

# Incorporating the PHJC Operational Principles – Visioning into the Future



This fall, the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation contemplated how to effectively incorporate the four PHJC operational principles into our future, we were curious as to what we might learn from our community partners and grantees. We embraced the challenge.

The PHJC operational principles emerged from a visioning for the future process the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ have been engaged in for the last year. These principles are disciplined collaboration, transformational innovation, sustainability and scale.

In addition to reviewing grant proposals in our traditional manner of comparing them against their ability to advance Poor Handmaids values, we also began asking how they might be incorporating these principles to strengthen their ability to advance their missions. We embraced the PHJC way of listening courageously and learned.

On October 19, five Board Members volunteered to join staff to visit a longstanding grantee, Hope House, to discuss their 2016 funding request. During the hour long visit, we discussed the challenges Hope House faces in housing and in providing on-site substance abuse counseling for women who are homeless and chemically addicted. When we shared our adaption of the four operating principles to position ministries for the future – they began beaming. They quickly advised us how they have found “disciplined collaboration” as vital to assuring that their homeless clients would be cared for in the future. After years of research, they merged their non-profit with the YWCA in July. The result they believe will be more efficient administrative overheads and transition to one new, expanded facility for both the Hope House’s homeless, chemically addicted clients and the YWCA’s domestic violence shelter clients.

When Board Members and staff met with the leadership of Lutheran Social Services, Inc. (LSSI) to discuss a new grant request for their ECHO (Education Creates Hope and Opportunity) program, we witnessed “transformational innovation.” Historically the ECHO program provided case management to assist teen parents reduce barriers and graduate from high school. However, when LSSI really looked at the importance of teen parents graduating with certificates and college

degrees, they modified their strategy by helping their high school seniors complete financial aid information, taking them on college visits, and assisting them with college applications. This innovation in their strategy was significant as most low income, parenting teens do not venture into post-secondary education. It was clearly transformational to both the agency and the teen parents and will have impact on the children.



Another longstanding partner and grantee, A Hope Center, values the life of each infant. They looked at the issues of infant mortality and helping vulnerable

parents needing help to choose life and achieve a healthy pregnancy. With 91% of their 2,600 annual clients very low income and dependent upon Medicaid to cover their pregnancy costs, A Hope Center realized they could be both “innovative” and “scale” their services to help the moms improve their overall health and help save the lives of more babies as well. They studied research from the Centers of Disease Control and found that the a high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in this population was negatively impacting the mom’s health, her pregnancy, future fertility and often causing pre-term labor which is a leading cause of infant deaths. Many of those with STDs were also going untreated. A Hope Center started a new collaboration with the local health department to provide a \$10 prescription to treat the STD infections. In July, A Hope Center began offering free tests for STDs, pregnancy tests, and assistance to get enrolled in Medicaid insurance. Initial results show that 78% of their clients who tested positive for a STD, were also pregnant and in need of these “scaled” services.

*As the Foundation experienced this fall, incorporating these four operating principles has the potential to make a very significant impact in the lives of those for whom they are entrusted to care.*

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