health concerns and service-related trauma. It is estimated that up to 19 percent of Iraq and/or Afghanistan war veterans experience a mental health problem; and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) along with other combat-related disabilities, are significant. Local partners are learning that it will take specialized services and approaches to serve these veterans.

Dennis noted that King County is recognized as a national leader for homeless housing and services for veterans. Our region is one of five pilot prevention projects in the nation, with WDVA, the VA, and CCS and working together in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston Counties to reach out to veterans and provide wrap around services to assist with their reintegration. Together, these partners are learning interesting things about how to provide services to veterans and their families. In the last five years, approximately 260 units of homeless housing dedicated to veterans and their families have been developed under the Ten-Year Plan. Even so, there remains a housing gap of 600-700 units for veterans who are already homeless, and the number of housing units needed will increase as veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan hit the system. Dennis reported that nearly 50% of OIF/OEF veterans are reservists, compared to only 10% during the Vietnam War. Reservists are more likely to have families, which brings additional challenges of reintegration. Outreach and Prevention among this newly returning group will be especially critical.

The advisory group will review a near-final draft of the five year plan on March 25th. After revisions and edits from the advisory group, the plan will be brought to the IAC for their final review and comment at the April 4th IAC meeting. After receiving IAC comments, the plan will go to the Funders Group and Governing Board for their final review and implementation as one of the Funders Group priorities for the coming year.

CBS 60 Minutes Video on Homeless Families

The IAC viewed a recent segment from CBS 60 Minutes titled *Hard Times Generation: Homeless Kids* that aired March 6, 2011. The segment reported that for some children, socializing and learning are being complicated by homelessness. The video can be viewed at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7358670n>

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

Gretchen Bruce, CEH Staff.