

Familiar Faces Steering Committee

Meeting Summary

September 07, 2017, 9:00 - 10:30 am, Chinook Room 121 401 5th Avenue, Seattle

Members Present: Heather Aman, Tashau Asefaw, Jesse Benet, Stephanie Brennan, Brook Buettner, Caedmon Cahill, Jeanne Camelio, Todd Clark, Meagen Condon, Michelle Conley, Lisa Daugaard, Travis Erickson, Brigitte Folz, Chloe Gale, John Gilvar, Andrew Kashyap, Anita Khandelwal, Tricia Madden, Daniel Malone, Hedda McLendon, Patty Noble-Desy, Michele Plorde, Sola Plumacher, Adrienne Quinn, Genevieve Rowe, David Ruskin, Debra Srebnik, Hon. Donna Tucker, Natalie Walton-Anderson, Sidney Wilson

Guests Present: Alicia Benish, Margo Burnison, Kelley Craig, Kami Harless, Erika Pablo

Grounding In

9:00 a.m.

Jesse Benet led a brief grounding exercise based on the Dr. Hackman training.

Welcome and Introductions

9:05 a.m.

Brook Buettner welcomed guests and Advisors. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

VITAL Snapshot and General Overview

9:10 - 9:45 a.m.

- **Demographic profile of VITAL participants:** Margo Burnison gave a brief overview of the VITAL statistics obtained through September 01, 2017. Margo noted that the average age of the 58 VITAL participants is 37 years old. This is younger than what was initially anticipated. The VITAL team is pleased that there has been an increased focus on the African American, African and Black population. Especially as compared to the African American, African and Black demographic as a whole in King County. Many of the individuals that the VITAL team engages with are still incarcerated.
- **Homelessness Discussion:** A potential barrier to explore: HUD funding limiting housing access. Many in King County do not qualify as chronically homeless under the rigid guidelines set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Being jailed for 90 consecutive days disqualifies someone from the HUD chronic homelessness definition.
- **Program Vignettes:** Michelle Conley provided three anecdotes on VITAL success stories.
 - Vignette One (Alias Sarah):* Enrolled in early August and had been incarcerated over 90 days. Post sentencing, VITAL team members spoke with Hon. Judge Chow with regards to Sarah's eligibility for the program. Sarah has had a history of substance abuse issues and accordingly was put in contact with Harborview for mental and substance abuse treatment. Sarah has been sober since release. Though her current living arrangement—apartment complex with some tenants who are not sober—makes it difficult. Hon. Judge Chow stated he would speak to other judges who may appear apprehensive about the program because of Sarah's success.
 - Vignette Two (Alias Roy):* Has been homeless for roughly 20 years and has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other heart complications. Generally has been incredibly resistant to programs such as VITAL in the past. Has a long standing Class A felony that often exclude him from

helpful programs and medical treatments. Roy became receptive to VITAL program while in the hospital and has maintained that the frequent accompaniment from programs officials to and from meetings, visits and check-ups has made an immeasurable difference in his participation and success. Roy will be moving into housing shortly.

Vignette Three: Individual has had a longstanding history with the criminal justice outside of the Seattle area (I.E. Tacoma/Kent). The individual has schizophrenia. Individual was released in February and lived in a motel until June. Prior to February much time was spent quashing warrants in Kent and Tacoma, often for dining and dashing. The June move from a motel to a single room occupancy (SRO) has been difficult.

Criminal Justice Coordination/Diversion

9:45 -10:25 a.m.

- **Prosecutorial Liaison lessons learned and differences from LEAD**

Natalie Walton-Anderson spoke about the fundamental differences between LEAD and Familiar Faces. The target population of each program is different. Though the individuals in LEAD present a robust set of challenges, the Familiar Faces cohort has more frequent contact with the criminal justice system. This criminal justice “revolving door” that many in the Familiar Faces cohort are subjected to makes it challenging. Moreover, there is more communication between LEAD and law enforcement officials than there is with Familiar Faces and law enforcement. Ameliorating communication issues between Familiar Faces and law enforcement officials is a stated goal.

Other important lessons learned so far: more site visits would be a positive. This would ensure the better understanding of how team members better serve clients and community members in these programs. Become more transparent with information and communication across the board in order to become more efficient. Case managers need to strike the right balance between sharing sensitive client information and protecting sensitive information. Finally, an important component, remember to focus crosshairs upstream.

Brook Buettner grounded the discussion in a reminder about the organizing principals of Familiar Faces work with prosecutors:

1. Warrant Quashing
2. Criminal Justice Coordination
3. Not filing/ filing lesser charges

- **Bringing in Public Defense**

Jesse Benet stated the importance of engaging with difficult content and system issues that will help policymakers push forward legislation that works for all. Moreover, Jesse underscored the need to coordinate with the Department of Public Defense and floated the idea of a document that outlines to public defenders how to work in conjunction with innovative King County and City of Seattle initiatives. This work will be ongoing

- **Future of Criminal Justice Coordination for Familiar Faces**

Caedmon brought up the issue of why this coordination does not live with Defense; Discussion included ongoing legal resources workgroup with Public Defense and prosecutorial staff. Brigitte pointed out the problem of scalability from the small VITAL group. Meagen pointed out that the success of program participants has been because of case manager work, not because of the court or criminal justice system. Information sharing on higher-stakes content was discussed, along with the risk management issues for VITAL team sharing information with PAO.

Community Announcements

10:25 a.m.

Brook drew the committee's attention to the sheet with the agenda summarizing Familiar Faces Advisors' experiences and recommendations regarding jail release, and asked that Steering Committee members interested in Jail Release/Reentry participate in a Workgroup that will dovetail with Waiver work.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

10:25 a.m.

Next Meeting October 5, 2017