Rapid Re-Housing for Families Pilot

On January 16th, a single mother connected with the Rapid Re-Housing for Families (RRHF) pilot through Career Connections, one of the pilot’s Employment Navigator Programs. At the time of her enrollment, she was staying in an emergency shelter while maintaining a part-time job which earned her twelve dollars an hour. Career Connections provided career counseling and resume support and by January 23rd she and her children moved into housing. In order to afford her housing on an ongoing basis, she knew she needed to find a job that provided more hours and higher wages. She shared with her Employment Navigator that she had recently lost weight due to a health condition and no longer had appropriate interview clothes. With a clothing voucher and transportation assistance to a two week job orientation that she would otherwise have been unable to attend, the client was able to secure a full-time position starting at fourteen dollars an hour.

Her story of swift stabilization into housing epitomizes RRHF’s goal to make the experience of homelessness in King County rare, short, and one-time by enhancing housing options for families who are homeless. Started in November of 2013, the program emphasizes the need to move quickly and work intensively on increasing income and addressing barriers to housing from the start of enrollment. Much of this work occurs during the family’s shelter stay, with team meetings among RRHF Housing Advocates, Employment Navigators, shelter staff and family to identify employment and housing goals and a plan to achieve them.

The pilot includes flexible client assistance funds to help families reduce barriers to employment and housing. This includes paying back substantial rent arrears, utility debt, transportation assistance, and training/certification fees. RRHF providers can also assist families with moving costs, including application fees and security deposits. Families can receive three months of graduated rental assistance. Utilizing a progressive engagement approach, additional assistance can be provided and is based on need. After a family exits the pilot program, families can contact their provider if emergencies arise. Providers can offer limited assistance for up to six months after program exit. This does not count as a return to homelessness and is intended to further support housing stabilization. Employment Navigators can remain engaged with families for up to two years after enrollment.

The pilot has enrolled 98 families, and as of March 28th, 28 families have moved into housing. On average it has taken families 28 days to move into housing from RRHF intake.

"It’s an exciting time in our community to be using solution focused interventions that are working in other parts of the country," said Catholic Community Services Program Director Emily Harris-Shears. "Determining how families with varied rental experiences, including landlord debt or multiple evictions, can leave homelessness and maintain housing is an integral part of supporting families in our community."

Rapid Re-Housing for Families Pilot Process and Indicators Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollments</th>
<th>Move Ins</th>
<th>Time to Move In</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target through 3/01 is 100</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Target is an average of 30 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
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Families in the RRHF Pilot are currently moving to housing within 28 days on average. This timeframe is in line with our target of 30 days on average, which we achieved locally in the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP.) We’ve received feedback that this timeline may be difficult to achieve in a tight housing market, and/or for some families who have multiple barriers to housing. The pilot is a great opportunity to learn more about how quickly families can move to housing, and we’ll continue to track that number and adjust the target if necessary. The pace of enrollments is in line with our targets, and we still expect to help nearly 300 families move to housing by the end of 2014.
Rapid Re-Housing for Families Pilot Process and Indicators Data

Many families in the RRHF Pilot are moving to less expensive areas in south Seattle or south King County, while a handful of families have found housing in north Seattle. All of our pilot programs remain committed to helping families find housing in an area that works for them. Though household incomes at entry were low, enrolled families are encouraged to co-enroll in employment and education services. Families can remain enrolled in employment services for two years to work on wage growth, and need not discontinue participation when their housing subsidy ends.

United Way of King County – Community Resource Exchange

On Tuesday, April 29, from 9am to 2pm, the United Way will hold a Community Resource Exchange at Century Link Field. The event is a day devoted to connecting people experiencing homelessness in King County with immediate access to the services and resources they need. In one place—on one day—attendees enjoy a hot meal and have access to free health services, haircuts, voicemail accounts, public benefits, referrals to employment training and more. Last October, over 1400 community members experiencing homelessness came to the CRE. Click here to get more details.

24th Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness

Registration and scholarships for the 24th Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness are now open. Please join the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and over 500 homelessness providers and advocates from around the state for a dynamic mix of workshops, speakers, and exhibits—all focused on ensuring everyone in Washington has access to a safe, healthy, and affordable home. In addition to 50 workshops, the conference will also include a reception, networking opportunities, and four brand-new short films from the Seattle University Film & Family Homelessness Project. The conference takes place from May 21 & 22 at the Yakima Convention Center in Yakima, Washington. Register for the conference here.
**FUNDING AND RFP’S**

**Youth & Young Adult Comprehensive Plan Funding Awarded**

Successful bidders to the RFP for funding in the areas of employment, housing stability, and family reunification intervention and capacity building were notified this week.

The Youth and Young Adult (YYA) RFP covered $530K available funding from King County, with an additional $112K available from the United Way of King County (UWKC) for three activity areas: Clear Path to Employment, Housing Stability, and Family Reunification.

The following agencies were funded through this RFP:

<table>
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<th>Clear Path to Employment:</th>
<th>Friends of Youth, in collaboration with YouthCare, received $142,500 from King County and UWKC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The YMCA received $209,500 from King County and UWKC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Stability:</td>
<td>The YMCA received $130,000 from King County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Reunification:</td>
<td>Catholic Community Services, in collaboration with Friends of Youth, received $150,000 from King County</td>
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In addition, the UWKC has chosen to fund $10,000 to the NW Network as a complement to the funding the Pride Foundation recently committed in support of capacity building around GLBTQ YYA in the homeless youth continuum.

This funding represents a strong step forward to further address the needs of homeless young people in innovative ways, as well as to learn more about what works and for whom. It also demonstrates the strong partnership between the UWKC and KC in action.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Crisis Clinic Community Trainings**

In May and early June, Crisis Clinic will offer three trainings for service providers.

**Dealing with Difficult People**

*Wednesday, May 14, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Learn to engage with difficult people more effectively by setting boundaries and identifying your own triggers. This training is suitable for anyone who regularly interacts with the public and clients as part of their job.

**Cost:** $75. Click [here](#) for more details

**Battling Compassion Fatigue**

*Thursday, May 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 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. Click [here](#) for more details

**The Art of Referral & Accessing Community Resources**

*Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue, Thursday, June 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Learn interviewing techniques, ways to build rapport, and how to help clients advocate for themselves when seeking assistance. We’ll also show you how to quickly and efficiently locate resources using the tools of King County 2-1-1, including how to navigate our online database.

**Cost:** $75. Click [here](#) for more details
CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Political 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. Meeting Summaries of previous Political Board meetings are available at www.cehkc.org.

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 8:30 – 10:30 am Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Conference Room
Agenda Topics: Annual Workplan, Legislative session recap, Crisis Response plan, Continuum of Care (CoC) Governance

Recent Meeting: Wednesday, January 22
Discussed: CoC Governance, Governing Board Roles & Responsibilities, Moving Towards a Crisis Response System, 2014 Annual Workplan

Interagency Council (IAC)

Upcoming Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2:00 – 4:00 pm St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
Agenda Topics: 2014 Coordinated Notice of Funds Available, Crisis Response Elements, Feedback to CEH Advisory Bodies

Recent Meeting: Monday, March 3
Legislative Priorities Update (Mockingbird Youth), Crisis Response Elements, Lessons from other CoC

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 16, 6 – 7:30 pm 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle
Agenda Topics: Homeless Teen Mothers Focus Group

Recent Meeting: Wednesday, March 19
Discussed: Planning for 2014 Focus Groups

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 – 11:00 am at varying locations
Next meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 9:30 – 11:00 at 2100 24th Avenue South in Seattle.

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. Check Family Housing Connection website for dates: www.ccsfchc.org

Youth & Young Adult (Y/YA):
The monthly Y/YA Stakeholder Forums provide a monthly opportunity to hear about the changes planned for our homeless youth and young adult system in King County. Please check the YYA Webpage for updates. For more information on the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County contact Megan Gibbard (megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov) or visit the YYA Webpage. To be added to the YYA stakeholder email list, which provides bi-weekly updates on the initiative, email Carrie.Hennen@kingcounty.gov.

• YYA Stakeholder Forum- April 22, 2-3:30pm, White Center Library (11220 16th Ave SW, Seattle) The forum is a monthly opportunity to hear about the changes planned for our homeless youth and young adult system in King County. The forum will be preceded by a Community Sign In Training (1-2pm), and immediately followed by a YHC feedback forum (3:30-4:30pm). Please RSVP for the Community Sign In Training by emailing Megan Gibbard.
RELATED COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

**South King County Forum on Homelessness**
Contact: Manuela Ginnett, manuelag@multi-servicecenter.com or Jo Cherland, johannac@ccsww.org. The SKC Forum on Homelessness meets the 1st Wed. of every month at 9–10:30 am at Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Ave N. SKC Forum on Homelessness web address: [http://kentwa.gov/content.aspx?id=2728](http://kentwa.gov/content.aspx?id=2728)

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 9 – 10:30 a.m. **Agenda Topics:** Housing Justice Project & Neighborhood Legal Clinics

**Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Avenue N.**

**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: Quarterly, 2nd Wednesday, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, (brown bag) Shoreline City Hall

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Shoreline City Hall**

**Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC)**
Contact: Arthur Sullivan, ASullivan@bellevuewa.gov. 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 10, 2014, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. **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-1:30 pm at St. Mark’s. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett at itfh@comcast.net or (425) 442-5418.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, April 16, 2014, Noon – 2:30 p.m. **Saint 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 14, 2014, 9 – 11:30 a.m. **University Congregational-UCC Church, 4515 16th Ave N.E. 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 9, 2014, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **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](http://www.homelessinfo.org)

**General Meeting:** Thursday, April 17, 2014, 9 – 11 a.m. **E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle**

**SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings**

**SKCCH Youth & Young Adults:** Tuesday, April 8, 10-11:30 a.m., Capitol Hill Public Library (425 Harvard Ave E, Seattle)

**SKCCH Single Adults Advocacy:** Thursday, April 10, 12-1:30 p.m., Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apts (2119 3rd Ave, Seattle)

**SKCCH Families with Children:** Wednesday, April 23, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at E Cherry YWCA (2820 E Cherry St., Seattle)

If you have an item of interest for the CEHKC community, please contact Anand Balasubrahmanyan at anand.balasubrahmanyan@kingcounty.gov