BREAKING 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

NAEH Family & YYA Conference in Seattle
The 2013 NAEH Family & YYA Conference had record attendance, with nearly 100 from King County. Click here for a detailed program from this year’s 2013 NAEH Family & YYA Conference. There was a strong emphasis this year on youth and young adult homelessness, and informational workshops included:
1.1 Moving Forward: A Blueprint for Ending Youth Homelessness
2.1 Thinking Systematically: Strategically Ending Youth Homelessness in Your Community
3.1 Using Data to Size and Scope the Issue of Youth Homelessness
5.1 Helping Youth Pay Rent: Short- and Long-Term Solutions
6.1 Connecting Youth to Education and Employment Opportunities

Conference materials for all workshops will be available online the week of March 5th at www.naeh.org

Fantastic Turnout for the February 11, Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day!
Over 500 participants gathered together from all over Washington to learn in workshops and then met with our senators and representatives, sharing the message “Homes for All—Now!” from the steps of the Capitol building.
Now let your voice be heard!
To all those who attended Advocacy Day yesterday, the U. District Conversation on Homelessness would like to collect your thoughts to share with others! Please respond (briefly or at length) E-mail Nathalie Gehrke at encanta5@comcast.net and answer the following 3 questions:
1) What did you learn at HHAD?
2) What do you think we accomplished there?
3) Now, what should we—UDCH—do?

Ribbon Cutting for Imani Village Housing
Wednesday March 13, 1 – 2:30pm, 172 – 20th Avenue, Seattle
First Place will be hosting a ribbon cutting celebration for their new 16 unit housing called Imani Village. All are welcome to attend on Wednesday, March 13, 1-2:30 pm. For more information and to view pictures of Imani Village please click here!

New Day Center at Congregations for the Homeless
Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) recently opened a day center.
The Center is open from 8 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located at the First Congregational Church, 752 – 108th Ave NE, Bellevue. CFH provides food for up to 50 people on these days. If you would like to donate food and get a list of requested donation items, please click here. For more information about the day center, or how you can volunteer, please contact David Johns Bowling or call 425-749-8369.

New Vehicle Residence Site Has Opened
A new vehicle residence site has opened at University Congregational United Church of Christ 4515 16th Ave. N.E., Seattle, on the north side of the University of Washington Campus. This is a new model with optional case management. For more information, contact 425-442-5418.
Count Us In 2013 – The Homeless YYA Count
The Homeless YYA Count, *Count Us In*, counted 776 homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults during one day in January. Read the preliminary report [here](#). A complete report is expected in mid-2013 in response to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness’ cross site evaluation. Additionally, download the CEH Homeless YYA fact sheet [found here](#) and feel free to share with stakeholders interested in our communities work with homeless young people.

More news to follow regarding comprehensive planning to end YYA homelessness in our county next month. If you have questions or comments in the meantime, please contact Megan Gibbard, Homeless YYA Adult Project Manager at [megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov](mailto:megan.gibbard@kingcounty.gov).

The March Y/YA Stakeholder Forum will be held:
Tuesday March 26th, from 2-3:30, at the King County Library System Admin (960 Newport Way NW Issaquah 98027)

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Advocacy Messaging 101 Lunch and Learn Webinar**
Monday, March 4, 1-2pm register [here](#)!
Join Michael Anderson for Advocacy Messaging 101. Michael is the Deputy Director of the Housing Trust Fund Project at the Center for Community Change. He helped many agencies develop and strengthen advocacy messaging used throughout their materials. He has been at the forefront of the national dialogue on housing and homelessness issues. As a result, Michael’s thoughts on how to frame advocacy on these issues are a must-hear for anyone interested in understanding how to talk about affordable housing and homelessness. His talks are both engaging and entertaining. This is a Learn at Lunch you don’t want to miss.

**Free Social Media Training Video Now Online**
Learn how to use social media tools like Twitter and Facebook by watching the video from the [free online training session, "Social Media 101 for Housing Advocates,"](#) presented by Firesteel, the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and Seattle University’s Project on Family Homelessness. The 53-minute video from the February session is available at [http://firesteelwa.org/blog/open/title/ywhangout-social-media-101-for-housing-advocates](http://firesteelwa.org/blog/open/title/ywhangout-social-media-101-for-housing-advocates).

This video is targeted to people who want to learn social media basics and advocate online for affordable housing. For more information, contact Catherine Hinrichsen, hinrich@seattleu.edu.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Sequestration Will Go into Effect Friday; Critical Opportunity to Inform**
It does not appear that Congress will reach a compromise that will avert the across-the-board spending cuts to all security and non-security discretionary programs, also known as sequestration, scheduled to go into effect this Friday, March 1. [Sequestration](#) will result in slightly more than five percent cuts to virtually every program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants](#), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME, CDBG, HOPWA, and Public Housing. The cuts will 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.

King County Housing Authority issued a press release with information on what the cuts will mean on a local basis, excerpted below: “In the face of sequestration, the automatic across-the-board budget cut that will hit all federal programs starting March 1, the King County Housing Authority has suspended issuance of Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers to the thousands of families that have applied to its general waiting list. To cope with the impending reduction in federal funding, KCHA is not re-issuing housing vouchers that are turned in by families no longer requiring or eligible for assistance. The Authority normally provides between 45 and 50 vouchers per month to elderly or disabled households, veterans, and families with children.
Low-income families and individuals struggling with high unemployment in the aftermath of the recession or living on limited fixed incomes and dealing with rising housing costs should not be shut out of critical safety net programs because of gridlock in Washington, D.C.,” said Stephen Norman, executive director of the King County Housing Authority. Sequestration will result in some 600 fewer families in our local communities receiving crucial rental assistance over the next year. Because rents are so high, many of these families may, quite literally, find themselves out on the street as a result of these arbitrary budget cuts.”

For more information, contact Rhonda Rosenberg, KCHA Director of Communications, (206) 574-1185

**CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Governing Board**

Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruc@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](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, April 24th 8:30 – 10:30 am  
Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Conference Room

**Agenda Topics**  
TBD

**Interagency Council (IAC)**

Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman & Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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](http://www.cehkc.org).

**Upcoming Meeting:** Monday, March 4, 2 – 4 pm, Bellevue City Hall

**Agenda Topics**  
Use of 3% funds, Performance calculator, 2013 Capital & Service Funding, Alternative Housing Models

**Recent Meeting:**  
Monday, February 4  
Discussed  
Coordination with Federal Gov’t, McKinney Update, Recent Funding Awards, Legislative updates

**Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)**

Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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, March 20, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Plymouth Congregational

**Agenda Topics**  
Use of 3% funds, Performance calculator, 2013 Capital & Service Funding, Alternative Housing Models

**Recent Meeting:**  
Wednesday, February 20  
Discussed  
CAC attended the Homeless to Housed 2.0 forum in lieu of our February meeting

**Public Relations**

Chair: Sherry Hamilton ([sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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:**  
Tuesday, Mar 12 – Chinook 116 8:30 am – 9:30 am, and Conference Line 263-0100  
Tuesday, Mar 26 – Chinook 116 8:30 am – 9:30 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: March 20th, 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](http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx)
Family Housing Connection: FHC staff hold a series of feedback sessions to talk with family housing providers on how to make the coordinated entry system for families most effective. 
Next meeting: TBD, 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):
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 March Y/YA Stakeholder Forum will be held Tuesday March 26th from 2 – 3:30, at King County Library System Admin, 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. 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, March 6, 2013, 9:10-10:30
Agenda Topics: FHC update, Community voicemail program, Housing and Homelessness Advocacy day, Share news, resources and updates

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: No Meeting in March

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, March 14, 2013, 2 – 4 pm

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, March 20, 2013, Noon – 1:30 pm
Agenda Topics: Mental illness & Homelessness: Myths, Needs, and Advocacy

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, March 11, 2013, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
Agenda Topics: Mental illness & Homelessness: Myths, Needs, and Advocacy

University District Service Provider’s Alliance Service Provider Team
Contact: usdp.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, March 13, 2013, 11am–12:30pm

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

General Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2013, 9–11am

SKCCH Population & Advocacy Committee Meetings
SKCCH Youth and Young Adults: Tuesday, March 12, 10-11:30am, Capitol Hill Library, 425 Harvard Ave E, Seattle
SKCCH Single Adults Advocacy: Thursday, March 14, 12-1:30 pm, Plymouth’s Simons Seniors Apartments, 2119 3rd Ave, Seattle
SKCCH Families with Children: Wednesday, March 27, 9:30-11.00 am, E. CherryYWCA, 2820 E. Cherry St., Seattle
Background:

The Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative is King County’s community-wide response to prevent and end homelessness among young people. The Initiative is led by the King County Committee to End Homelessness, richly advised by agency and government leaders, supported by private philanthropy and the public sector, and grounded in the voices and input of homeless and formerly homeless young people.

We estimate that as many as 4,000 - 5,000 young people, some as young as 10 years old, experience homelessness in King County at some point each year. According to national research, “conflict at home” is a primary cause of youth and young adult homelessness, conflict that can include physical and sexual abuse and neglect. This is a significant contrast to the most common causes of adult homelessness, which include chronic illness or job loss. Young people take different paths to homelessness than adults, and have distinct needs related to their adolescence.

In King County, although there are strong organizations working with homeless youth and young adults ages 12 - 25 and nearly $7 million spent per year on services, there are few programs to prevent youth and young adult homelessness and an uneven system once a young person becomes homeless. We don’t know exactly how many young people experience homelessness, but we do know that even one is too many.

Most of these young people do not become homeless long-term; national studies suggest that 80% return home relatively quickly. However, being on the streets for any amount of time can have extremely dangerous consequences. In a recent study by Seattle Police Department, 76 percent of unaccompanied minors were approached by either a known gang member or pimp in less than 45 minutes. In addition:

- 1 in 11 youth aging out of foster care at 18 become homeless and spend two-and-a-half to four years on the streets.
- African American young people account for 35% of homeless youth and young adults, though they are only 8% of the general population.
- LGBT young people account for 20-40% of homeless youth and young adults, though they are only 4% to 10% of the general population.

Priority Action Steps to Prevent & End Youth/Young Adult Homelessness

Recently, more than 100 stakeholders, including private philanthropy, organizations providing services to youth and young adults, government agencies, and homeless youth and young adults themselves, came together to create and fund Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth/Young Adult Homelessness. The plan has three primary goals:

1. Focus on prevention and early intervention;
2. Systematically assess needs of homeless young people and match them with effective services and housing interventions through coordinated engagement/entry;
3. Coordinated data collection and reporting so we can measure our progress and learn how to make changes when we need to.

What’s unique about the Homeless Youth & Young Adult Initiative?

Unprecedented Coordination. Never before have we had a clear plan to end youth and young adult homelessness that was built with all of the critical stakeholders at the table, including service providers, funders and homeless youth themselves. It is a strategy that clearly outlines what all the players can do—together—to solve this problem.
New Private Funding. Private philanthropy (Thomas V. Giddens Foundation, Medina Foundation, Raikes Foundation, & United Way of King County) has pledged over $3 million over the next three years in new money to fund prevention, coordinated engagement and data coordination so that organizations know what interventions are most successful and what young people in crisis need most.

Early Signs of Success & Implementation to Date

- YouthCare, Auburn Youth Resources, and Friends of Youth are expanding National Safe Place – a prevention and early intervention strategy for 12-17 year old runaways. Youth can contact the 1-800 number or access Safe Place resources through the current network of nearly 1800 county buses, human services agencies, businesses and other public places. A second program is being piloted in King County. Cocoon House’s Project SAFE is a phone-based counseling program for caregivers of at-risk youth focused resolving conflicts and preventing homelessness.

- King County will launch a system of “Coordinated Engagement” for homeless youth and young adults in the summer of 2013. 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 young people like them. The design has been drafted by a community-based workgroup, providers and youth have given input, and by spring, an agency will be selected to manage the system.

- The early phases of coordinated data collection and analysis have begun, including a “community sign-in” that will standardize data collection at the front door of each agency serving homeless youth and young adults.

King County will continue to work with providers, the City of Seattle, the United Way of King County and funders to develop a long-term comprehensive plan by fall 2013. The Comprehensive Youth and Young Adult Plan will recommend housing and service investments moving forward, based on new data and research from the launch of the three priority action steps.

Community Partners:

- Auburn Youth Resources
- Atlantic Street Center
- Ballmer Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Building Changes
- Campion Foundation
- Casey Family Programs
- Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
- Center for Children & Youth Justice
- City of Seattle Human Services Department
- Cocoon House
- Columbia Legal Services
- Committee to End Homelessness in King County
- 4C Coalition
- Friends of Youth
- Highline Public School District
- Issaquah Public School District
- King County Council
- King County Department of
- Community & Human Services
- King County Executive
- King County Housing Authority
- LGBTQ Allyship
- Medina Foundation
- Mockingbird Society
- New Horizons Ministries
- Pride Foundation
- Raikes Foundation
- Raynier Institute & Foundation
- ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
- Seattle Foundation
- Seattle Housing Authority
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
- Seattle Public Schools
- Street Youth Ministries
- Teen Feed
- The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian & Trans Survivors of Abuse
- Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation
- United Way of King County
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
- Washington State Department of Social & Human Services
- YMCA of Greater Seattle
- YWCA of Seattle, King, Snohomish Counties
- YouthCare

For more information or media inquiries:
Megan Gibbard, Homeless Youth & Young Adult Project Manager (Megan.Gibbard@kingcounty.gov) 206-263-2974
Gretchen Bruce, Committee to End Homelessness in King County (Gretchen.Bruce@kingcounty.gov) 206-263-9085