REAKING NEWS AND INFORMATION

If you have an item of interest for the CEHKC community, please contact Ayesha Kelly at ayesha.kelly@kingcounty.gov

LOCAL NEWS & ACTION

McKinney Tier 1 Awards: $38.7 Million to Renew Funding to Over 200 Washington Projects

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan awarded $38,739,022 to renew support for 206 local homeless housing and service programs in Washington State. HUD will announce awards for Tier 2 plus competitive Planning Funds and Bonus Projects in the coming months. To view a list of Washington state projects awarded funds see HUD's Website.

Seattle Times Op-Ed: Don’t Evict Kids from Foster Care at the age of 18

Jim Theofelis, Executive Director of the Mockingbird Society, wrote an Op-Ed in the Seattle Times about the importance of extending the Foster Care to 21 Bill (HB 1302/SB 5405). Excerpts below

"...In its most recent annual survey, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that one of every 11 youth from foster care will experience being homeless. NAEH has identified that ending this practice in the foster-care system is key to ending youth homelessness in America.

In 2006, Washington established the Foster Care to 21 pilot program, thanks to forward-thinking legislators. This program allowed up to 150 youth to remain in foster care to age 21 to pursue their postsecondary education. The evaluation results are consistent with national research -- youth who had safe housing and other supports did significantly better than those who were literally on their own. Not only did they reduce their negative behaviors such as stealing, early parenting and reliance on public assistance, but they also increased their academic achievement, gained valuable work experience and began the successful transition to healthy adulthood.

But many do not get this support. Current proposed legislation, Extended Foster Care HB 1302 and SB 5405, would extend this support to youth facing significant barriers as they pursue their careers or education. [Foster youth] deserve the safety net of a stable home as they become productive citizens. The moment the state decides to remove a child from home, that child becomes our collective responsibility as a community. As parents, our care and support guides our own children safely into self-reliance. Our commitment should be no less for youth in foster care.

Third Anniversary of Health Reform Law—Biggest Reforms are Only Months Away

Three years after the passage of the landmark Affordable Care Act and Washington state is now on the cusp of the biggest health care reform in decades. “We’re busy at the state and federal level, working behind the scenes to make sure that health care reform lives up to its promise,” said Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler. “But as we approach Jan.1, 2014, people want to know what the changes will mean to them.” As early as October, you can start shopping for coverage in Washington state’s new online marketplace, the Healthplanfinder where it will be easy to compare plans, check prices, sign up for coverage and – depending on income – get help paying for it. Individuals earning up to almost $46,000 and a family of four earning up to $94,200 could qualify for subsidies.

“The financial help available through Washington’s new Healthplanfinder will be a lifeline for people who are uninsured or struggling to afford the coverage they have today,” said Kreidler. To help you get ready for the coming changes, the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner has launched an expanded edition of our health reform website with specific information for individuals and families including:

- Who has to have health insurance
- Where you can buy it
- How much it will cost
- What it will cover

For more information please visit the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner Website.

Project Cool for Back to School – Already Gearing Up!

Every fall through Project Cool, South King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) members and volunteers make sure that hundreds of homeless children and youth start the school year off right. In 2012, Project Cool provided 1,204 children and youth across King County with backpacks and school supplies. Included with every backpack a student receives is a Know-Your-Rights flyer on the educational rights for homeless students outlined in the McKinney Vento Act. SKCCH also regularly provides training for staff working with youth and unaccompanied minors to help them advocate for and support the educational rights of homeless students. Click here to get involved or contact Kathryn Murdock, Project Cool 2013 Coordinator at kathrynm@homelessinfo.org.
Supportive Services for Veteran Families YWCA

Men and women who served in the US Military and their families; who are now homeless or in danger of becoming homeless may be able to obtain and maintain permanent housing through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program is a case management program that will work with families in finding, and more importantly keeping permanent housing. They can refer families to employment and training programs, financial and community resources. Assistance may be available for short term rental support, deposits, childcare and other household needs. Eligibility requirements are:

- Be a current resident of King County
- Have any discharge status other than dishonorable
- Have a family income less than 50% of area median income or less than $30,800 for a single individual

For more information contact a SSVF representative at: 206-336-4601 or ssvf@ywcaworks.org

Added funding for Homeless Day Services

The City of Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) will distribute an extra $200,000 for day services for homeless people. The City Council added this funding to HSD’s budget in late November as part of the 2013 budget process to support “additional day center services to assist in the implementation of the Center City Initiative (CCI)... for hygiene and support services with the intended outcome of moving adults and youth into permanent housing.” An additional $204,600 is available for day services in 2014.

Childcare Assistance Available

Seattle Human Services Department’s Child Care Assistance Program helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care for children ages one month to 13 years. The amount of payment from the City varies according to the income of the family, age of the child, and hours of care needed. The City typically pays between 25% to 70% of a standardized rate, and the family is responsible for paying the difference between the voucher amount and the provider’s regular monthly rate. To qualify you must:

- Live within Seattle city limits
- Have children under 13 years of age
- Not be eligible for any other child care subsidy program
- Be employed and or enrolled in educational/job training
- Currently use a provider contracted with the City of Seattle
- Meet income guidelines based on family size

For income guidelines, please visit the Child Care Assistance Program Website or call 206-386-1050.

Catholic Community Services to Lead Coordinated Engagement for Youth and Young Adults

Through a competitive RFP process with King County’s Housing and Community Development, Catholic Community Services (CCS) was selected as the lead agency to implement Coordinated Engagement for homeless youth and young adults. Catholic Community Services brings a strong mission focus, broad regional coverage, and in-depth systems knowledge through their implementation of family coordinated entry. Coordinated Engagement will direct young people’s access to housing by coordinating their applications, applying a common strengths-based assessment, and placing them in programs that have worked for other youth and young adults like them. YYA Coordinated Engagement is anticipated to launch in July of 2013. Coordinated Engagement will provide:

- A clearly identified process for YA’s to request housing
- Coordinated housing placements at a system-wide level that matches YA’s with the most appropriate housing based on their strengths-based assessment, as well as program capacity and eligibility
- Unduplicated data on the number of homeless YYA’s and their needs/barriers
- Alignment with the existing Family Housing Connection coordinated entry system
- Community standards around best and/or promising practices in YYA housing

FREE Tax Preparation through April 15, 2013

The United Way of King County is providing a free tax preparation service for households making less than $51,000 yearly. To find the nearest tax preparation site, TEXT the word TAX and your 5-digit ZIP CODE to 313131, or for more information visit www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxhelp or call 2-1-1.

- Taxes are prepared by IRS-certified volunteers
- Many sites have volunteers who speak other languages
- Walk in, no appoint necessary
- Find out if you are eligible for public benefits including food stamps
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FREE: Veterans Service Provider Conference
Tuesday, April 30 – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Doubletree, SeaTac
This conference is offered free of charge exclusively for King County Service Providers. Get more information or click here to register.

WLIHA Conference on Ending Homelessness – May 15 & 16 in Tacoma
May 15-16, Hotel Murano Tacoma, WA – Register at www.wliha.org/conference/registration
The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance will host a dynamic mix of sessions, speakers and exhibits – all focused on ensuring everyone in Washington has access to a safe, healthy, and affordable home. Workshop Topics include:
- Homelessness and housing policy and advocacy
- Innovative housing and homeless programs from across the state
- Health care reform implications for homeless and housing providers
- Housing First
- Data management and coordinated entry
- Self-care and skill-building

FREE: Faith-Based Emergency Preparedness Forums
The City of Seattle, Seattle-King County Public Health, and the American Red Cross of King County & Kitsap County are pleased to invite you to attend the Faith-Based Forums! These forums have been organized to create an opportunity for leaders / representatives of Faith-Based Organizations to come together with local government, service providers and emergency management to talk about being ready for a disaster in a community fellowship environment. Highlights of the forums will include, inspiring presentations, engaging conversations and information sharing, display of available community resources, disaster product vendors on site, and disaster related giveaways. Food and beverages will be provided. For more information, or to register click here.
- Wednesday, April 10 – 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Delridge Community Center
- Tuesday, April 16 – 6 p.m. – 8:50 p.m., Yesler Community Center
- Saturday, April 20 – 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Northgate Community Center
- Wednesday, April 24 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center

FREE: Case Manager Training: Resources for Immigrants
Thursday, April 4, 2013, 10 a.m. – Noon, at Monica’s Village Place (140 23rd Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144)
Representatives from Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) will provide a comprehensive overview of the resources available to both documented and undocumented immigrants in Seattle and greater King County. Eligibility for housing, food and cash assistance, medical services, and other basic resources varies based on the legal status of an individual, this training will clarify for providers where they can refer their clients to receive services. Registration is required for this training. Click here to register.

Crisis Clinic: Crisis Intervention Training, Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Navigating the many issues people face when they’re in crisis can be challenging. In this training, you will learn how a crisis situation affects people and how to effectively respond to that person in crisis. Learn how to engage clients through active listening and the use of crisis intervention techniques. You will also explore other effective strategies in Crisis Intervention including recognizing potential roadblocks to active listening, identifying our own triggers, and attending to self-care. Cost: $75 Register Here

Crisis Clinic: Working With Interpreters & Accessing Community Resources
Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
In the first part of this course, you will learn how to effectively communicate with your clients using an interpreter. Whether it’s over the phone or in-person, in a spoken foreign language or using American Sign Language (ASL), you will learn the tips to make the most of your time and the interpreter’s abilities. We’ll also look at legislation and professional standards to understand why it is good practice to use an interpreter. Please feel free to bring questions and interpretation scenarios for discussion.

The second part of this course focuses on quickly and efficiently locating resources using the tools of King County 2-1-1. You’ll learn the best way to navigate the online database, Community Resources Online, in addition to using Resource Talk, Emergency Services Brochures, and the Where to Turn Plus directory. Better utilize the time you spend with your clients by learning how to apply these tools in concert with one another. Cost: $75 Register Here
Crisis Clinic: *NEW* Battling Compassion Fatigue
Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Working in a helping profession can take its toll on your emotional health. Learn the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue in order to assess the level of satisfaction and burnout in your own life. Walk away with tools to help you identify triggers, find professional/personal balance, and prioritize self-care in a guilt-free way.

Cost: $75, Register Here

Poverty Immersion Workshop: Sunday, April 28, 2-5pm
Everett Transit Station – Weyerhaeuser Room (3201 Smith Ave, Everett)
This workshop is designed to increase awareness around the complexities of living in poverty. It will provide the opportunity for role play, discussion and action. Workshop participants will “take on” the lives of low-income families from single parents to senior citizens. Each family will be tasked with providing food, shelter and other basic needs during a 15 minute “week”. Pre-registration is required. Click here to register. Questions? contact Lisa Gustaveson at 206-296-2657 or e-mail gustavel@seattleu.edu

FUNDING and RFP’s

United Way of King County Shelter Funding RFP
Applications must be submitted in e-Cimpact no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2013.
United Way of King County (UWKC) is opening approximately $1,200,000 to competitive bid for agencies providing overnight shelter for homeless individuals, youth and families in King County. Agencies eligible for this funding must provide temporary indoor shelter to homeless clients, either in facilities or through motel vouchers. Funding will be effective July 1, 2013. A bidder’s conference will be held at UWKC (720 Second Ave., Seattle) on Monday, April 1st from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Please visit UWKC’s website for details.

NATIONAL NEWS

Sequestration is in Effect; Critical Opportunity to Inform
Congress has not reached a compromise that will avert the across-the-board spending cuts to all security and non-security discretionary programs, also known as sequestration. Sequestration went into effect on Friday, March 1 and results in slightly more than five percent cuts to virtually every program within HUD, including the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME, CDBG, HOPWA, and Public Housing. The cuts also apply to other programs that assist those experiencing homelessness such as the Department of Health and Human Services’ Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs and the Department of Justice’s reentry and domestic violence programs.

CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Governing Board
Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov) Typical Meeting Schedule, 4th Wednesday of the Quarter, 8:30-10:30am at YWCA Opportunity Place. Meeting Summaries of previous Governing Board meetings are available at www.cehkc.org.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 24th 8:30 – 10:30 am Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Conference Room
Agenda Topics 2013 Funding Principles, System Analysis Tools, Follow-up to HUD Opening Doors

Interagency Council (IAC)
Upcoming Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2 – 4 pm, St. Mark’s
Agenda Topics 2013 Funding Principles, Follow Up to HUD Opening Doors
Recent Meeting: Monday, March 4
Discussed Systems Performance Calculator, 2013 Capital & Service Funding

Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)
Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov). Typical Schedule: 3rd Wed of the month, 6-7:30pm at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle. Meeting summaries of previous CAC meetings available at www.cehkc.org
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Plymouth Congregational
Agenda Topics Continuum of Care Governance – emerging guidelines
Recent Meeting: Wednesday, March 20
Discussed Performance calculator, updates from recent IAC, FG meetings
Public Relations
Chair: Sherry Hamilton (sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov). Typical Schedule: 4th Wed of month, 3:30–4:30pm at Chinook Building 401 – 5th Ave, Room 526.
Upcoming Meeting: Public Relations Committee on hiatus until notice. Committee members will be notified of next meeting.

Legislative Advocacy
Chair: Harry Hoffman. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.brace@kingcounty.gov) Typical Schedule: Every Other Tuesday during session, from 8:30–9:00, in person or via conference call.
Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, Apr 9 – Chinook 116 8:30 am – 9:00 am, and Conference Line 205-6641
Tuesday, Apr 23 – Chinook 116 8:30 am – 9:00 am, and Conference Line 205-1111
Agenda Topics *Legislative Advocacy Group - Please note you will receive an e-mail from Gretchen confirming if the meeting will still be held on the above scheduled date and time.

Population Affinity Groups
Family Homelessness Initiative Information Sessions:
Debbi Knowles and Triina Tennelo host open sessions to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the Initiative. Reoccurring: 3rd Wednesdays each month 9:30 – 11:00am at the 2100 Building (unless otherwise noted)
Next meeting: April 17th, 2013 9:30-11 at 2100 Building 2100 24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144
Contact Triina Tennelo for more information: 206.263.9110 or triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov or visit the Initiative website for more information: http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx

Family Housing Connection: FHC staff holds quarterly meetings of feedback sessions to talk with family housing providers on how to make the coordinated entry system for families most effective.
Next meeting: June 17, 2013 10:30am – Noon at CCS – 100 23rd Ave S, Seattle WA 98144
Family Housing Connection website: www.ccsfchc.org

Youth & Young Adult (Y/YA):
Megan Gibbard has begun holding monthly Y/YA Stakeholder Forums. This forum provides a monthly opportunity to hear about the changes planned for our homeless youth and young adult system in King County. The April Y/YA Stakeholder Forum will be held Tuesday April 23rd, from 2 – 3:30, at Friends of Youth, 16225 NE 85th St, Ste. A, Redmond. Contact Megan at megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov

RELATED COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES
South King County Forum on Homelessness
Contact: Jason Johnson, City of Kent jaljohnson@ci.kent.wa.us. The SKC Forum on Homelessness meets the 1st Wed. of every month at 9–10:30am at Kent Commons. SKC Forum on Homelessness web address: http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=2728
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 9-10:30
NOTE: NEW LOCATION Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Ave N, Kent

North King County Housing Stakeholders Meeting
Contact: Kelly Rider at kelly@housingconsortium.org. The NKC Stakeholders group coordinates homeless housing & service activities in North King County. Typical Schedule: Every other month, 2nd Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, (brown bag) Shoreline City Hall
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 11 – 1 pm Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N, Seattle

Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC)
Contact: Arthur Sullivan ASullivan@bellevuewa.gov or Sharon Anderson sanderson@ci.kirkland.wa.us. EHAC coordinates homeless housing & service activities in East King County. Typical Meeting Schedule: 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 11, 2013, 2 – 4 pm First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE

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. Typical Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wednesday of the month, noon-1:30pm at St. Mark’s. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett at itfh@comcast.net or (425) 442-5418.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2013, Noon – 1:30 pm St. Mark’s Cathedral, 1245 – 10th Ave E, Seattle
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 8, 2013, 9 – 11:30 a.m. U. Temple Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd, Seattle

University District Service Provider’s Alliance Service Provider Team
Contact: 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 10, 2013, 11am-12:30pm Street Youth Ministries, 4540 – 15th Ave NE, Seattle

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)
The General meeting is the 3rd Thurs of each month, 9-11am at E Cherry YWCA. Learn more and sign up for meeting reminders at www.homelessinfo.org

General Meeting: Thursday, April 18, 2013, 9–11am E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle

SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings
SKCCH Youth and Young Adults: Tuesday, April 9, 10-11:30am, Capitol Hill Library, 425 Harvard Ave E, Seattle
SKCCH Single Adults Advocacy: Thursday, April 11, 12-1:30 pm, Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apartments, 2119 3rd Ave, Seattle
SKCCH Families with Children: Wednesday, April 24, 9:30-11.00 am, E. Cherry YWCA, 2820 E. Cherry St., Seattle
All Things CEH Backpage: The Criminal Justice Initiative

King County Criminal Justice Initiatives (CJI)

Jail reentry for individuals with mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in King County, many of whom are homeless.

Background

The King County Criminal Justice Initiatives provide treatment and reentry support services for individuals who are justice-involved, indigent or low income, with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring conditions who may also be homeless. The CJI began with funds redirected by the King County Council in 2002 via the Adult Justice Operational Master Plan with the intent of funding programs for targeted adults in the local justice system, particularly those exiting King County jails.

In 2005, House Bill 1290 was passed in the Washington state legislature and the Jail Transitions Services funding was implemented state-wide. This funding was used in King County to expand services provided under the CJI. This allowed CJI services to be extended to all jails in King County, specifically those suburban cities operating a misdemeanor jail.

Jails De Facto Psychiatric Hospitals

King County District Court and the City of Seattle implemented the 2nd and 4th mental health courts (MHC) in the United States, respectively. This was precipitated by an ever-increasing population of individuals with serious mental health conditions, often with co-occurring substance use disorders, in the King County jails. Many of these individuals were also homeless and lacking access to basic supports.

What is Jail Reentry?

Jail reentry can be compared to an “emergency room” or “crisis triage” where the context can change at any time as the court process proceeds (see Sequential Intercept Model below) and individuals may be back in the community quickly and without much time to prepare. Forensic planning from a comprehensive, recovery and person-centered approach is critical in order to address all reentry needs, which include behavioral health and primary healthcare, and appropriate medications related to both. It includes housing, educational/vocational services, employment, transportation, family and peer support, and any other identified need that will assist individuals in successfully reentering and remaining in the communities they want to live.

The National GAINS Center Sequential Intercept Model (useful for mapping services)