Committee to End Homelessness welcomes Mark Putnam as new Director

Mark Putnam, a leading expert on homeless housing and strategic planning, has been named the new director of the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) in King County. He begins his position on December 16. "Mark brings knowledge, passion and a commitment to ending homelessness that will energize our regional effort at a critical time,” said King County Executive and CEH Governing Board Co-chair Dow Constantine.

Putnam has extensive experience working with government, philanthropy, providers and people experiencing homelessness to develop and implement effective strategies to move people out of poverty and homelessness through stable housing, health care, education and employment. As a director at Building Changes, he has been responsible for overseeing several program areas, including grant-making and evaluation of a $30 million initiative to end family homelessness in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. He is an expert on cross systems collaboration, and provided leadership, along with Megan Gibbard, to recent efforts within CEH to develop a comprehensive plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in King County. Mark has been with Building Changes (formerly AIDS Housing of Washington) for over 16 years. He has volunteered on several community boards, including serving as president of the board of directors for ROOTS Young Adult Homeless Shelter.

"I'm honored to join our region's effort to end homelessness as the director of the Committee to End Homelessness,” said Putnam. “This is the most important work I can imagine doing. I'm looking forward to meeting with the community members and leaders and developing collaborative solutions together."

How the Ten Year Plan is Helping End Homelessness

Vince Matulionis, our valued partner at United Way of King County, maintains a blog at UWKC. His recent post of November 13th is worth reading: As we enter the eighth year of the King County Plan to End Homelessness it’s pretty clear that we’re not going to finish our work by year ten. Depending on whom you ask, the reasons for this vary widely. Some say that the recession is at the heart of it, others say that we should have focused more on global issues like poverty and affordable housing, and still others say that homelessness will always be a part of our national and local landscapes.

Yet, I still believe that we have the ability to end homelessness in our community. What’s especially reassuring is that recent developments and new activities are aligning to give hope. Read more here.

United Way of King County - FREE Tax Preparation Campaign

Filing taxes can be tough, especially for people who aren't sure which deductions they qualify for, whose first language isn’t English, or who have trouble because of their age or a disability. United Way’s Free Tax Preparation Campaign is here to help! The Free Tax Preparation Campaign runs from January to April. This program helps people secure all the refunds and credits that they're eligible for, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. Services are really free — no hidden fees or charges. With this money in pocket, people can better keep food on the table and a roof overhead. For information or to volunteer, visit United Way Website.

Bill Block Named HUD Northwest Regional Administrator

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced that President Barack Obama appointed Bill Block of Seattle as HUD Regional Administrator for Region X, which includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state. He succeeds Mary McBride of Olympia whom Secretary Donovan recently named HUD’s Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management. Mr. Block assumed his new duties on Monday, November 18th.

As HUD’s Northwest Regional Administrator, Bill will help manage and coordinate the delivery of HUD programmatic and financial support in housing, community and economic development to 56 housing authorities, 227 Federally-recognized tribes and Alaskan native villages, 59 state, county and local governments and more than 400 projects serving the homeless in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state and the provision of subsidized housing to more than low-income 180,000 households in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state.
Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults Move Forward

Recent activities to advance the *Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020*, which 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, include the following:

**Additional Funding**

The *Metropolitan King County Council’s* 2014 budget was approved in November and includes more than $900,000 to maintain and expand several critical programs for preventing and ending youth homelessness including education and employment, emergency youth/young adult shelter, housing stability, Project Safe and family reconciliation. The *Seattle City Council’s* 2014 budget, also approved in November, includes $130,000 to maintain 20 existing shelter beds for young adults that had been threatened with closure. *Private funders* continue to coordinate their support of the plan, including taking a close look at the gaps that still remain in critical survival services to move this work forward, such as funding for outreach across King County.

**Community Sign In Launched**

Community Sign In (CSI), part of our coordinated engagement system for YYA, was launched in November 2013. YYA ages 13 to 25 will complete Community Sign In the first time they arrive at drop in centers, meal programs, or young adult shelters in the homeless YYA continuum. Community Sign In will: (1) Divert YYA from homeless services when possible through family reunification; (2) Promote consistent data collection on YYA homelessness; and (3) Obtain a more comprehensive number of YYA who are using our continuum by aligning data collection at every drop in center, meal program and young adult shelter in the continuum of care.

**Save the Date - Count Us In 2014**

Count Us In, King County’s annual effort to count YYAs who are unstably housed or homeless, will take place in conjunction with the One Night Count on January 23-24, 2014. A launch meeting for providers will be held on December 9 at 9am at 2100 24th Avenue S in Seattle.

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 at 206-263-2974 or visit the [YYA Webpage](#).

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**Service of Remembrance - Friday, January 3, 2013, 4p.m.**

The Church of Steadfast Love, 77 South Washington Street (under the viaduct)

On Friday, January 3, Compass Housing Alliance will host a Service of Remembrance. All are welcome to come and worship. For those of you who would like to contribute, the following hygiene items will be accepted and will be distributed to different programs for those in need. Accepted items include:

- New or gently used bath towels
- Small or regular sized soap
- Small or regular sized shampoo or conditioner
- Razors
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Feminine Hygiene products

Please contact Pr. Kristy Daniels at pastorkristy@compasshousingalliance.org for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE! – WLIHA Annual Member Meeting and Reception**

December 4, 5 – 7 pm - Summit Law Group, 315 – 5th Avenue South, Ste. 1000, Seattle

It’s that time of year again! Housing Alliance members and friends gather to celebrate past successes, learn about current work, and continue to strengthen collective voices for affordable housing and for ending homelessness. [Join WLIHA](#) to hear about the legislative and electoral work for 2014, and find out how you can be involved. Appetizers, and beverages will be provided.

**SAVE THE DATE! – Opening Celebration of Cottage Grove Commons**

Tuesday, December 17, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, 5444 Delridge Way SW, Seattle

Cottage Grove Commons will provide 66 studio apartments with 24-hour on-site staff support for men and women who have been chronically homeless, disabled, and highly vulnerable. [Learn more about Cottage Grove Commons](#)!
KentHOPE Announces Grand Opening Celebration

On December 14, 2013 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, KentHOPE it will host an open house with light refreshments to celebrate the Grand Opening of the KentHOPE Day Center, a day shelter for homeless women and children, located at 9009 Canyon Drive in Kent, WA.

The community at-large is welcome to tour the KentHOPE Day Center. Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted to stock the cupboard. Plenty of parking will be available at the Kent Meridian High School, located at 10020 SE 256th Street in Kent, where a free shuttle will be operating. The day center is also on the Metro Transit route 169.

“I’m excited that we are finally opening and pleased that we can open the doors during this holiday season,” said Pat Gray, Chair of KentHOPE. A site manager and case workers are currently being hired to staff the KentHOPE Day Center for women and children. The center will open in early December, with hours from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm every day. The following services will be provided:

- Showers, laundry facilities, and restrooms
- Three healthy meals served daily
- Computer and life skills training
- GED and employment assistance
- Counseling
- Advocacy for services
- Computers with internet access
- Clothing bank

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

2014 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness
February 18 – February 19, 2014, New Orleans, LA
Details of the event will be posted on the event webpage regularly with additional information.

FUNDING and RFP’s

City of Seattle RFQ – Housing for Persons with AIDS
Application deadline is December 12, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
The City of Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) is seeking investment proposals from qualified organizations for programs designed to prevent homelessness and support housing stability for low-income people with HIV/AIDS and their families in King County. Approximately $1.2 million is available for the period of July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015. For more information and to view the application, please click here.

Child Care Resources RFQ - Providing Transportation for Homeless Families to Child Care
Application deadline is December 16, 2013
Child Care Resources invites proposals from agencies serving homeless families in King County who can offer the provision of transportation for children who are homeless traveling to and from their child care programs. A total of $42,000 will fund selected programs for the period of February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015, pending award of HUD McKinney funding for transportation, with the goal of increasing homeless families’ access to child care. For more information, please contact Marty Jacobs at Jacobs@childcare.org or 206-329-1011 x204.

NATIONAL NEWS

Food Stamp Program Downsizes – 47 Million People Impacted
On November 1, 23 million households (47 million people) that receive food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) saw a reduction in their monthly food stamp benefit due to the expiration of the 2009 stimulus bill, which temporarily increased SNAP benefits. In Washington State more than 1.1 million people had their benefits reduced. For a family of three, the cut means a reduction of $29 a month – a serious loss for families whose benefits will now average less than $1.40 per person, per meal. Additional cuts may be on the horizon, as Congress is considering a Farm Bill that would further cut SNAP food assistance. The cuts are expected to put more pressure on low-income families and increase demand at food banks. United Way of King County recently signed onto this letter urging lawmakers to fund SNAP. Go here to help educate Congress on the impact of these cuts.
HUD Releases 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report
The number of people experiencing homelessness in America has continued to decline, according to the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development’s 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report. Despite a sluggish economic recovery, homelessness at a national level declined by 4 percent from 2012 to 2013, from 633,782 to 610,040. That number represents a 9.2 percent decline since 2007.

While the federal resources devoted to ending homelessness - except for veterans - did not increase appreciably during the period covered by the report, increasingly effective strategies have resulted in decreased homelessness across all subpopulations. These strategies include permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people, rapid re-housing, focus on people living unsheltered, and improved targeting of resources. Locally, the Committee to End Homelessness will seek to understand national trends and how they compare to locally to bolster our continued progress.

**CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Governing Board**
Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruc@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](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, January 22, 8:30 – 10:30 am Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Conference Room

**Topic:** TBD

**Recent Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20

**Discussed:** CoC Governance, Moving Towards a Crisis Response System, YYA Comp Plan, 2014 Legislative Agenda

**Interagency Council (IAC)**

**Upcoming Meeting:** Monday, January 6, 2 – 4 pm Renton City Hall

**Topic:** Aligning our Crisis Response System, Rapid Rehousing, Family System Conversion

**Recent Meeting:** Monday, December 2

**Topic:** Aligning our Crisis Response System, Rapid Rehousing, Family System Conversion

**Recent Meeting:** Monday, November 4

**Topic:** Revitalizing a Crisis Response System, CoC Follow-up, 2014 CEH Legislative Agenda

**Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)**
Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruc@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](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, December 18, 6 – 7:30 pm Plymouth Congregational

**Topic:** Crisis Response System, Current Conversation on Re-tooling the Family Homeless System

**Recent Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20

**Topic:** Healthcare Open Enrollment, CoC Roles & Responsibilities

**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: TBA. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: Every Other Tuesday during session, from 8:30–9:30, in person or via conference call.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Tentative: December 17, 8:30 – 9:30 am. Call in number 206-263-0100

**Topic:** Next steps in building the 2014 legislative agenda

**Upcoming Meeting:** Tentative: December 31, 8:30 – 9:30 am. Call in number 206-205-1111

**Topic:** Next steps in building the 2014 legislative agenda

**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 Mercer Island Community Center
Next meeting: **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**
January meeting will be held on January 15, 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](http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx)

**All Things CEH**
December 2013
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: December 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 November Y/YA Stakeholder Forum will be held Tuesday December 24, from 2 – 3:30, Chinook Building (401 5th Jefferson St), Room 121. Please check the YYA Webpage for updates.

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 9–10:30am at Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Ave N. SKC Forum on Homelessness web address: http://kentwa.gov.aspx?id=2728

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 9 – 10:30 am Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Avenue N.
Agenda Topics: One Night Count of Homeless

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: TBD

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, December 12, 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: No Meeting in December

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, December 9, 2013, 9 – 11:30 a.m. University Friends Meeting House, 4001 -9th Ave NE, 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, December 11, 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, December 19, 2013, 9–11am E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle

SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings
SKCCH Youth and Young Adults: Tuesday, December 10, 9-10:30am, 2100 Building, 2100 – 24th Ave S, Seattle
SKCCH Single Adults Advocacy: Thursday, December 12, 12-1:30 pm, Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apts, 2119 3rd Ave, Seattle
SKCCH Families with Children: Wednesday, NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
KCHA Acquisition of Properties will Sustain Housing for Vulnerable Households  All Things CEH Backpage

KCHA SPEARHEADS SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO PRESERVE NINE SUBSIDIZED APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN STATEWIDE EFFORT

When a portfolio of nine privately owned Section 8-assisted housing complexes located in five counties scattered across Washington state was offered for sale last spring, the King County Housing Authority spearheaded a collaborative effort to purchase it. The housing authorities of Bremerton, Grays Harbor County, Yakima, and Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee participated in assuring the preservation of a total of 337 homes within the various communities.

The unusual collective strategy – which represents the most wide-ranging state initiative to date to preserve existing subsidized housing – was necessary because the seller wanted to dispose of the portfolio as a single sale. Failure to acquire even one of the nine properties would have resulted in failure to preserve any of the properties. The current owner, who was also the initial developer and long-term owner of the properties, worked with the housing authority to try to assure long-term preservation of these apartments as affordable housing.

“Preserving existing subsidized housing is the most cost-effective way to maintain the supply of affordable rental apartments,” said Stephen Norman, executive director of the King County Housing Authority. “Working with the state Department of Commerce, King County government and housing authorities across the state, we have been able to protect 337 low-income households, the vast majority of them senior citizens, from being forced from their homes – and at the same time, have preserved for the long-term, crucial local housing resources.”

All of the properties are senior housing communities with the exception of two smaller family properties in King County. Four of the complexes are located in King County (147 units), one property is in Hoquiam (24 units), one is in Yakima (51 units), one is in Bremerton (30 units), and two are located in Wenatchee (85 total units). On Dec. 2, the acquisition of the four King County properties was completed. The non-King County buildings will close in separate transactions between the end of December and March 2014.

The four properties acquired by KCHA are: Bellevue Manor in Bellevue (66 units), Patricia Harris Manor in Redmond (41 units), Northwood Square in Auburn (24 units), and Vashon Terrace in Vashon Island (16 units). They are home to 107 seniors, more than 80 percent of whom are aged 70 or older, and 40 families with children.

KCHA is acting as lead purchaser on behalf of the other local housing authorities for the five properties situated outside of King County. The combined purchase price for all nine developments is $28.7 million. At closing, KCHA’s interest in these purchase agreements will be assigned to the appropriate respective local housing authority.

The preservation of these complexes is important because of the populations they serve, their highly desirable locations, and the federal funding they leverage.

The average annual income of residents in the seven senior communities is approximately $10,000. The average annual income of residents in the two family communities is around $14,000. Statewide, the demand for housing affordable to low-income households greatly surpasses the supply and the need is growing, especially for seniors.

Each of the complexes is well-sited, located within walking distance of transportation, shopping and other amenities. The Bellevue site is one-half block off Old Main Street.

The Section 8 contracts that will be preserved through these acquisitions provide about $2.3 million in annual rent subsidies for these units, keeping them affordable.
KCHA Acquisition of Low-Income Properties

Between 1965 and 1990, the federal government subsidized private developers to build and operate rental housing for low-income families and disabled and elderly households living on fixed incomes. These developers executed long-term rental subsidy agreements under the Section 8 program. The initial contracts on each of the nine properties in this portfolio have already expired; subsequent short-term contract renewals are due to expire soon. A number of these sites, if bought by private developers, could quickly be demolished or redeveloped as condominiums or high-end rentals.

KCHA purchased the four King County properties using a tax-exempt loan. These properties will continue to be managed by Westwood Management, the current property manager of the complexes.

King County provided $1 million for high priority safety and structural repairs for the four King County properties. These improvements are expected to begin in early December.

“This is an important opportunity to preserve 147 units of federally subsidized low-income housing in King County,” said Joe McDermott, chair of the King County budget and fiscal management committee. “The purchase of these properties will provide a long-term source of affordable housing for low-income seniors and families with children, for which there is a dire need.”

The state legislature provided a $4.5 million housing preservation grant from the Housing Trust Fund to assist with the acquisition of the five non-King County properties.

“This will help seniors live with dignity,” said state Rep. Hans Dunshee, chair of the House capital budget committee, which approved the expenditure. “If they lost their housing because it got too expensive, they couldn’t take a second job to pencil it out. Now they can sleep at night in a safe, stable place to live, which is what anybody would want for their mom or dad, grandma or grandpa.”

Fact Sheet
King County Properties

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Non-King County Properties

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