Notes from the Strategic Planning Meeting of Thursday, June 30, 2016

Participants: Beth Schuster, Theresa Lux, Linda Tripp, Robin Andrews, Leitha Pierro, Tam Mustapha, Chelly Hegan, Tina Sharpe, and Claire Parde

Supporting Materials:

* Mary Gail Beibel’s PowerPoint slides from the Board Retreat of October 2015
* Competitive Strategies for Not-for-Profit Agencies, by C. MacMillan
* Written record of the Board Retreat
* Suggestions from the Board Retreat

The group first considered the question: “What is strategic planning?” (or, alternately, what is a strategic plan?”). The group answered the question, at least in part, by agreeing that it is not a periodic, discrete effort, nor a binder, but rather a process AND product that are both ongoing, dynamic, functional and alive.

The group considered how concrete or vague the result of a strategic planning process must be. The group talked about how a plan that is too detailed and prescriptive is difficult to both create and sustain when the operating environment is ever-changing. Instead, there appeared to be general agreement that strategic planning will provide the organization with goals toward which to head, without dictating exactly how or when it gets there.

The group discussed the name of the organization and its mission. It was agreed that it is important to periodically review the organization’s mission to examine whether it is still relevant and worthwhile.

The group agreed that there is a considerable amount of knowledge, skill and talent on the board, much of which is underutilized. The format of the board meetings don’t lend themselves to strategic discussion. The group discussed how to change that, including moving to a consent agenda and handling more business at the Executive Committee level.

The group agreed that, In order to improve the work of the Consortium, we have to improve the functional role of the Board, considering its future size, composition, and function.

It was noted that many organizations are beginning to rely on a strategic vision as outlined by the Executive Director. Accordingly, the Committee tasked Claire with outlining her ideas and chief considerations for their review at the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for **Monday, August 1st from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**