



## King County

### Community Services Division

#### Department of Community and Human Services

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### Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board (RHSCOB) and Veterans Citizen Oversight Board (VCOB)

#### Joint Levy Oversight Board

#### Meeting Summary

June 25, 2015 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Kent Public Library

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair David Ramsay at 10:20 am.

### Roll Call

#### **Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board (RHSCOB) Members Present:**

Chair David Ramsay, John Forsyth, Marilyn Cooks, Lynette Jordan, Gary Haines, Loran Lichty

**RHSCOB Members Excused/Absent:** Kate Slaminko, Bonnie Sanders

#### **Veterans Citizen Oversight Board (VCOB) Members Present:**

Curtis Thompson, Elbert Reed

**VCOB Members Excused/Absent:** Mary Kay Lewis, Sterling Leibenguth, Francisco Ivarra, Douglas Hoople, Chris Porter

**King County Staff Present:** Dawn Barrett, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Pamela Stearns, DCHS; Pat Lemus, DCHS; Scott Ninneman, DCHS; Laird Redway, DCHS

**Guests:** Sterling Leibenguth, Katherine Gerard, Alejandro Dominquez, Monique Brown, Beth Monkarsh, Nicole Ferrer, Andrea Yip, Mary Pat O'Leary, Linda Smith

### Farewell Board Appreciation

Vice-Chair David Ramsay presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a framed photo of the Mobile Medical Van as tokens of the Board's gratitude to departing Chair Loran Lichty. Loran expressed his appreciation and wished the Board well.

### Review of Meeting Summaries

The March 26, 2015 Joint Board, April 22, 2015 RHSCOB and the May 21, 2015 VCOB meeting summaries were approved as written.

### 3.4 PEARLS Presentation

Scott Ninneman, Project Manager, DCHS, introduced Andrea Yip and Mary Pat O'Leary, with the City of Seattle, Aging and Disability (ADS), PEARLS Program. The name PEARLS stands



for Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives for Seniors. Scott provided background on the current Veterans and Human Services Levy and Levy Activity 3.4 Depression Intervention for Seniors. Funds under this activity help support the City's PEARLS program.

Andrea Yip provided the Board with a profile of the population served. Based on program data from 2008 – 2014, there were 482 total enrollees. Of the 482 enrollees, 147 were Veteran participants. The report included a high percentage of Filipino immigrants as well as African American elders. Over 42% of participants were people of color.

Mary Par O'Leary gave a summary of the PEARLS program, a national evidence-based treatment program designed to help people over 55 overcome minor depression. PEARLS began in 1990 as a result of a collaborative research study with the University of Washington and Public Health Seattle and King County. Services are provided in the participant's home and include a screening and eight counseling sessions. Mary Pat emphasized that isolation and depression are key factors that prevent Veterans from going outside of their home to get adequate treatment. She noted that the program is unique because of its problem-solving, home-based, one-on-one approach that meets people where they are at.

Some program successes and challenges include the following:

#### Successes

- Participants have significant reduction of depression and increased physical activity.
- When a client starts sharing and realizes they are not being judged, a connection starts between the client and counselor.
- The program is successful because of the genuine affection and collaboration between the counselor and the participant.

#### Challenges

- Getting people to trust and actively engage with the counselor.
- People have to be in stable housing before they can participate in the program.

### **Ending Veterans Homelessness**

Kathy Gerard presented the Veterans Affairs (VA) Puget Sound Healthcare System's mission, core values, resources, as well as key challenges of the implementing the Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans. She asked for the Board's assistance in the following areas:

#### Challenges:

1. Need help establishing Veteran set-aside housing units
2. Veterans who, for a variety of reasons, serve two years or less in the military, are not eligible for services through the VA and are difficult to house;
3. Need to develop a protocol for placing Veterans in housing units;
4. Need help adding Veterans to the county's master registration list;
5. Need emergency beds for female Veterans;
6. Need to identify landlords in Seattle area willing to house Veterans so they are closer to services rather than force them to South King County where rents are more affordable.

Dawn Barrett distributed background information to the Board. She presented key successes of the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System's efforts towards ending Veteran homelessness including the following:

Successes:

1. Housed 800 Veterans in 2014 using Housing First model.
2. Sheltered 103 of 662 homeless Veterans identified in the One Night Count; Participating in Welcome One Campaign Call for Action coming in August;
3. Identified by 5/28/15, 228 Veterans that were ready to receive housing services;
4. Supported Mayors Challenge to create community wide awareness to the issue of Veterans homelessness; goal is to identify 300 landlords in the private rental market.

There was discussion about how to reach Veterans needing housing. Word of mouth and veterans helping veterans model has been effective in reaching Veterans in need. Homeless Veteran participants can go through Washington Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) Call Center, and community organizations such as El Centro De La Raza and Therapeutic Health Services to be connected to services. Laird will send out WDVA Call Center number to board members.

**2014 Levy Annual Report**

Laird Redway shared a preview of the Levy Annual Report that is currently being reviewed by the Executive's Office. She pointed out the letter that highlights key achievements of the levy in 2014 and the chart on page 19 that identified the race/ethnicity of the 2014 Levy clients. Jon Hoskins gave an overview of the Performance Management Reports that include performance measures for each Levy activity, their annual target and the percent of target reached. Only a few activities had difficulty meeting their performance targets.

**First Quarter Fiscal Report**

Laird Redway shared that first quarter expenditures are consistently low as levy funded projects bill after the quarter ends. More information on the rate of expenditures will be available later in the year. It was noted that in 2014 a total of 99% of the Levy's \$18 million budget was expended.

**Chairs Report**

In summarizing the work of the last three months, the chairs noted that Northwest Justice Project now has a tool that helps them in their work with Veterans requesting assistance

The Activity 2.6.D Veterans Internship Program has been revised since last year and now offers both student internships and on-the-job training fellowships to Veteran participants.

A recent groundbreaking for affordable housing was held in Bellevue that will add 44 units of Veteran housing.

**Old Business**

There were no old business items.

**New Business/ Future Agenda Items**

There were no new business items.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm.