



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Meeting Summary January 25, 2012, 2-4 p.m. Greenlake Library – 7364 E. Green lake Dr. N., Seattle, 98115

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brasch at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kathy Brasch, Loran Lichty, Edith Loyer Nelson, David Ramsay, Kate Slaminko

Board Members Excused/Absent: Dorry Elias-Garcia, Kathy Hadaller

County Staff Present: Debora Gay, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Laird Heia, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS, Marcy Kubbs, DCHS

Guests: Douglas Hoople, Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board Chair (VCLOB); Lois Schipper, PHSKC Keltie Wright, Healthy Start

Review of Meeting Summary

The October 26, 2011 RHSLOB meeting summary was approved by consent as written.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting, including guests Keltie Wright with the Human Services Levy-funded Healthy Start program and Lois Schipper with Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC).

Chair's Report

Kathy shared her sadness at the passing of RHSLOB member Donald Moreland. Donald was a great contributor to the board and an important member of many other state and local community organizations. As noted in his obituary in the Seattle Times, "Throughout the gay-rights community and beyond, people recall his kind spirit and eagerness to bridge gaps." He will be sorely missed.

Election of 2012 RHSLOB leadership

Kathy Brasch and Loran Lichty, by board consent, were re-appointed as co-chairs for 2012.

Staff Report

- Marcy Kubbs discussed the tentative board meeting schedule for reviewing updated procurement plans for ongoing Levy projects. She explained the plan included alternating between a joint meeting and individual board meetings each month.
- A RFP will be coming up for employment programs in late February and a Human Services levy board member is needed to assist on the review panel. David Ramsay offered to participate. (Staff note: Since this meeting, the employment RFP has been moved back to April).

Procurement Plan Review – Health Start – Keltie Wright

Healthy Start is a parenting education and support program for young families designed for parents, age 22 or younger, parenting their first child. Using family support principles, the evidence-based program has four components: home visits, group activities, developmental and health screenings, and referrals to community resources. It is a collaborative effort between several local agencies: Friends of Youth (Lead Agency), Center for Human Services, Northshore Youth and Family Services, Renton Area Youth and Family Services, and Youth Eastside Services. During the past year, families exiting the program had been served for an average of 27 months.

Healthy Start provides two delivery models for home visiting services: Parents as Teachers visits conducted by Family Support Specialists for high-risk families (90% of families) and visits by volunteer Parent Mentors who are paired with a family that has no more than one risk factor (10% of families). The Parent Mentor Coordinator trains and supervises the Parent Mentors and incorporates as much evidence-based mentoring practices into the program as possible.

Healthy Start uses the Parents as Teachers Foundational Curriculum Program model which is an evidenced-based practice model. Healthy Start is the largest Parents as Teachers program in Washington State. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 Healthy Start served 298 King County families. The King County families served live primarily in North King County, Seattle, East King County and the Renton area. Should the funding climate improve, Healthy Start is positioned to provide services further south in King County.

The outcomes measured were: Increase healthy, effective parenting skills; strengthen nurturing and attachment behaviors; reduce incidents of child abuse or neglect; promote family independence, and delay second births for at least 24 months. Resulting measures for each of these five outcomes was 95 percent or higher.

In addition to the King County Veterans & Human Services Levy, which is Healthy Start's largest funder, Healthy Start receives funding from: Home Visiting Services Account; United Way of King County; United Way of Snohomish County; the Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, and Shoreline; the Washington Women's Foundation, Whitehorse Foundation, Northwest Children's Fund, Horizons Foundation, Everett Clinic Foundation and One Family Foundation.

Discussion

In response to a question about waiting lists, Keltie explained they don't maintain a waiting list and are intentionally not marketing the program due to funding cuts. Healthy Start is also not planning to expand geographically due to lack of funding.

The importance of including fathers was also discussed. Keltie explained there had been a Dad's Group, but it could not be sustained because of budget cuts. She added it can be challenging to engage fathers particularly when many are working more than one job.

Procurement Plan Review – Nurse Family Partnership – Lois Schipper

The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is a program based on the research of Dr. David Olds. It is an evidence-based nurse home visitation program that has been shown to positively impact the lives of first time mothers and their children. The NFP services are delivered in King County by Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSKC) nurses.

Research has shown the Nurse Family Partnership to be most effective and have the strongest outcomes with younger, low-income first time mothers. Services therefore target young women age 23 or younger whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (the cutoff for eligibility for Washington State First Steps/Maternity Support Services Program). Eligible women age 19 and under are prioritized for services.

Nurse Family Partnership protocol defines the content of the visits and program materials shared with clients. A parenting curriculum, entitled "Partners in Parenting Education" (PIPE), is introduced during pregnancy and continues throughout the program. NFP services are organized into the five domains of personal health, environmental health, life-course development, maternal role and friends & family. The NFP does provide allowance for individualization however, based on client goals and needs.

Program principles identify the client as the expert on her own life, and the nurse home visitor support clients in following their "hearts' desire." In this way, client-centered services are provided in the context of overall NFP program structure. NFP is successful because people are more willing to change the trajectory of their life path when they are pregnant. The NFP helps support the clients in their transition to parent and adult and to education and work life.

Lois thanked the board for their support of the NFP program and offered to arrange for board members to go out on a home visit if they are interested.

Discussion

In response to a question about how the faith community might get involved in helping these women, Lois responded that involvement with the faith-based community is up to each individual client as they are considered the expert on their own life. When asked to compare Healthy Start to NFP, Lois responded that they both are relationship-based, long-term, intensive service programs. The NFP services are provided by public health nurses though, while Healthy Start services are provided by professionals from other fields.

Kathy Brasch expressed her admiration for both programs and how successful they are in helping young families get off to a good start. She also expressed her gratitude for the depth of knowledge and experience board members bring to the discussions.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Several board members expressed their desire to have meetings further south to avoid parking issues.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

Board member Edie Nelson reported that she received feedback from North County providers that King County 211 continues to take too long to respond to calls. Board Member, David Ramsey, who has worked with King County 211 responded that they lost staff because of significant funding cuts and continue to problem solve how to deal with this issue.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.