LOCAL NEWS & ACTION

Family Housing Connection goes live in April!

Family Housing Connection, formerly Coordinated Entry & Assessment, is committed to providing a single access point for families seeking housing and shelter resources in King County. Family Housing Connection is fully staffed with a diverse team that includes four members with experience as an immigrant or refugee in King County and bilingual team members that speak Amharic, English, Gurage, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili and Tigrinya.

Over 80 programs are participating in Family Housing Connection at this time, including: emergency shelters, motel voucher, rapid rehousing/rental assistance, transitional housing and service enriched housing as well as permanent supportive housing. Currently, Family Housing Connection staff are completing housing assessments with families in emergency shelters. In the next two weeks, housing assessments with families who are currently on program waiting lists will begin. On April 23, 2012, 2-1-1 will begin scheduling housing assessments with families who are not currently in shelters or on waiting lists. (Call 2-1-1 for screening.)

Family Housing Connection has nine offices throughout King County to reduce transportation barriers and will provide housing assessments during daytime, evening and weekend hours to accommodate various family schedules. Contact Julie McFarland, Family Housing Connection Program Director, if you have any additional questions at 206-328-5650 or JulieMF@ccsww.org.

How to Ride Sound Transit: Online videos in English, Amharic, Burmese, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya.

The King County Mobility Coalition has produced a series of short videos with instruction on how to ride Sound Transit. The video series will help individuals learn how to ride the bus, pay for the bus and light rail and use other ways to travel. Watch the videos on YouTube in multiple languages by clicking here.

NATIONAL NEWS & ACTION

Cost Studies from the Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children Initiative

Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children Initiative was established to integrate service systems in four communities and improve the health and well-being of at-risk families. Four pilot sites built collaborations among agencies working in child development and those involved with homeless services, combining expertise to offer young mothers and their children comprehensive wrap-around care. This resulted in four distinct, innovative, and cost-efficient service models that succeeded in helping 398 families and 684 children meet their goals and achieve greater stability. Learn more about the cost effectiveness of this project.

FUNDING and RFP’s

CDBG Capital Funding – Pre-Application Period: This notice provides information concerning the 2012 allocation process for 2013 federal CDBG capital funding. Organizations and municipalities within King County CDBG Consortium may apply (with the exception of Seattle, Auburn, Bellevue, Kent and Federal Way). Community Development is holding technical assistance workshops throughout March and April to explain the CDBG requirements, King County’s process and CDBG program benefits. Information regarding the required Pre-Application and the allocation process can be found here. Deadline to pre-apply is April 6th.

TRAINDINGS

Immigration 101: A Training for Social Service Providers.

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project announces four trainings (three in King County, one in Yakima) for those who work with and serve immigrant communities and want to know how immigration law affects their clients and how to help. Basic immigration questions to be answered include:

- What is the immigration system like and how does it affect the people I serve?
- What happens when people are detained?
- What protections are available to immigrant victims of crime and survivors of domestic violence?
- What resources are available in the community to help?

continued next page...
Webinars on trauma and trauma-informed care this spring

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness presents a series of webinars on trauma and trauma-informed care this spring. Each month from February - May, the Campaign will be offering opportunities to learn more about how trauma can impact all facets of a person's life. Trainer Kathleen Guarino will provide training on homelessness, trauma, trauma-informed care, and self-care for providers. Special focus will be given to children and families who are experiencing homelessness and how organizations can provide trauma-informed services to these populations. Click here for information on the entire series, and see below for specific trainings.

Online - Homelessness in America: The Big Picture. A self-paced, online course providing an historical perspective of homelessness in the United States, a discussion of current trends in how we respond, and a view of the future as we work as a nation not just to manage homelessness, but to end it. This free course is available now - use code "ncfhFree".

Online - Understanding The Impact of Trauma on Children. Becoming homeless is traumatic for children and is often compounded by other traumatic stressors. This webinar provides an overview of trauma in the lives of children experiencing homelessness; define traumatic stress and discuss its impact on children; explore mitigating factors in a child's response to traumatic events; and begin to identify ways to help children and families heal. This free course is available now - use code "ncfhFree".

April - Developing a Trauma-Informed Approach to Support Children and Their Families April 25th, 2:30 – 4 PM, EST
This webinar will explore what it means to adopt a "trauma-informed" approach to service delivery and provide participants with concrete ideas for how to meet children's needs at all levels of an organization. Register today.

May - Building a Culture of Self-Care to Support Service Providers Date and Time TBD

Center for Social Innovation and t3 Training.
From the website: http://www.center4si.com/training/about.cfm

t3 is an training institute committed to improving the skills and knowledge of people working in homeless services, believing that a skilled workforce is essential to mount a serious response to complex social problems. To develop the skills and knowledge of the workforce, they build on established core competencies and skills training on evidence-based and promising practices. They Offer Three Types of Training:
1. Knowledge at Work—Online core curricula that offer homeless service providers basic knowledge to do their jobs well. These competency-based courses are ideal for new staff orientation or as a refresher for experienced staff.
2. Skills Courses—Instructor-led long distance courses that use web meetings, conference calls, coaching, and peer-to-peer assignments to develop basic and advanced skills. Topics include core skills in homelessness services, case management competencies, trauma-informed are, Motivational Interviewing, and Critical Time Intervention.
3. Onsite Training—Face-to-face training on a range of important topics.

A series of online trainings is currently available through the following weblink. All are $45 unless otherwise noted.

- Who is Homeless and Why? (free!)
- Homeless Children: America’s Youngest Outcasts
- Across the Generations: Families without Homes
- Homeless Youth: Alone and Adrift
- Homeless Veterans: Building Community Supports
- Ending Homelessness: Innovative Housing Strategies
- Step by Step: Case Management Competencies
- Motivational Interviewing: Changing the Conversation
- Double Edge: Understanding Homelessness and Trauma
- Critical Time Intervention: Focused, Time-Limited Case Management
- Self Care: Don’t Forget to Breathe

2012 NAEH Family Conference Presentations Online
Conference presentations from the 2012 National Conference on Family and Youth Homelessness are now available. Conference presentations will be kept live on the website until the 2012 National Conference on Ending Homelessness in July. View Conference Presentations
**CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Governing Board**
Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)) and Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov)). Meeting Schedule, 4th Wednesday of the Quarter, 8:30–10:30 am at YWCA Opportunity Place. Meeting summaries are available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday April 25, 8:30 – 10:30 am  
YWCA Opportunity Place – 2024 3rd Avenue, Seattle  
Initial Recommendations from CEH Task Forces: Youth & Young Adults, Immigrants & Refugees, Single Adult Shelter

**Interagency Council (IAC)**
Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman & Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)) and Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Schedule: 1st Monday of the month, 2–4 pm, rotating locations (Seattle, Bellevue, Renton). Meeting summaries are available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Monday April 2, 2 – 4 pm  
St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral – 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle  
Initial Recommendations from CEH Task Forces: Youth & Young Adults, Immigrants & Refugees, Single Adult Shelter; Potential changes to HEARTH definitions; Changes to ESG regulations

**Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)**
Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wed of the month, 6-7:30 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle. Meeting summaries of previous CAC meetings available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday April 18, 6:00–7:30 pm  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Focus Group selection, Introduction of potential new member, Single Adult Task Force recommendations.

**Public Relations**
Chair: Sherry Hamilton ([sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov](mailto:sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule: 4th Wed of quarter (March, June, Sept) 3:30–4:30 pm at Chinook Building 401 – 5th Ave, Room 526.

**Upcoming Meeting:** No April Mtg. Next Mtg: Wednesday June 20, 3:30 pm  
Chinook Building – 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle  
Annual Report, Community Outreach and Public Awareness

**Legislative Advocacy**
Co-Chairs: Marilyn Mason-Plunkett and Barbara Langdon. Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 8:30–10, via conference call. During legislative sessions, calls will be held every other week, though members are advised to call to confirm.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Tuesday April 3, 8:30 – 9:30 am – tentative. Look for email confirmation  
Conference Call 206-205-1111  
2012 legislative session

**Population Affinity Groups**

With the completion of the CEH Mid Plan Review in spring of 2012, the population committees of CEH have sunset in consideration of the task forces and workgroups that are going forward. The following are updates on population-based groups or initiatives that are going forward aligned with CEH.

**Single Adults:** Single Adults committee has been sunset. Meeting(s) may be convened as needed to seek feedback on the Homeless and Essential Needs or Single Adult Task Force as those bodies of work move forward.

**Families:** Follow the Families Initiative! See [Family Homelessness Initiative website](http://www.cehkc.org) for regular trainings and opportunities.

**YYA: KC Homeless Youth & Young Adult Leadership Council:** **Wednesday April 11th, 1:30 – 3:30 pm at the 2100 Building.**

The Mission of the King County Homeless Youth and Young Adult Leadership Council is to provide a forum for connecting leaders on issues pertaining to homeless youth and young adults. The first meeting is set for Wednesday April 11th from 1:30-3:30 pm at the 2100 Building (2100 24th Ave. S., Seattle 98144). On the Agenda: Nomination and selection of co-chairs, CEH Homeless Youth Task Force draft report presentation, and input on future meeting agenda items.
### South King County Forum on Homelessness

**Contact:** Jason Johnson, City of Kent [jaljohnson@ci.kent.wa.us](mailto:jaljohnson@ci.kent.wa.us). Meetings: the 1st Wed. of every month at 9–10:30am at the Kent Senior Activity Center to 1) keep South county service providers in touch with one-another; 2) share resources with / for SKC service providers; 3) receive updates and announcements of new or future projects; 4) to help bridge the disconnect between the homeless and services. Most attendees are planners or providers, though anyone is welcome to attend. SKC Forum on Homelessness web address: [http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=2728](http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=2728)

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday April 4, 2012, 9–10:30am  
**Kent Senior Activity Center – 600 E Smith Street, Kent**

**Agenda Topics:**

### North King County Housing Stakeholders Meeting

**Contact:** Kelly Rider at [kelly@housingconsortium.org](mailto:kelly@housingconsortium.org). The NKC Stakeholders group coordinates homeless housing & service activities in North King County. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. Meetings: Every other month, 2nd Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, (brown bag) Shoreline City Hall

**Upcoming Meeting:** No April Mtg. Next Mtg: Wednesday May 9, 11 am – 1 pm  
**Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N**

**Agenda Topics:**

### Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC)

**Contact:** Arthur Sullivan [ASullivan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ASullivan@bellevuewa.gov) or Sharon Anderson [sanderson@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:sanderson@ci.kirkland.wa.us). EHAC coordinates homeless housing & service activities in East King County. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE (just south of 520)

**Upcoming Meeting:** Thursday April 12, 2012, 2–4pm  
**First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE**

**Agenda Topics:**

### Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (ITFH)

The ITFH works among, between, and within the faith community and seeks to create the political will to end homelessness using targeted education, outreach and advocacy. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, noon-1:30pm at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett [ITFH@comcast.net](mailto:ITFH@comcast.net) or (425) 442-5418.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday April 18, 2012, noon–1:30pm  
**Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 – 10th Ave E, Seattle**

**Agenda Topics:**

### University District Conversation on Homelessness

**Contact:** Nathalie Gerhke Monthly Gathering share thoughts and strategies on local and regional concerns around homelessness. Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Monday of the month, 9 – 11:30 am. Meetings rotate throughout the U District, and frequently at University Congregational Church though location may change.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Monday April 9, 2012, 9am–11:30 am  
**University Heights Community Center**

**Agenda Topics:**

### University District Service Provider’s Alliance Service Provider Team

**Contact:** [udsp.spt@gmail.com](mailto:udsp.spt@gmail.com) U-District Service Provider’s Alliance share information relevant to working with homeless youth and young adults, program updates, and neighborhood updates. A service provider debrief follows each meeting. Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11am-12:30pm

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday April 11, 2012, 11am–12:30pm  
**Street Youth Ministries, 4540 – 15th Ave NE, Seattle**

**Agenda Topics:**

### Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)

The General meeting is the 3rd Thurs of each month, 9-11am at E Cherry YWCA. Most attendees are providers or homeless community members and other concerned folks are welcome. Several standing committees also meet regularly (families with children; youth & young adults, single adults; advocacy). Learn more and sign up for meeting reminders at [www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org)

**General Meeting:** Thursday April 19, 2012, 9–11am  
**E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle**

**Agenda Topics:**

**SKCCH Single Adults Committee:** Thursday April 12, 12:00-1:30pm at Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apartments: 2119 3rd Ave

**SKCCH Families with Children Committee:** Wednesday April 25, 9:30-11:00am at E. Cherry YWCA: 2820 E. Cherry St – Agenda: update and Q&A with Family Housing Connections, plus early planning for Project Cool

**SKCCH Youth and Young Adults Committee:** Tuesday April 10, **9:00-10:30am** at Neighborcare Health Rainier Beach Medical and Dental Clinic: **9245 Rainier Ave S**. (Note the time and place for SKCCH YYA meeting has changed for the March, April, and May meetings) Agenda: presentation on how to better assist youth clients with their legal needs.
The Mid Plan Review: Renewed Areas of Focus 2012 - 2015

In late 2010, just over half way through the Ten Year Plan, the governing bodies of the Committee to End Homelessness embarked on a Mid-Plan Review. This review included a review of the original goals, a broad evaluation of successes and shortfalls in meeting those goals, and the actions needed in the second half of The Plan. We have made some great gains since 2005, and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County is regarded as one of the strongest ten year plans in the nation. Since 2005, our region has:

- Become a national leader in the creation of Housing First models for vulnerable populations
- Funded over 4,500 units of new homeless housing
- Created coordinated entry for chronically homeless single adults
- Implemented the Landlord Liaison Project breaking down housing barriers for over 900 households
- Created effective diversion programs interrupting the cycle of jails and psychiatric hospitals, realizing millions in cost offsets
- Helped more than 30,000 individuals exit homelessness (over 18,000 households during the first five years of The Plan)

More remains to be done, and The Mid Plan review resulted in a comprehensive Mid-Plan Review Report with eight key strategies going forward. Click [here](http://www.example.com) to read the report. Below are updates on the key strategies, These will be updated quarterly.

1-Housing Production

Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the Housing Production investment priority is to develop and secure housing under the Ten Year Plan through a mix of capital development and leased housing. Specific strategies include: 1) Issue annual Combined Homeless Housing Funder NOFA that defines common funding priorities; 2) Utilize common application forms for fund sources supporting homeless supportive housing projects; and 3) Conduct collaborative reviews of applications among local and state funders. A subproject is the Rent Assistance Workgroup, working to coordinate and align all short-term, emergency rental assistance programs for ease of contracting, distribution, etc.

Update: A workgroup has been researching national rental assistance program models (prevention & rapid rehousing/diversion). Among top performing national programs, five elements form the hallmark of emerging best practices:

- Coordinated or Combined Funding, Contracting and Reporting, typically with one lead agency
- Centralized/Coordinated Intake and Assessment and Case Management Models
- Targeted Enrollment for Prevention and Rapid Rehousing/Diversion
- Progressive Engagement and Mindful Exit Planning with Stability Benchmarks
- Emphasis on Evaluation and Performance Measurement

Research of local funding directed towards rental assistance identifies three types of general prevention/rental assistance program models in place: six months or less of assistance; 7-24 months; and non-time limited. The group has catalogued $16.3 million in assistance going to these three models, with $9.3 in direct rental support and the balance in case management.

2-Homeless Families Initiative

Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the Homeless Families Initiative is to transform the homeless families system to streamline entry into housing and implement best practices wherever possible, focusing on: 1) Coordinated Entry and Assessment; 2) Prevention; 3) Rapid Rehousing; 4) Transition to Housing Stabilization Approach; and 5) Connection to Mainstream Systems.

Coordinated Entry and Assessment will go live in April! See Page 1: Breaking News

Catholic Community Services has been selected to implement Families Connections, previously referred to as Coordinated Entry and Assessment. Elements of this system enhancement will go live in April. Follow the news [here](http://www.example.com).

3-HEARTH and HMIS Implementation Work Group

Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the H E A R T H workgroup is to establish system-level measures of the status of homelessness in King County that aligns with H E A R T H Act standard, focusing on: 1) Providing clear, consistent quarterly reports on the status of homelessness in King County, per Safe Harbors; 2) Establishing metrics for ending homelessness; and 3) Providing recommendations for use of data in planning and evaluation related to homelessness.

Update: Planners and providers have identified reporting elements to report on system efficiency, boiled down to three elements.

1. Length of time homeless (based on average number of days in emergency shelter (ES) and/or transitional housing (TH). ES & TH data is reviewed separately and combined, and reported to HUD combined.)
2. Return to homelessness (based on percent of households that exit to permanent housing that return to services during the present quarter.)
3. First time homeless (based on households entering ES or TH not recording as being served in the past 15 month period.)

A future work product may be exploring whether/how to establish common data elements across other funding sources or how to otherwise streamline data collection efforts.
4-Veterans Five Year Plan updated 1/2012
The Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County is one of several Investment Priority of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County. It is built off of four overarching recommendations:

A. Close the existing housing gap for homeless / at-risk veterans.
B. Secure adequate funding and work with partners towards system alignment, with an emphasis on exploring efficiencies and reducing duplication of service.
C. Prepare the housing system to address complex needs among veterans, including the newly returning veterans and aging veterans, starting with outreach and prevention.
D. Identify and Replicate Best Practice Models for Serving Veterans.

The Veterans Five Year Plan recognizes four fundamental elements:
• Ending Veteran Homelessness begins and ends with housing.
• Funding at the local, state and federal levels is critical to implementing the Five Year Plan for Vets.
• The Five Year Plan for Vets was developed in partnership and alignment with the state and federal five year plans.
• The Five Year Plan for Vets is informed by the unique challenges faced by Veterans.

An advisory group meets quarterly to inform implementation of the SYP. Contact Debora Gay for information. debora.gay@kingcounty.gov

5-Client Care Coordination
Update will be drafted for May 2012 All Things CEH

6-Youth and Young Adult Task Force updated 3/2012
YYA task force goal, arising out of the Mid Plan Review: Explore and articulate a clear vision for a young adult system focused on housing, education, employment, with an emphasis on prevention (e.g., family reunification) & cross-systems connection (foster care, juvenile justice).

Update: The Task Force has been meeting regularly since October to define the elements of a youth and young adult homeless ‘system’ focused on prevention, intervention and best practices. Several local philanthropies and investors (with leadership by the Medina Foundation and Raikes Foundation) have expressed interest in coordinating funds and influence to support a systemic response to youth and young adult homelessness. The task force has initially addressed three priority areas:

1. Prevention – helping youth/young adults re-engage with family and other support systems in recognition that over 80% of runaways return to family/supports eventually. The goal, then, is to support a healthy return through case management, family treatment and counseling supports and avoid extended episodes of homelessness among youth/young adults.
2. Coordinated Engagement and Entry – intervention with youth/young adults on day-one of their homelessness/runaway, including outreach, intake, housing, case management, to assure youth receive consistent and streamlined services.
3. Use of Data – to assure that data and information is shared among agencies and used collaboratively in order to improve services and outcomes for homeless youth and young adults.

7-Single Adult Shelter Task Force updated 3/2012
SA Shelter task force goal, arising out of the Mid Plan Review: Explore and articulate a clear vision for the single adult shelter system, emphasizing placement in permanent housing, and a focus on long-term & frequent stay-ers of shelter. The task force may also explore use of short-term, shallow subsidies to facilitate exits, and conduct an inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds.

Update: The Task Force has met regularly since September and has researched the number and type of beds existing in the current shelter/transitional housing system for single adults, access points for these beds, and other critical data needed to inform the group’s recommendations. The Task Force also reviewed the CEHKC Emergency Housing Task Force Recommendations drafted in 2006 to reacquaint themselves with the report and determine which, if any, recommendations remain relevant to the current environment. They have identified several criteria and initial recommendations and will bring this to the April IAC and Funders Group for discussion.

8-Immigrant and Refugee Task Force updated 3/2012
I&R task force goal, arising out of the Mid Plan Review: Explore and recommend strategies to increase access to housing among culturally focused agencies and homeless housing providers.

Update: The I&R Task Force held a day-long retreat in late February to finalize its work and recommendations. The workgroup identified common themes and scenarios of how and why immigrants and refugees face homelessness; resources and gaps in response to those scenarios – both at the cultural level as well as at the resource/mainstream system level; and recommendations to close critical gaps in services for immigrants and refugees. The Task Force has developed a series of recommendations around

1. Progressive and Supportive English Learning Programs – address the unique foundational barriers/challenges of immigrants and refugees.
2. Policy Boards to Develop an Immigrant and Refugee Lens – eliminate institutional barriers created when I&R issues are dealt with as an afterthought.
3. Cultural Competency in Mainstream Homeless System – enhance the current service delivery system to make it more responsive.
4. Efficiency Gains in Existing Homeless Resources – improve current resources so they serve more immigrants and refugees along with other vulnerable populations.