



EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 18, 2015 – 8:30am to 10:30am
Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-121

Attendees: Martha Sassorossi, Leslie Miller, Brooke Buckingham, Amy Padgett, Mariah Bettise, Lauren Thomas, Ross Marsolf, Shelly Kloba, Byron Shutz, Dee Dee Catalano, Lynne Robinson, Al Smith, Terry Pottmeyer, Shahzina Kasim, Pat Vache, John Chelminiak

- Board Retreat – Thoughts, Reflections and Next Steps
 - Lauren: Appreciated hearing about the history of the Forum
 - Paul: Would like to have had one thing accomplished, maybe the mission/vision discussion. Need to finish up before any decisions about prioritizing next year's work plan.
 - Board would like Work Group Leadership to work on a proposed mission to include prevention. An email draft will be sent out to the Board.

- Selection of replacement for Issaquah Board seat – Byron to introduce Mariah Bettise. Mariah was chair of Issaquah's Human Services Commission and a member of the Economic Vitality Commission. On May 2nd, she was selected by the Issaquah City Council to fill the role vacated by Jennifer Sutton. According to the Bylaws, Article 5, Section 4 & 10, a majority vote of the Board is necessary to fill a vacancy on the Board. Ms. Bettise has been appointed by the President of the Issaquah City Council to fill the EHSF Board seat vacated by Jennifer Sutton. The term expires at the end of 2016.

MOTION 1: "I move we approve the selection of Mariah Bettise to serve on the EHSF Board, replacing Jennifer Sutton. The term expires at the end of 2016." Motion made by Lynne Robinson, seconded by Paul Leuzzi. Motion passed.

- Criteria for Partnerships, Memberships with Other Organizations, and Projects
 - Brooke recapped the discussion and ideas from Board Retreat. She shared a draft proposal for partnership criteria (see Appendix 1).
 - Lynne liked the language. She asked if we have language about how we function on these boards. If the bylaws reference EHSF Board members representing EHSF with other partner organizations, it should be referenced in the criteria. Need bylaws to specify that EHSF Board Member sits on the partner board as a representative of the Forum, they represent EHSF, not their personal organization.
 - David: What if someone stated they couldn't vote, example becoming a member of the King County Alliance: We need to have language somewhere where a Board member would have to recuse themselves from a vote.

- Leadership Eastside Civic Innovation Summit – Report from Attendees

- Lauren: Launch community impact teams, formed a steering committee to oversee the projects. A number of teams were formed and launched.
- Amy: Event itself put together well. Variety of topics, so not sure if EHSF would be on one or more teams. Is there a fee to be a part of the incubator.
- Byron: LE sent out a recap of the work, and selected projects. Campaign Manager, Project Manager positions are former LE Grads.
- Amy: Sat in on health and wellness, noted that there was a lot of community interest. There was not a lot of content area experts. Not sure if that translates into the other areas.
- Lauren: This first step was people self-selecting there are of interest, hopefully, as groups are formed, there will be some consideration to include content area experts.
- Invitation to Become Partner of Leadership Eastside's Civic Incubator
 - Byron: Not sure about funding structure, what it will pay for. Need a better understanding of core structure = volunteer-based. Not sufficient staff support. If EHSF can participate without paying a fee, he thinks that we should participate. He is willing to take on that position on the Steering Committee
 - Amy/Terry – how long is the commitment? Two-year term
 - Brooke: Work group members had issues with capacity. Only one signed up
 - Paul: concerned that it might be redundant to what we are actually doing
 - Lynne: might not be redundant for those that are new to the table, such as the business community
 - Amy: seems redundant, and our new partnership criteria would speak to not becoming a member
 - Shelly: Hopefully, it's an incubator doing something new, but not sure
 - Lauren: Want to look for new ways to look at solutions
 - Lynne: People's interpretation of what is affordable housing is. If we can take that out to our community, it's an advantage to our cause
 - Terry: Appreciate enthusiasm, bringing new people to the table. Like that Byron sits on the steering committee, guide away from duplicative work. Not want to judge a new initiative that's just started
 - Paul: non-paying would be ok
 - Lynne: re-assess after a year
 - David: Big ask of Steering Committee to know all that is going on to not have that duplicative work.

Motion 2: I move EHSF become a member of the Leadership Eastside Civic Incubator on a volunteer basis with no fee associated and will re-evaluate this partnership after one year. Motion made by Lynne Robinson, seconded by Paul Leuzzi. Motion passes.

- EHSF Initiative to Impact Homelessness
 - Rep. McBride held a Regional Housing Stakeholder Meeting. She is looking for ways to support affordable housing and sheltering on the Eastside.
 - Byron introduced topic, introduced guests: Pat Vache, John Chelminiak
 - David: are we siloing the focus on homelessness?
 - Byron: how can we better collaborate? In short term, dealing with the issue with tent encampments.

- Al: One of the leading problems on the eastside. We would want to coordinate with what United Way is doing.
- Paul: it's one of their four focus groups. Sure United Way would appreciate more focus. But, is this where we want to put our focus? United Way is no longer looking at basic needs, elder care. Do we want to put our time on this, which is in the community's eyes, or do we want to focus on these areas where there is now a big hole.
- Lynne: similar view. Works with aging population. There is definitely a big hole there now. If we could look at how we address homelessness, see where there are holes
- David: Opposed to siloing that out. It's an important issues, but so are so many others. We should be thinking about services that have been defunded. There's a trending to fund homeless issues.
- Shelly: Can't work between if it's more siloing or the ven diagram of where homelessness meets aging population. That seems like a segment of the homeless that we will see grow, since you can't just get them heathcare and a job to get them housing. They aren't moving to independence, but moving away from it.
- Al: Was on UW board when they refused "safety net" because it wasn't resonating with funders. As a result, they've left a hole behind. That is the place where we should be focused. This is an organization that has relationships with the cities. This issue is something we could and should address. How much of a focus should this be for us? If it's diverting significant EHSF time/resources to this, that would not be something we should be taking away from our other work.
- Byron: Strong role in providing leadership around tent encampments.
- Shahzina: When you're looking at homelessness, there are so many issues, especially behavioral health. Care facilities are not allowing them to come in because of their behavioral health issues.
- Paul: Safety net issues are big, even within the homelessness issue
- Terry: Thank you for bringing the topic to the Board. Passionate about the disappearance of the safety net. Would love to have the Board bring this back to the forefront. At the same time, there is a crisis in the rise of homelessness. And, can we use it as a way to broaden the lens on the safety net.
- Lynne: See's Bellevue working on a strategic action plan. Don't see cities addressing what has been lost with UW's change in strategic plan. Senior housing is the easiest affordable housing to bring to a community.
- Lauren: like the idea of the both/and. We focus on so many facets of the community. This goes back to the need to add "prevention" to our mission. If we think our underlying effort should be on the safety net, we can bring forward what is urgent now, while continue to support the safety net.
- David: I think there are areas that aren't popular with funders and under just as much crisis. 3 hospitalizations a week of youth who are suicidal. Many deaths by overdosing. Behavioral health is affecting more than just the homeless. We've always focused on homelessness. Not supportive of that idea.

- Mariah: On Issaquah Human Services Commission, very cognizant of the gaps in resources for the safety net. Homelessness is important issue, but would hate to lose out on these other issues
- Amy: cart before the horse. Not finalized the mission, yet this is a singular focus. We need to set our mission first.
- Pat: encampment, homelessness have an impact on the neighborhoods, then you get to the cities, which each handle in a different manner. Then you get to the eastside, where there's no consistency in how they handle encampments. There's a role for EHSF to help focus on how we deal with encampments as an eastside as a whole. The encampments will be there, so they need to have services. The cities need to have a way to handle those issues consistently, which is where the Forum has a role
- John – sits on All Home board, which is very frustrating. Seattle is so broken, All Home does not have the ability to support the eastside. John had a question to add something for the Eastside, and the vice-chair refused to add it to the work, so many suburban reps voted “No”. Bellevue going out for a site for a 200-bed shelter. People are not going to be happy based on what they've seen in Seattle. They will have services provided there. Everyone in this room is aware of the issue of homelessness, but the general public doesn't really see it. Need people to convene those that will support, help fight off those that do not want that to come to their neighborhood. Other issue is those that are not housed, but parking in parking lots, tented encampments and those just camping in bushes. We need to have a path to services no matter where you are. McKinney-Vento numbers gets people's attention. Makes for a strong connection. Work group members would be great at this work
- Shelly: We should look at permit process. Convening should include ???
- Lauren: How could Sound Cities assist.
- John: Bellevue is still in the process of joining Sound cities, will be a role. But this group represents cities, school districts, non-profits, so it's the perfect group to represent this issue. Shouldn't get involved in permitting.
- Pat: the people who do the encampments, parking lots, they are amateurs at it. The Navigator would understand the different permit rules, and can advise the groups in how to do the work.
- Byron: Two aspects of proposal
 - Focus on the process, what are the needs, what are the resources. Can we convene all the groups?
 - Look at policies in initial step. How do we help those who want to access services, but don't have the availability in the encampments
 - Seems to hear that the Board wants to continue the convening
 - Wasn't meant to shift the focus of the Board/Forum, but to put time/resources towards something that is achievable? How can we help host to provide services to encampment people
- Paul: The homelessness group (work group) can feel empowered to do some work
- Al: convinced there is some need for the cities to get together in ways that the memo indicates. We as an organization can add value to through the workgroup. Homelessness is a big issue, but not if it's going to take away from the safety net

- Lynne: Our Board is a convener, can't convince a city to enact policy if you can't convince them that tent encampments have a role.
- Brooke: EHAC, city staff are looking at homelessness. They can look at next steps and take back what they've heard today and give a report back to the Board.
- Shelley likes the idea of the regional Navigator. Think EHSF should bring this forward as an idea.
- Lynne: What is the capacity of this group. What can we tackle around senior services/safety net. Get a report from WG members as to what they are taking care of, specifically what they are doing where they've lost UW funding.
- Paul: we need to know how we can fill those holes, because they are not attracting donor dollars
- Terry: The Work Group is going to report back to us? Do we have a subcommittee focused on basic needs? Can we do December event?
 - Marnie said "yes", would like to have a Board member sit on planning team.
- Amy: Thinks the WG can give a very quick look at what services are provide and what's not happening. Flip-chart oriented and really quick. Where are the holes? Are we picking up the hot potato or is this a real issue?
- Lynne: hope that every agency has done the work to find holes, get that info from them
- Paul: not just holes, but what organizations are on life-support, might go away without additional funding
- Mariah – all of the cities will be looking at the grants. Opportunity to look at what might not have been funded or funded at the level that they wanted. Commissioners might be able to supply that information.

- Updates

- June Event
- Financial Update

- Information Sharing

- General Announcements
- Ongoing work – Possible Subcommittees?

- Opportunities for Board Involvement

- Work Group meetings every 2nd Tues, 9-10:30am, Room 1E-120
- Legislative Subcommittee every 2nd Tues, 10:30-11am, Room 1E-120

Appendix 1

Partnership (events, projects, membership) Criteria

New proposed bylaw language:

Requests to co-sponsor events, participate in special projects not originated by the Forum, and/or become a fee-paying member of another organization must meet the following criteria.

- It clearly falls within the scope of EHSF's mission/focus areas.
- It leverages existing Forum efforts and aligns with adopted Work Plan.
- The partnership has the potential to benefit the broader Eastside community, and maximizes opportunities for organizational collaboration and leveraging of collective resources.
- It does not replicate or compete with similar projects already underway on the Eastside
- It is well defined toward utilizing EHSF resources, and there is sufficient capacity and willingness from Forum member(s) to oversee the effort.
- It must be approved by the Board and Workgroup.

Once approved, a written agreement is to be drafted and approved that spells out roles, responsibilities, and timeline for EHSF and other participating organization.

Current bylaw language related to Forum's role as a "funder":

Section 3. Funding Role. EHSF sees itself as a facilitator of collaborative funding. EHSF will only fund those projects that originate with the Forum, are adopted as Forum priorities, or directly relate to the Forum's focus areas. EHSF will not accept unsolicited requests for funding.