

Health System Funders for Housing Justice Full-Network Meeting

June 27, 2022 | 2-3:00 ET / 1-2:00 CT / 12-1:00 MT / 11-10:00 PT

Attendees: Jesse Gelwicks (Kaiser Permanente), Marisa Conner (Kaiser Permanente), Rodrigo Campos (CommonSpirit), Ashley Brand (CommonSpirit), Claire Uebbing (Centura Health), Erin Jackson-Ward (Cedars-Sinai), Kathryn Boyle (Kaiser Permanente), Anira Khlok (CommonSpirit), Emily Skehan (Cedars-Sinai)

Staff: Michael Durham, Stephanie Chan, Alexa Eggleston

Regrets: Nicole Wilson, Rachel Krausman

Notes:

Michael initiated the meeting by acknowledging the recent Supreme Court rulings and the heaviness many are likely feeling as a result. All are invited to bring their full, authentic selves to these meetings, including grief from such events. In an overview of the agenda, Michael clarified that this meeting had been originally scheduled as the medical respite workgroup's, but we have pivoted to a full-network meeting to take stock of our progress so far, connect with one another, and identify priorities for the group.

Combining introductions with updates from the field, Anira Klok is a project manager for CommonSpirit's homelessness and health team based in Sacramento. In addition to supporting CommonSpirit's contract with Funders Together for this group, she project-manages a medical-legal partnership in Sacramento and a medical respite program in Redding. Rodrigo Campos is an intern with CommonSpirit's homelessness team. Joining us for the first time, Claire Uebbing is VP for Healthy Communities at Centura Health and seeks more information as stable housing is increasingly a struggle for their patients. Jesse Gelwicks is with Kaiser Permanente's national Housing for Health initiative that includes investments in medical respite programs across their footprint in partnership with the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC). Another newcomer to the Network, Marisa Conner is also with KP's Housing for Health team overseeing projects that include medical-legal partnerships. George Levanthal is Director of Community Health for KP in its Mid-Atlantic Region where they're planning a September convening on homelessness to map the prevalence of medical respite care in the region. Ashley Brand from CommonSpirit shared about their own partnership with NIMRC to support six-to-seven medical respite sites; the struggle they keep encountering is the dearth of housing options for clients ready for discharge from respite care. She also reflected on how changes to state Medicaid programs to reimburse for medical respite care should prompt health systems to advocate for their community partners to access that reimbursement such that health-system dollars serve as gap coverage. Kathryn Boyle is with KP's northern California region, and in addition to medical respite support, is working with CA's department of health care services on their housing and homelessness incentive program to quickly facilitate new

relationships in their region. Erin Jackson-Ward is Director of the Community Benefit Giving Office at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles and is similarly interested in exploring what gaps they can fill with their philanthropic dollars with the CalAIM transition. Finally, Emily Skehan oversees social determinants of health work at Cedars-Sinai and is focusing on various projects to assess the landscape of CalAIM's effect, not just on medical respite providers, but other homelessness-services providers as well.

Pivoting to discussion, Michael conducted a Zoom poll to kickstart reflections on progress over the last year and anticipation of what comes next. With the caveat that attendees included several first-timers, 90% agreed that we have made progress on our original goals over the last year or so; none "strongly agreed." The top results for "favorite aspect of these meetings" was peer-sharing with health-system calls and connections with like-minded colleagues. For priorities for the near future, most chose "developing resources to promote promising/best practices for health system investments on homelessness/housing."

In reflection on conversations over the last year, Alexa pointed out that generating evidence was a prevailing theme across the workgroups and meetings. Relatedly, members appear to be interested in data-collection and data-sharing across systems and community partners, addressing community needs, and addressing the communications needs around homelessness and health.

Ashley elaborated on the poll results, asserting that what influenced the lack of "strongly agree" responses regarding our goals was the elusiveness of clear outcomes from the meetings that separate this group from other coalitions. While new voices (health systems or private foundations) will always be welcome, we yearn for tangible, shared strategies for supporting community partners. As both KP and CommonSpirit are working with NIMRC to support medical respite sites across their footprints, it was observed that those investments are still relatively new, so lessons are still unidentified, even though everything learned can be freely shared. Michael acknowledged that he used to work for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and has close relationships with the NIMRC team; their director shared that while they may be working individually with health systems, they are not convening them. Moreover, NIMRC's expertise is on medical respite operations, not the funder's perspective. There is opportunity, then, for this group to produce something functional (e.g., a toolkit) that distinctly addresses health system/hospital needs (for medical respite, but perhaps other homelessness programs).

Closing with announcements, Michael implored members to prioritize the August 22 meeting that will be devoted to trainers from Liberation House to give us a shared understanding on equity and racial justice. This will be critical to our future work together on housing justice.

Joint registration for the 2022 Funders Institute and the National Conference on Ending Homelessness (which is otherwise sold out) closes June 30, but you can register for the Institute only through July 15.

We will provide an update on the work we are planning with Grantmakers in Health at a future meeting.

The call ended just after 3:00 ET.