

COVID-19 Homelessness Response Planning Series: Part 3

HCHN Governance Council

9/21/20

Planning Series Initial Goals

1. Deepen our understanding of how HCHN's COVID response efforts can be more accountable to individuals experiencing homelessness and front line providers.
2. Discuss the current and potential future role of the Governance Council (GC) to help shape HCHN's COVID response efforts.
3. Use an Equity & Social Justice (ESJ) perspective: we must listen to the experiences of individuals most impacted, review demographic data, and respectfully challenge our own- and each other's –biases.

Session 1 Overview

We paused the planning agenda.

We spent the majority of the meeting processing our feelings on the murder of Mr. George Floyd and how our community was coming together in mourning, outrage and action.

We began a discussion on what supports members - particularly members of color, those with lived experience, &/or front line providers – may need now.



The Black Lives Matter mural that is being drawn on East Pine Street is quickly taking shape. (Dean Rutz / The Seattle Times)



Microphone in hand, Hazzaua Underwood leads protesters in chants as they march from Harborview Medical Center to City Hall plaza on June 6. (Alan Berner / The Seattle Times)

Seattle Times articles sent as session 1 pre-reads:

[' Racism is the biggest public health crisis of our time:' Health care workers of color fight twin pandemics](#)

[Coronavirus brings a "whole other layer of trauma' for workers who serve homeless people'](#)

Themes From Session 1 to Carry Forward

1. While everyone is experiencing a range of emotions, these conversations can be retraumatizing and exhausting for members of color.
2. It may be easier for white people to be hopeful that lasting change will come from the spark of recent actions. Little evidence to support this.
3. White people - especially those in leadership - need to do more than just “step back” and listen. The white savior industrial complex* plays out in daily decision making and harms people of color.
4. The language we use matters and reveals biases and blind spots. Nobody wants to be continually referred to as cases, statistics, or risk factors.
5. Slowing down to thoughtfully reflect and plan is important. That said, individuals currently experiencing homelessness need us to act with urgency and have already identified priorities.

Health | Local News | Project Homeless

Coronavirus brings ‘a whole other layer of trauma’ for workers who serve homeless people

May 21, 2020 at 6:00 am | Updated May 21, 2020 at 9:09 am



1 of 2 | Engagement Services Project Manager Simone Andu, left, and Senior Program Manager of Engagement Services Charese Jones work at YouthCare, which provides services to Seattle's homeless youth. (Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times) Less ^

* White savior industrial complex refers to how white people, and white-led organizations, approach serving ‘communities of color’. [More can be read from Teju Cole](#)

Session 2 Overview & Themes

We spent the majority of the meeting in a discussion facilitated by Zsa Zsa Floyd to address what accountability looks like this summer to our neighbors living unsheltered.

In our discussion, we invited members with lived experience, &/or front line providers to share first; and leadership to participate in listen-only mode.

What We Heard is Getting in Your Way and How People in Leadership Can Help

- 1. Provide the CAG a Discretionary Budget for Basic Need Supplies**
- 2. HCHN/Public Health should raise awareness, and directly respond, to how encampment removals and shelter deintensification strategies are negatively impacting the health, safety, and emotional well-being of individuals and making it hard for smaller organizations to sustain operations.**
- 3. Admin. team members should continue to work with CAG members on developing resources and methods (e.g. cards and lists) that allow them to provide unsheltered individuals with updated information and personal contacts. This includes strategy development for effective outreach that follows social distancing guidelines.**
- 4. Admin. team members should circle back to CAG members, and other agency providers, on how to further strengthen the link between the warehouse and outreach providers/community members. This includes making seasonal adjustments on the basic and urgent supplies needed in hot weather (e.g. wet washcloths, hand fans, educational materials on health exhaustion vs, heat stroke*).**

Session 3 Overview & Themes

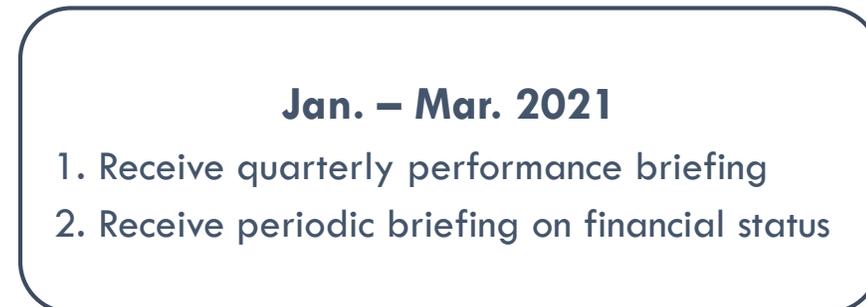
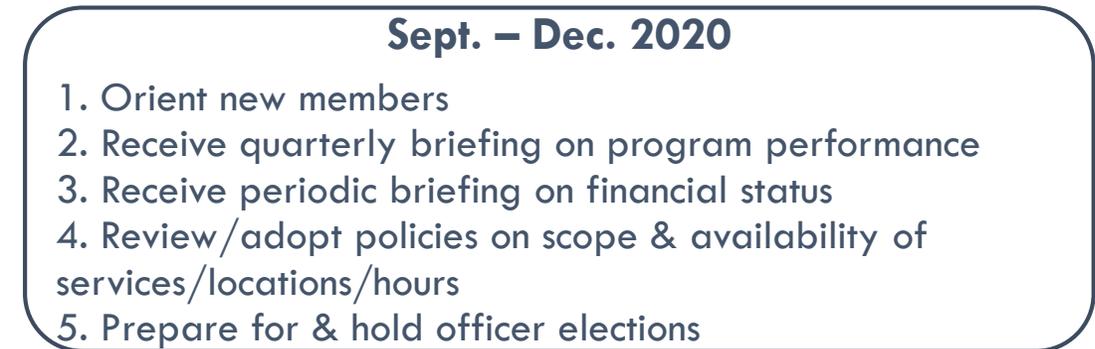
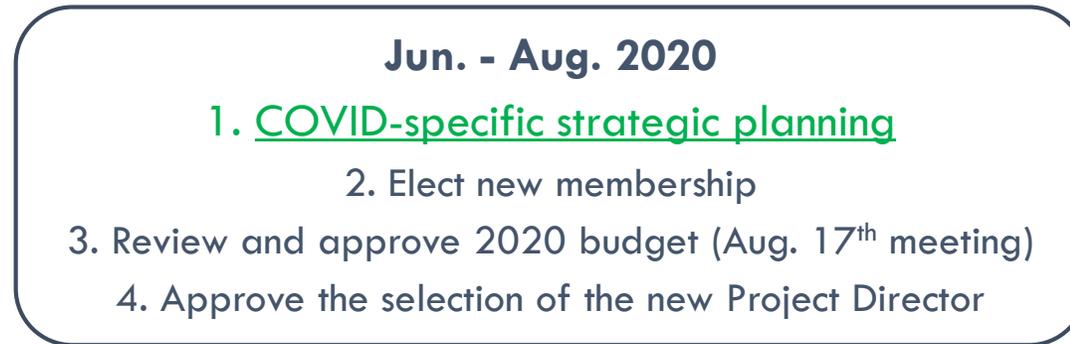
We spent the majority of the meeting in a discussion facilitated by Zsa Zsa Floyd asking what it would look like to help your clients, if you had no job restrictions.

Identified Needs

- Adequate shelter space
- Rapid/accessible COVID testing
- Places for people to go during the day – 24-hour shelters
- Space for people to safely quarantine, that follow a harm reduction approach
- Increased wages for front-line staff
- Sobering Center, or space for people who are inebriated to safely recover
- Support for people with behavioral health needs
- Additional supports and decongested shelter for aging population, those with cognitive impairment, and chronic health needs

Role of the GC in Future Planning

From a 330h Compliance Perspective – HCHN Governance Council Key Milestones, June 2020 – May 2021



Acronyms: SAC = Service Area Competition for 330h funding
RFQ/P = Request for Qualifications or Proposals for contractors

From an Individual Member Level: Revisiting 2019 Strategic Planning Retreat – Governance Council Vision Setting

1. What would a successful council look like in 12 months?

2. What would be a rewarding or fulfilling experience for each member?

3. How would the group be functioning?

4. What has it accomplished?

- Leverage skills around the table to maximize impact
- Have strategic understanding of gaps and leverage & our own voice so fewer people are on the street
- Function as educational ambassadors and conduit to people who want to be more engaged
- Address gaps and barriers to care
- Less people in social circle dying on the streets due to unmanaged health conditions
- All the work centers on the individuals served, maximize collaboration & coordination to make impact
- Keep people safe
- Increase services, decrease barriers, and more on-the-street coordination of programs and agencies

1. What would a successful council look like in 12 months? What would be a rewarding or fulfilling experience for you?
2. How would the group be functioning?
3. What has it accomplished?
4. What will it look like in the future?

Future Meetings

- October
 - Update on the new Regional Homelessness Authority
 - Update on capital improvements planning for Harborview