Count Us In: 1,132 young people participated in May 16th event.

On May 16, 2012, service providers across King County, in coordination with United Way of King County, hosted a youth point in time count, known as “Count Us In”. Count Us In took place at meal sites across the county offering free food and limited assistance to young people without a safe and permanent home, similar to the 2011 pilot year.

This year’s Count Us In effort expanded to involve agencies serving youth in South Seattle who are unstably housed. The goal of this annual effort is to gain a clearer understanding of the number of young people without a stable place to live on any given night in King County. By enhancing King County’s knowledge of this issue, we can further our efforts to create a community where no youth is left without a place to call home. Organizers will continue to gather information about how many young people participated in Count Us In and will issue a comprehensive report this summer that will analyze the results of the data.

2012 Count Us In Partners: Asian Counseling and Referral Services; Atlantic Street Center; Auburn Youth Resources; Central Youth and Family Services; City of Seattle Parks Department; Consejo; Friends of Youth; New Horizons; Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets; POCAAN; Seattle Youth Employment Program; Teen Feed; Union Gospel Mission; YMCA Youth and Young Adult Services; YouthCare

FUNDING and RFP’s

Neighborhood Shelter Fund

The City of Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) is seeking investment proposals from organizations interested in increasing their community’s capacity to provide shelter services for homeless persons and families. This Request for Investment (RFI) is currently being solicited from non-profit, faith-based and other organizations seeking one-time funds for operational costs and/or capital improvements to increase shelter services. Approximately $65,000 is available through this RFI for the period of September 2012 – August 2013 from the City of Seattle General Fund.

All proposals must be received in person, by mail, or electronic submission by 5 p.m. on Friday June 15, 2012. Proposals must be received and date/time stamped by this deadline or they will not be considered. No faxed or e-mailed proposals will be accepted. Contact RFI Coordinator Michael Look at michael.look@seattle.gov or at 206 615-1717 for additional information.

Communities Supporting Safe & Stable Housing plan

The Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) released the draft Communities Supporting Safe & Stable Housing Investment Plan on May 11, 2012 and received public comment through the end of May. HSD staff will finalize the plan in mid-June and will issue a Request for Investment for some of 2013 funds in late June.

The purpose of the plan is to fundamentally improve the City of Seattle’s ability to prevent and end homelessness, while maintaining its commitment to providing safe and accessible shelters and supportive services for people who need them. The strategy is to create a set of priorities and principles and then make certain that City resources support those priorities. For latest information, please visit HSD’s blog at http://humaninterests.seattle.gov/. For a copy of the draft plan and background information, please visit http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/initiatives.htm

SHA seeking non-profit housing providers to partner in VASH voucher application

Seattle Housing Authority is requesting proposals from non-profit housing providers to partner in an application to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a waiver to project-based VASH vouchers. Seattle Housing will request for up to twenty-four VASH vouchers, (approximately 8 per building) to be project-based. Vouchers must be leased no later than February 28, 2013. Proposals due June 12. See announcement here.
EVENTS

Seattle U - The Spiral Open Through June 17

The Spiral Project -- a Spiral of Hope, a public art project about the meaning of home, is now open to the public in Lake Union Park, Seattle, 860 Terry Ave. The sculpture is structurally complete, but will never really be “finished,” according to project director Bryan Ohno of Urban Art Concept. That’s because we invite people to continue contributing pieces to it for the duration of the project. Individuals may bring a small twig to tie to it; groups can schedule a supervised time to come together and add large branches. To schedule a group visit, please call Urban Art Concept at 206.459.6857, or Catherine Hinrichsen at 206.755.7904. See news coverage of the Spiral and more information at our Web site.

Monthly Informational Sessions with the Family Homelessness Initiative Staff

Save the date: Wednesday, June 20th 9:30am-11:00am (Occurring every 3rd Wednesday of the month)
Location: To be determined

Come talk with Debbi Knowles and Triina Tennelo to find out more about the work of the Family Homelessness Initiative. The meeting will be an opportunity to talk about the efforts of the Initiative, hear about next steps, and ask questions. It is open to anyone who would like to come. More details will be announced by email in the near future.

Peer Learning Group for Family Programs

Family Homelessness Initiative Staff are convening peer learning groups through which management and leadership of Family Homeless/Housing Programs will be meeting monthly to respond to the efforts of the Initiative. The meeting is intended to serve as a forum for networking, peer support, and brainstorming among this group of providers as our community transitions towards new ways of providing homeless family housing and services. Additional outreach and engagement opportunities will follow shortly for other levels of staff from family programs.

Please call or email Triina Tennelo if you’d like to learn more about these meetings at 206-263-9110 or triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov. See also Family Homelessness Initiative website for regular trainings and updates on the initiative.

CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Governing Board

Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@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, July 25, 8:30 – 10:30 am YWCA Opportunity Place
Agenda Topics: Agenda topics to be determined

Recent Meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 8:30 – 10:30 am Bertha Landes Room / Seattle City Hall
Agenda Topics:
• Statement from Occupy CEH
• CEH Task Force Recommendations: Youth & Young Adults, Immigrants & Refugees, Single Adult Shelter. Endorsed and forwarded to CEH Funder’s Group (See final page this edition All Things CEH for task force recommendations)
• Update of the 2012 Legislative Session

Interagency Council (IAC)

Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman & Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov) and Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruc@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: June IAC CANCELLED

Next Meeting July 9th (Second Monday) Bellevue City Hall

Agenda Topics: 

Recent Meeting: May 7th – Renton
Discussed:
• Update on Family Homeless Connections (see May All Things CEH)
• Draft priorities for 2012 Coordinated NOFA
• Emerging research on best practices in rental assistance
### 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](http://www.cehkc.org)

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, June 20, 6:00–7:30 pm

- **Agenda Topics:** Feedback to recommendations for rental assistance programs

**Recent Meeting:** May 16

- **Discussed:** Focus Group recruitment, emerging best practices / recommendations for rental assistance programs

### 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:** Wednesday June 27, 3:30 pm

**Agenda Topics**

### Legislative Advocacy

**Co-Chairs:** Marilyn Mason-Plunkett and Barbara Langdon. **Staff:** Bill Block (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:** Legislative Advocacy Committee on Hiatus

**Agenda Topics**

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### Population Affinity Groups

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.familiesinitiative.org) for regular trainings and opportunities, and the announcement up above in Events, for meetings being convened this month by Debbi Knowles and Triina Tennelo.

**YVA:** The [King County Homeless Youth and Young Adult Leadership Council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/Homeless/Youth) will convene in the coming months based on feedback and urging of leaders within young adult homeless services. The Mission of the Leadership Council is to: Provide a forum for connecting leaders on issues pertaining to homeless youth and young adults. Meetings will be held quarterly. Next meeting, July 18th, 9 am – 11 am location to be determined.

### 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 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, June 6, 2012, 9–10:30am

**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. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. Typical Meeting Schedule: Every other month, 2nd Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, (brown bag) Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, July 11, 11 am – 1 pm (brownbag)

**Agenda Topics:**

- Shoreline Land Use Planning staff: City’s affordable housing policies and Comprehensive Plan update
- Other 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. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. 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, June 14, 2012, 2–4pm

**Agenda Topics:** 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 Episcopal Cathedral. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett at itfh@comcast.net or call at (425) 442-5418.

**Upcoming Meeting:** June 20, 2012, noon-1:30pm

Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 – 10th Ave E, Seattle

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**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:** June 11, 2012, 9am–11:30 am

Contact Natalie for location

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**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:** June 13, 2012, 11am–12:30pm

Street Youth Ministries, 4540 – 15th Ave NE, Seattle

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**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

**General Meeting:** Thursday, June 21, 2012, 9–11am

E Cherry YWCA 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle

**Agenda Topics:** Task Force recommendations from the CEH Immigrants & Refugees Task Force

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**SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings**

Single Adults, June 14, 12:00-1:30pm at Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apartments: 2119 3rd Ave.

Youth and Young Adults, June 12, 9:00-10:30am at Neighborcare Health Rainier Beach Medical and Dental Clinic: 9245 Rainier Ave S.

Families with Children, June 27, 9:30-11:00am at E. Cherry YWCA: 2820 E. Cherry St.

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**Homelessness Advocacy 101 Workshop**, Saturday June 2, 10:00am-12:00 noon

Keystone United Church of Christ: 5019 Keystone Place North, Seattle

Help secure FEDERAL resources and policies that will house and support people who are homeless! Learn how to speak up powerfully and confidently about key national policy priorities. Details and free registration at www.homelessinfo.org.

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**The Mid Plan Review: Renewed Areas of Focus 2012 - 2015**
The May All Things CEH includes short updates on each of the Task Forces & Investment Priorities under the Ten Year Plan. See May All Things CEH here: [http://www.cehkc.org/progress/newsCEHletter.aspx](http://www.cehkc.org/progress/newsCEHletter.aspx) for these short updates. See below for an in-depth update on the Youth & Young Adult Investment Recommendations and next steps for implementation.

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**In-Depth Update: Youth & Young Adult Investment Recommendations & Next Steps**
The Youth & Young Adult Task Force was convened as a result of the Mid Plan Review 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 United Way of King County, the Medina Foundation and Raikes Foundation) came together as a Youth & Young Adult Funders Group (YYA) based on their interest in coordinating funds to support a systemic response to youth and young adult homelessness. Private and public funders and a Youth and Young Adult Task Force, comprised of providers and planners with staffing from Building Changes, arrived at three priority recommendations and action steps:

1. Coordinated engagement of youth and young adults to connect them to the right resource as soon as possible – before they become enmeshed in street culture or exploitation.
2. Prevention programs that preserve family connections and engage runaway youth/young adults before they become street-involved
3. Data coordination that enables funders and providers to work together to address client needs, evaluate programs, and assess community progress toward shared goals.

These strategies are only an initial phase to strengthen the YYA system in recognition that 1) these three elements have been absent from the local framework of YYA services, 2) we still have much to learn about the true needs of the YYA population, and 3) these proposed elements will generate the data we need to help reframe the existing system. The Task Force recommends a multi-phase approach to restructuring the YYA homeless system, much like the development of the Families Initiative. The following page is an excerpt of next steps under the YYA Investment Plan, drafted by David Okimoto, United Way of King County, who helped convene the YYA Task Force and YYA Funders Group.
Dear Colleagues -

First of all, on behalf of myself and the co-chairs of the Task Force, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and participation in helping us complete Phase I of our homeless youth and young adult planning. Although much remains to be done we have taken a significant first step in identifying strategies and resources that are going to help improve the lives of young people in our community who are experiencing homelessness. This is intended to update everyone on the activities taking place since the last meeting of the YYA Task Force in late April.

King County has agreed to take a leadership role in developing the coordinated engagement system, helping develop the appropriate coordinated data system, and driving the long-term planning associated with this effort. In many ways, the development of this work will closely mirror the development of the Homeless Families Initiative that King County has been leading. Both the Raikes Foundation and United Way of King County will be supporting the long-term planning efforts. The County has fully embraced their role and is working to hire a lead staff person to coordinate the planning and implementation of the effort. Once the job announcement is available we’ll be sure it is distributed broadly. Please be thinking about any potential candidates and make sure they see the job announcement. THANK YOU King County!!!

The Committee to End Homelessness will continue to play a central role in the implementation of this effort. Much of the work that has been supported by United Way of King County or Building Changes will now be supported by CEHKC. They will begin providing regular updates on the progress of this work. CEHKC will also be re-convening some version of the YYA Task Force. This will most likely take place once the lead staff is hired, though the precise make up and responsibilities will be determined by the lead staff person.

In much the same way the YYA Task Force will have a role going forward...so will the YYA Funders Group. The YYA Funders Group will reconvene sometime in late June to discuss what progress has been made and how the YYA Funders Group can continue to play an active role in helping ensure that the effort is properly resourced. Success will require that many funders join together, align resources, and push to help create a positive difference in the lives of young people in our community.

Clearly, much has taken place since our last meeting. But perhaps most importantly, new resources are beginning to flow into the community. The Medina Foundation has made a funding commitment to begin to expand the Cocoon House Family Reconciliation Model to King County. United Way of King County has begun discussions to broaden the reach of the National Safe Place program. United Way hopes that new grants to begin the National Safe Place expansion can happen by July 1. These two projects were identified in the Youth and Young Adult Implementation Plan and are the cornerstones of our prevention strategies. Meanwhile, the Raikes Foundation and United Way are finalizing plans to provide resources to support the development of the coordinated engagement system -- also a key component of the Implementation Plan.

Again, we are very pleased that implementation of Phase I of our plan has begun. Much remains to be done before we can say that we have ended youth and young adult homelessness in our community. Our hope is that you’ll all remain fully engaged and committed to our collaboration as we execute our shared vision. Please contact me (DOkimoto@uwkc.org) should you have questions or concerns. Also feel free to contact Bill Block (Bill.Block@kingcounty.gov) or Gretchen Bruce (Gretchen.Bruce@kingcounty.gov) at the Committee to End Homelessness for additional information.

Sincerely,

David Okimoto
United Way of King County and YYA Funder Group Co-Chair