LOCAL NEWS & ACTION

Public Comment: King County Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI) Draft Report

On February 4, 2013, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced the launch of the Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI)—a project to increase coordination of and access to services for all King County veterans and their families. Over the last five months the RVI has worked with stakeholders in the veteran community to develop recommendations and an action plan that will build upon and expand the community awareness and support for King County veterans, and improve the coordination of veterans services in King County.

The King County Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI) has now posted the King County Regional Veterans Initiative Report and Recommendations for public review. This draft report contains a summary of the RVI work, a proposed vision and action plan for moving forward to improve the King County Veterans Service System over the next 24 months.

Please click here to view and comment on the draft (comments will be accepted until Tuesday, August 6). Thank you in advance for your support and responses to this vital King County Initiative.

Senator Murray Announces More than $7 Million for Homeless Prevention

Senator Patty Murray, Chairman of the Senate Housing Appropriations Subcommittee and senior member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, announced that nine Washington State non-profit community agencies will receive more than $7 million in federal funding to provide homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance to veterans in Washington State. The grants are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. The SSVF program aims to improve the housing stability of very low income veteran families by providing funding to private, non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives who in turn provide supportive services to veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. Senator Murray supported the expansion of this critical program by including it in Public Law 112-37, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011.

Updates from the Homeless Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Initiative

The YYA team been busy since the comprehensive plan began. Here are a few updates:

Comprehensive Plan to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness update & next steps:
The Comprehensive Youth/Young Adult Plan identifies our community’s vision to end homelessness among YYA in King County by 2020 and our 18 month implementation strategy to begin delivering on this vision.

- In June, over 70 community stakeholders – including funders, YYA providers and youth/young adults themselves, gathered for two days to help identify and develop the priority action steps that will be recommended in the Plan.
- During the month of August, the Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the bodies of the CEH – including the YYA Advisory Group, IAC and Funder’s Group (and presented to the CEH Governing Board in October). The final Plan will be submitted to King County Council at the end of September.

In other YYA news:
 ✓ Coordinated Engagement (known as Youth Housing Connection) launched on July 17th with the first housing referral made the same day.
 ✓ Community Sign in is scheduled to launch on August 19th.
 ✓ Monthly Stakeholder Forum: Tuesday, August 27th at Mercer Island Library.

For questions about the Comprehensive Planning process or the Homeless YYA Initiative, visit YYA’s Webpage or contact Megan Gibbard at megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov / 206.263.2974 or Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@kingcounty.gov / 206.263.1350, or For questions regarding Youth Housing Connection, Jerred Clouse (CCS Program Manager) at Jerredc@ccsw.org/206.406.9374.
Community Resource Exchange, Tuesday, September 17, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Seattle Center

Last October, the Community Resource Exchange brought together more than 400 volunteers and 100 service providers. This community event enabled more than 1,200 men, women and children facing homelessness to receive the services they need most. This year, free services include:

- Legal Counseling
- Medical and dental
- Hot meals
- Books, socks and hygiene kits
- Haircuts
- Employment assistance
- Public benefits assistance
- Housing referrals and MORE

You can support the 2013 Community Resource Exchange by holding a supply drive. Sign up here to assist with the collection of socks, sneakers and hygiene kits.

Pass a Hotdog Down and Support the Housing Alliance

An evening of baseball with the Tacoma Rainiers, Triple-A affiliate of the Seattle Mariners, also supports efforts to increase affordable homes and fight homelessness. Just $15 gets you a meal and a seat. Ticket sale proceeds from this link helps continue advocacy to ensure that Washington residents have an opportunity for a safe, healthy, affordable home. To benefit the Housing Alliance, you must enter this promo code: INSIDER

Tacoma Rainiers v. Omaha Storm Chasers
Friday, August 2 at 7:00pm
Cheney Stadium
2502 S Tyler St, Tacoma, WA 98405

Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m., Bellevue Library, 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue

The Fair Housing Center of Washington is hosting a community forum around the issues of housing discrimination. Come to this public meeting and discuss questions such as:

- Are we perpetuating segregation today?
- Are there attitudes about section 8, low-income housing, group homes, or the homeless that impede integrated housing?
- Is affordable housing only being built in diverse or low-income neighborhoods?
- Can government and private investment in transportation increase housing opportunities for low-income families?

Poverty Hits Home in Local Suburbs like South King County

A recent article in the Seattle Times highlighted the issues of homelessness in South King County. Research conducted by the Brookings Institution, showed that for the first time there are more poor people living in American suburbs than in the nation’s big cities. South King County is particularly “eye-opening,” the researchers say. Using the federal benchmark for poverty, which for a family of four in 2010 was an annual income of $22,300, Brookings researchers found that two out of three Seattle-Metro-Area residents who were at or below the poverty line were living in the suburbs. Read more of this article here.

You may also find interesting a recent presentation from the June 25 Reception for South King County Leaders and Friends, of a book titled “Confronting Suburban Poverty in America” by author Alan Berube and a one-page profile submitted by the Brookings Institution detailing the poverty in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area link.

New “The State of Family Homelessness in Pierce County” South Sound Magazine Issue

Written by Journalism Fellow Jeff Burlingame, the series follows the lives of several Pierce County, Wash. families. They include a single mom whose son is a student in the groundbreaking McCarver Elementary School program; a young mother of two who fled an abusive relationship into homelessness; and a military veteran from Iraq and Afghanistan who represents a new generation of veterans battling PTSD, unemployment and other challenges as they reintegrate into civilian life.

It also examines the scope of the problem in Pierce County and analyzes the success of efforts there to combat homelessness among families. Read the Series Here
FUNDING and RFP’s

2013 Combined NOFA released
The 2013 Combined NOFA for Homeless Housing and Services was released in June. Funding Partners in the NOFA include King County, City of Seattle, United Way of King County, ARCH, Building Changes, King County Housing Authority and Seattle Housing Authority. Application due dates vary by fund source(s). Check the King County and partner websites for updates.

NATIONAL NEWS

2013 National Conference Materials Available Online
The 2013 National Conference on Ending Homelessness took place from July 22-24, in Washington D.C. The Alliance has posted presentation materials on their website. The materials cover a wide range of issues from the conference, including services for domestic violence survivors, ending youth homelessness, health care reform, new homelessness research, retooling transitional housing programs, family interventions for homeless youth, and much more! The Alliance will continuously post materials to their website as they become available.

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. Meeting Summaries of previous Governing Board meetings are available at www.cehkc.org.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 8:30 – 10:30 am Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Conference Room
Agenda Topics TBD
Recent Meeting: JULY MEETING CANCELLED
Discussed

Interagency Council (IAC)
Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman & Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov)
Typical Schedule: 1st Monday of the month, 2–4pm, rotating locations (Seattle, Bellevue, Renton). Meeting summaries of IAC meetings available at www.cehkc.org
Upcoming Meeting: IAC RETREAT
Agenda Topics TBD
Recent Meeting: Monday, July 8
Discussed 2013 Legislative Session Update, Retreat Planning, YYA Initiative

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: CAC Picnic, Wednesday, August 21, 6:00 – 7:30 pm Garfield Playfield, E Cherry St & 23rd Ave, Seattle
Agenda Topics CAC Picnic
Recent Meeting: Wednesday, July 17
Discussed System Mapping, Winter Shelter Focus Group

Public Relations
Chair: Sherry Hamilton (sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov)
Typical Schedule: 4th Wed of the 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.bruce@kingcounty.gov)
Typical Meeting Schedule: Every Other Tuesday during session, from 8:30–9:30, in person or via conference call.
Upcoming Meeting: TBD
Agenda Topics *Legislative Advocacy Group on hiatus with close of state legislative session. See CEHKC homepage for results of CEH priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session
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: August 21, 2013 9:30-11 Location TBD
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: September 16, 2013 10:30am – Noon at CCS – 100 23rd Ave S, Seattle WA 98144
Family Housing Connection website: www.ccsfhc.org

Youth & Young Adult (Y/YA): Contact Megan at megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov
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 June Y/YA Stakeholder Forum will be held Tuesday August 27, from 2 – 3:30, Mercer Island Library, 4400 – 88th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

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, August 7, 2013, 9 – 10:30 am Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Avenue N.
Agenda Topics:

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, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, [brown bag] Shoreline City Hall

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2013, 11:30 – 1:30 pm Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N, Room 301

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, August 8, 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, August 21, 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, August 12, 2013, 9 – 11:30 a.m. U. District Temple Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd St., 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, August 14, 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](http://www.homelessinfo.org)

**General Meeting:** Thursday, August 15, 2013, 9–11am

**E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle**

**SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings**

SKCCH Youth and Young Adults: **Tuesday, August 13**, 10-11:30am, Capitol Hill Library, 425 Harvard Ave E, Seattle

SKCCH Single Adults Advocacy: **Thursday, August 8**, 12-1:30 pm, Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apartments, 2119 3rd Ave, Seattle

SKCCH Families with Children: **Wednesday, August 28**, 9:30-11:00 am, E. Cherry YWCA, 2820 E. Cherry St., Seattle
Youth Housing Connection
Update – July 29, 2013

Please email jerredc@ccsww.org to receive YHC weekly updates

Messaging: Emergency and Crisis Housing Only
- There have been some questions about eligibility and the types of housing resources available. Due to limited resources, it is crucial that YHC be used as an emergency and crisis resource only. If someone is not currently homeless or imminently losing housing, they are not eligible for YHC participation.
- Participating programs all have participation requirements and rules for their housing program. Almost all resources available require case management as part of their housing program.

Completed Assessments
- As of July 29, 2013, 138 housing assessments have been completed with young adults 18-25 years old.

Assessment Capacity and Quality
- YHC’s current assessment capacity appears to be meeting the need, with very few YAs being turned away at assessment sites because of a lack of assessment times.
- Assessments on average take roughly 1 hour. Though we would like to see as many clients as possible in a day, we prioritize quality over quantity. Providing a safe and open environment where participants feel heard takes priority over completing as many assessments as possible.
- Any case manager or other support is welcome to attend the assessment at the request of the young adult. It is completely the participant’s choice as to who accompanies them in their assessment.

Referrals Update
- Three referrals have been sent as of this morning.
- Six housing resources are on hold and pending responses by young adults

Informational Meetings
- **YHC Feedback Meetings** – This will be an opportunity for service providers and partners to provide YHC feedback. The locations are still being decided, but they will be scheduled in two geographically distinct locations to best accommodate providers located throughout King County. The anticipated schedule is below.
  - First Wednesday of the month, 9:30-10:30am. Location: Bellevue Public Library, 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. Starts August 7th, 2013.
  - Third Monday of the month, 9:30-10:30am. Location: CCS, 100 23rd Ave South, Seattle, WA 98114.

- **Stakeholder Forum** – Stakeholder forums are the best opportunity to hear about changes planned for our homeless Youth and young adult system in King County, including Youth Housing Connection and Community Sign In. They are hosted by the Homeless YYA Initiative at rotating locations.
  - Stakeholder Forums are held every 4th Tuesday from 2 – 3:30pm at rotating locations (email megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov for information)