Funders Network Call Notes

May 4, 2022 | 1pm ET

Sheila, Casey, Paula, Emma, Aimee, Angela, Bryan, Kelli, Amy Louttit

**Updates**

* Casey
  + Prevention grant for New Opportunities at Chapin Hall – they are doing huge working meeting June 6-8 in DC. Hoping to convene on June 8 as funders in prevention space. Hoping to arrange meeting with Hill folks.
    - Monday-Wednesday, June 6-8thParticipants arrive Monday afternoon/evening: heavy hors d’oeuvres and casual minglingTuesday morning: Keynote delivered by Jeff Olivet, ED of USICH, remarks by othersTuesday late morning, lunch, afternoon: working groups meet
    - Tuesday evening: casual meetups in hotel lobby bar/restaurant
    - Wednesday morning: opening remarks, working groups through lunch, report out and closing comments, close by 3PM
  + AWH Canada – discussion about learning about youth homelessness prevention. Possible learning session, October 26.
  + IPAs – in discussion with USICH about supporting ACF and Dept. of Ed for 1-2 fellows focused on youth homelessness, foster care, juvenile justice
  + Made grant to a national healthcare think tank to look at Medicaid and young people leaving systems of care
* Emma
  + Deep in weeds of YHDP Los Angeles work. Trying to stand up pooled fund with Cedars-Sinai. RFP structure voted on last week and that will determine needs for this pooled fund. Will ensure pooled fund is connected to larger effort.
  + Not a full-on participatory process, but hoping that will be the case for Round 2. Would love input if folks have stood that up for YHDP funding.
  + A lot of movement and tension on Los Angeles b/t YAB and LAHSA about compensation. Trying to navigate how to push and ensure youth homelessness doesn’t fall to the side amidst larger governance conversations.
* Angela
  + We are working on submission for YHDP. HUD opened 6th round, due at end of June. Working w/ Matt Aronson to pull application together.
  + Working diligently w/ YAB on 2 things:
    - Creation of drop-in center for youth
    - 50 unit supportive housing development for transition age youth (ages 15-24). Facing significant opposition from the neighbors.
  + ARPA – supporting expansion projects for low-income mothers and justice-involved citizens facing housing barriers. Working to lend support to proposal in state capitol.
* Bryan
  + Working w/ Matt Aronson as well. Open Table – looking at that in Boston area to train community members to implement sustained relations through table with transition-aged youth. Working w/ cohort of 20 nonprofits.
  + Added housing stability to focus areas for the foundation. Looking at families and youth. Early stages of this work.
  + Last year did awareness campaign about youth experiencing homelessness. We realized: we wanted to engage w/ nonprofit partners to lift them up for awareness about their work.
  + Trying to also think about how we bring community engagement as a large employer to youth homelessness.
* Aimee
  + Focusing a little more broadly on homelessness.
  + In CT, there’s been a shift on who’s managing PIT. Moving to a different organization, and youth county has dropped off their work. Our youth group has to pitch all over again to state table. Resonating that you have to keep youth work at table all the time.
  + Some changes in CT with youth homelessness work – shrunk from collective impact to something smaller due to COVID and priorities of providers. Lack of a collective policy agenda.
* Amy L.
  + Launching new youth apprenticeship program with DoL in Portland. Moving toward trust-based philanthropy as a foundation. Our youth homelessness work goes into prevention and behavioral/mental health services.
  + With trust-based philanthropy – shifting that to community engagement and folks who are doing community engagement to leverage what they learn to influence state policy. This is going to open up to be national work. Moving away from west coast and Baltimore/DC based.
* Kelli:
  + No Houston updates from me today. As a new YHDP site, we just submitted our community plan to HUD for review last month. <https://www.homelesshouston.org/TWH#YHDPOverview>

**AWHA Conversation**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EVONI88Os2LlxiYSqyXtn0W6KWDRvcfT/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107991431815714844141&rtpof=true&sd=true>

* PC: Document that Marcella shared felt bare bones. Price tag – not a large price tag in grand scheme of things, but didn’t include communities and ways to support communities. Reached out to Marcella to see if we can chat.
  + What makes sense in terms of 2 big national initiatives (Grand Challenge vs. national policy work and convenings). Grand Challenge exploratory phase with $700k price tag feels like a lot.
  + Don’t think Marcella knows what to ask for or what she needs at this point. She can get there.
  + Grand Challenge – not dead in the water, just needs to wade in the water.
* CT: During creation of AWHA, intent was to have a common agenda. New Deal is helping to drive that. Share PC’s concern that doing too many things will take away from that. Is there space at national level or a need for a AWHA to be convening w/ Marcella’s leadership to push New Deal forward? Worry that Grand Challenge is a huge lift that will take away from a small window to move bold, well thought out policy in New Deal.
  + Is there a way to let Marcella off the hook from needing to deliver on the Grand Challenge?
* AA: Reached back out to folks after hearing concern. A few things to think about:
  + Marcella trying to run an organization that was supposed to run a 5 person org with 2 people. There was a lot of White flight that happened when she stepped into leadership. She was also supposed to have a co-director, who was a White woman to provide cover.
  + Is there a way to loan her immediate capacity support from philanthropy or other nonprofits?
  + In the beginning of AWHA, there was a movement – partners coming together under 1 umbrella, but not stuff. Now, we have the stuff but no movement.
  + We need to ask Marcella: does she feel like AWHA is the org to be the movement leader? If so, what does she need? If not, what does that look like for youth homelessness?
  + Marcella doesn’t know how to engage with funders / due to relationship of grantmaking. If we need to do something new, we need to co-create and mess up together.
* AH: Past few weeks, have been involved in Comms staff interviews. Question comes up – why did you want to start AWHA? Why don’t you call yourselves a coalition? What did come up is that we wanted to be leaders in the movement and help the movement. Still think that’s true.
  + I feel like their policy and comms could always be the strongest part of their work.
  + To not have strong comms during COVID was destructive for the organization.
  + Feels like there’s an obligation she may feel like she has to do the Grand Challenge – that’s what we were trying to say to her last week. What they’re laying out is such a big project I don’t see how they can take that on.
* SBA: Want to flag policy and advocacy pieces. They came up with incredible document – New Deal. They need a policy person (working on that) and need a policy working group. Not sure if she’s getting policy strategy support. How do we invigorate that group?
  + Funders can talk to national orgs and see if we can re-engage them in AWHA policy space.
* PC: Kevin and friends at HJC are good at their jobs. Marcella has created a situation where AWHA is a little obsolete or disposable; not sure if she completely sees that. AWHA was set up to be so consultant heavy, not set up to have internal infrastructure.
* EH: Where does leadership body fit into this?
  + Marcella leans heavily on leadership body, which makes sense. But not sure if this is a full LC meeting. Sometimes blurred lines b/t org’s role and LC role.

**Next steps**

* Facilitate a dialogue w/ Marcella where she doesn’t feel like she’s running a meeting – for funders and Marcella to be equal (not one presenting to the other).
  + Talk of doing that at NAEH conference, but feels like there might need to be a conversation before that. We can be too heavy handed and not actually leave people with things they need, or we can step our and not use our convening power to bring folks together.
* PC: Asked Marcella to change May 12 (9 PT / 12 ET) partners meeting to funders meeting. Marcella and I would prep before that meeting.
  + FTEH might not be able to facilitate convo on May 12
  + Doesn’t have to be May 12
* FTEH staff will talk about timing and get back to Paula re: timing