



**June 10, 2025**

**Attending:** Divya Mohan Little (Polk Bros Foundation), Daniel Bouton (United Way of Greater Dallas), Karen Ben-Moshe (Blue Shield Foundation of California), Ashley Brand (CommonSpirit Health), Monae Dale (California Community Foundation), Brittney Daniel (California Community Foundation)

**Staff:** Michael Durham, Joshua Perrin

**Guest:** NA

**Regrets:** Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Gillian Knight, Addy Matney

**Agenda:**

- I. Welcome | Introductions
- II. Logistics | Announcements
  - o [2025 Funders Institute](#): June 30-July 1, Washington, DC
  - o [Homebase convening on older adult homelessness](#)
  - o Other in-person opportunities
    - [Grantmakers In Health Conference](#): July 16-20, New Orleans
    - [International Drug Policy Reform Conference](#): Nov 12-15, Detroit
- III. Discussion pt 1: Shared messaging on the ineffectiveness of forced treatment
- IV. Discussion pt 2: How are you reducing harm NOW?
- V. Closing | Next steps

**Notes:**

Michael initiated the meeting with introductions and spontaneous recommendations for his upcoming trip to New York. Broadway nerds alert!

Michael reiterated several announcements and logistics, including promoting upcoming events, acknowledging our [leadership transition](#) and upcoming name change, and promoting Homebase's plans to host a conference on older adult homelessness. We also discussed what participants prioritize in webinars they attend or skip as Funders Together reassesses its programming strategy for the summer, recognizing the information overload many are experiencing. If there was any consensus in the feedback, it was that the topic determines the prioritization, didactic sessions should be as short as possible, and it is better to elevate actionable recommendations or collective next steps.

We named that the President's budget's only increases for homelessness response largely to pertain to forced treatment, which is as ineffective as it is unethical. We uplifted the option to release a statement under the auspices of Health Funders for Housing Justice, but there was a mixture of comfort levels in signing on to anything that might elicit unwanted attention from the Administration. The Funders Together team will take this under advisement and circle back.

We spent the bulk of time in discussion about how each participant is working to reduce the harmful effects of volatile federal action and major funding cuts. Many lamented just how severe the need is in comparison to what they can support, that with Medicaid still intact for now. Divya described efforts to support wellness for staff in direct-service nonprofits, but how their small discretionary grants are simply plugging holes. But she is encouraged that many in Chicago are coordinating on pooled funds. Ashley said all their advocacy energy is pouring into defending Medicaid and that, paradoxically, some partners are hesitant to accept CommonSpirit grants to expand services that may no longer be reimbursable depending on the federal budget's success. They're prioritizing where they can have the most impact, which seems to be in clinical services like street medicine. Daniel shared how inundated they have been for funding requests, provoking painful struggles between United Way's internal departments competing to prioritize certain nonprofits over others. Karen shared how they are increasing their grantmaking in general and supporting more advocacy grants, but they're limited in what they can offer as they are not endowed. Brittney and Monae shared about their ongoing work on CalAIM in addition to their work with wildfire relief. All appreciated one another for holding the space to process and deliberate.

The next meeting will probably dedicate space for discussion on Medicaid, and Michael will confirm soon. With several of us needing to pick up kids from camp, we adjourned a little early with sincere thanks for one another and well wishes for the summer.