

BREAKING NEWS AND INFORMATION

If you have an item of interest for the CEHKC community, please contact Kristine Gullin at kristine.gullin@kingcounty.gov

LOCAL NEWS & ACTION

ANNUAL ONE NIGHT COUNT SHOWS A DECREASE IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE



In the early morning hours of Friday, January 29 nearly a thousand people fanned out in streets, alleys, underpasses and bus stops to count the number of people they saw without a roof over their heads. According to the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH), the number of people living on the streets is down five percent since last year.

Volunteer teams counted 2,759 people living on the streets of King County – in doorways, cars, parking lots, or makeshift campsites. The SKCCH receives funding support from the Committee to End Homelessness to conduct the annual count.

The One Night Count seeks to provide a snapshot of the total number of unsheltered individuals on the streets of King County. The count was conducted in many neighborhoods and areas of Seattle as well as parts of Bellevue, Kent, Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville, Shoreline, Kenmore Bothell, White Center, Federal Way, Renton and Auburn. The 2010 Count also collected information from select hospitals about emergency room usage, and from Metro night owl buses. Unlike last year, the region's severe weather shelters were not open for the night due to warmer weather.

The number counted on the street does not include the estimated 6,000 people staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing overnight, which are being counted through a survey. The complete One Night Count will be released as soon as the additional data is compiled.

Organizers cited a number of possible reasons for the decrease, including an increase in the numbers and kinds of services available in the community. In interviews with the media immediately following the count, Bill Block, Project Director for CEHKC, noted the work of the community and the many CEH partners who have helped thousands of people avoid or leave homelessness. *"We know that we have programs that work. Every single person who was counted must be taken as a call to redouble our efforts, bringing proven programs to the scale needed to fully address the problem. The One Night Count is a forceful reminder of how important it is to finish the job."*

CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Committee to End Homelessness in King County Consumer Advisory Council is looking for new committee members. We are particularly looking for representation from Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, veterans, LGBTQ and from people who accessed services or experiences were in/are in north and east King County.



CAC members attend the annual Legislative Breakfast

The purpose of the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) is to have people who are homeless, have been, or at risk of being homeless be involved in helping to implement our Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. CAC members will:

- Give input to the CEH Governing Board and Interagency Council on what strategies will be most effective, from a homeless person's perspective, on ending homelessness.
- Suggest ways that community members can learn more about homelessness.
- Educate policy makers and legislators on how laws and regulations affect homeless people and what changes could help people move out of homelessness.

CAC members make a two year commitment and attend monthly meetings held the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in downtown Seattle. At these meetings, members provide insight into issues of homelessness and feedback on initiatives under the Ten-Year Plan. The Committee to End Homelessness provides a light dinner at each meeting, on-site childcare for members with children, and a \$25 stipend plus modest travel allowance (\$5 for those coming from with the City of Seattle, \$15 for those coming outside the city).

For further information on the CAC and the application process, contact Kristine Gullin at kristine.gullin@kingcounty.gov or (206) 263-9083.



COMMITTEE TO
END HOMELESSNESS
KING COUNTY

All Things CEH

an Update on CEH & Community Initiatives

for March 2010



HOUSING JUSTICE PROJECT

The Housing Justice Project (HJP) is a homelessness prevention program providing accessible, volunteer-based legal services to tenants facing eviction in King County. HJP is managed by Community Legal Services at the King

County Bar Association. Nationally recognized, HJP is the only court-based, housing-related legal services program in Washington that provides direct, immediate and real-time client representation to low-income residential tenants facing eviction.

Who We Serve

- King County residents
- Residential tenants only – no business tenants
- Advice only – tenants with any income
- Advice, negotiation, and limited representation – low-income tenants

What We Do

Provide free legal assistance to qualified low-income King County residents, including:

- Legal advice for tenants having problems with their landlords
- Help answering eviction paperwork
- Negotiation with landlords for eligible tenants facing eviction
- Representation of eligible tenants at eviction (show cause) hearings
- Referral and resource information

What We Do Not Do

- Help landlords
- Help commercial/business tenants
- Help those living outside King County
- Help with cases other than eviction
- Provide on-going representation
- Give legal advice over the phone

Where, When and How to Reach Services

Hear this information at (206) 267-7090 (English) or (206) 267-7091 (Español).

No legal advice is given over the phone.

HJP – Kent (for those living south of I-90)
Kent Regional Justice Center, Room 1281, (1st Floor)
401 – 4th Avenue North, Kent, WA 98032
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

HJP – Seattle (for those living north of I-90 or on the eastside)
King County Courthouse, Room West-314, (3rd Floor)
516 3rd Avenue (& James Street), Seattle, WA 98104
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

HJP P.M.

King County Courthouse, Room West-314, (3rd Floor)
516 3rd Avenue (& James Street), Seattle, WA 98104
Mondays and Thursdays
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – arrive before 5:30 p.m. to see an attorney

Events & Volunteer Opportunities

UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY SPONSORING FREE TAX SERVICES

If your combined household income was less than \$50,000 last year, you qualify for free tax services at 17 locations throughout King County. Please go to www.uwkc.org/ourcommunity/endinghomelessness/eitc/default.aspsee to see the list of locations, times and languages or call 2-1-1 to find the nearest free tax preparation site.

RECOVERY CAFÉ AND SESSIONS FAMILY PROUDLY PRESENT DAVID SHEFF AND NIC SHEFF authors of **Beautiful Boy and Tweak**, a Father and His Son's Journey Towards Recovery from Addiction

Thursday, March 4, 2010 – 7:00pm, Town Hall Seattle

Tickets \$10, students free (ticket required for entry) available through www.brownpapertickets.com



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Events & Volunteer Opportunities continued....

A NORTH KING COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING STAKEHOLDER FORUM - April 21, 2010, 6:00pm - 8:30pm,
Shoreline City Hall – 17500 Midvale Avenue N, Shoreline

**Hosted by: North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUHSA), Housing Development Consortium of King County (HDC),
A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness (IFTH)**

This is an opportunity to convene council members, planning and human services commissioners, staff and community organizations to strategize how we strengthen activities for affordable housing and homelessness prevention in North King County.

This forum will include education and strategy sessions that will elevate the understanding about how housing affordability affects a city's livelihood and household stability, what successful models exist in your city today, and how we can strengthen partnerships to meet the housing needs in our communities. What can we do to ensure sustainable communities?

It requires proactive and coordinated efforts to create sustainable communities. At a time when the economy has diminished funding resources, it is critical to identify and implement creative strategies to meet the housing needs in our communities.

Education Session: Gain a broader understanding of housing issues and needs within your community.

- Information on local housing supply and demographic needs for housing
- Provisions of the Growth Management Act and Countywide Planning Policies related to housing and affordable housing
- ARCH's role in assisting member cities to implement affordable housing efforts
- What is happening now: Learn about the range of housing types and service models that comprise the spectrum of "affordable housing".
 - Examples of local Affordable Housing projects, who makes them happen and how they are financed
 - Current strategies to address local affordable housing needs and prevent homelessness.

Strategy Session: Two panels will provide topics for future collaborative actions.

- Preservation of existing affordable housing.
- Emergency Responses for homelessness and homeless prevention.

Please RSVP to Karen@housingconsortium.org

CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Governing Board

Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Kurt Triplett. Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov) and Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov)
Meeting dates vary: Time: 8:30am – 10:30am. Location: YWCA Opportunity Place. Meeting Summaries of previous Governing Board meetings are available at www.cehkc.org

Recent Meeting

January 27, 2010

The meeting began with an introduction of new board members: King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, Mercer Island Councilmember Mike Cero, Seattle Councilmember Nick Licata and Renton Councilmember Greg Taylor; a review and discussion around the CEH 2009 Year End Dashboard which noted the cumulative total of 4,111 units opened or in the pipeline since the beginning of the plan; a review and discussion of CEH progress and challenges since the previous board meeting.

Highlights from the progress and challenges discussion: CEH Funders Group is fully implemented and has been reporting progress on its priorities and work plans; Coordinated entry for families and single adults is progressing as planned; though we are in the worst recession in 50 years the One Night Count showed a 5% decrease in the number of individuals who are unsheltered; significant legislative work is progressing on federal, state and local levels to change policy and maintain revenue to existing programs. Policy discussion on the most effective way to leverage Governing Board strengths.

Upcoming Meeting:

May 26, 2010, 8:30am – 10:30am
YWCA Opportunity Place – 2024 Third Ave, Seattle



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Interagency Council (IAC)

Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman and Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov) and Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: 1st Monday of the month, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, rotating locations (Seattle, Bellevue, Renton). Meeting summaries of previous IAC meetings available at www.cehkc.org

Recent Meeting: February 1, 2010

Federal Housing Budget: Heard a report on the recently released Federal Housing Budget. The overall budget is \$48.5 billion, 3% more than last year, with an additional \$180 million going towards homelessness.

Coordinated Entry for Families/Family Homelessness Plan: Heard an update on the Family Homelessness Planning Effort, with an emphasis on coordinated entry. Essential elements of the coordinated entry model include:

- Coordination with 2-1-1 to build on the Community Information Line's know presence and expertise
- Trained intake specialists to conduct assessments using a proven assessment tool.
- Regional assessment hubs (Seattle, South and East King County) potentially co-located with local partners, with the potential for roving intake workers, along with tailored access for immigrants & victims of domestic violence.
- Homeless housing and services will be required to use the Coordinated Entry system as the portal to enrolling clients instead of maintaining individual waitlists (similar to the Snohomish County's model.) Agencies will no longer have to conduct redundant intakes and clients will no longer have to make multiple visits to get on waitlists;
- There is the potential for coordination / referral to mainstream services, such as TANF, utility assistance and linkages to the Washington State Benefits Portal.

Shelter Discussion/Interim Housing Solutions: in Nov 2009 shelter, transitional housing and rental assistance services providers for Families and YYA completed an online survey sponsored by UWKC about people turned away from their programs and changes in demand they have observed over the last two years. Findings include:

- 4,612 (duplicated) people were reported as turned away from emergency shelter during the month of November.
- Shelter programs reporting these numbers represent approximately 64% of shelter beds countywide. (Single adult shelters do not generally collect turnaway data.)
- All programs participating in the survey reported increases in demand. YYA shelters report increases of 60% or more in the past two years. Family shelters report an increase of between 4% and 22% in the last two years, and increases in women affected by domestic violence. The most dramatic increases were reported by rent assistance programs followed by youth and young adult programs.
- Lack of space/resources is the single most frequent reason that people are turned away. Failure to meet program eligibility requirements was the second most often listed reason.

Safe Harbors HMIS: Safe Harbors Staff and Trilateral Team met recently to discuss concerns and enhancements to Safe Harbors, and use of the system by homeless housing programs and services.

- The system is working better than it was six months ago, including data integration. That said, more is still needed to improve the overall system and data quality.
- There are numerous (and sometimes conflicting) demands placed on Safe Harbors and Agency staff. As a system, we need to do a better job prioritizing the most critical issues and triage those that are less-critical.
- Agencies need consistent feedback, with appropriate context, why certain data elements / enhancements are needed and how the data will be used so they can educate staff on where and how they can improve data quality.
- Data collected within Safe Harbors needs to be aligned with contract reporting requirements and contract reporting requirements need to align with what is collected in Safe Harbors.

2010 State Legislative Session: Heard a report on recent developments in the Washington State 2010 Legislative Session, and areas where education/advocacy is critical. Critical items this session:

- Continuation of funding for GA-U (renamed Security Lifeline)
- Extending parental notification under the Becca Bill up to 72 hours
- Funding for Housing Trust Fund
- Options to increase revenue at the state and local level

Upcoming Meeting: March 1, 2010, 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Bellevue City Hall – 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue

Draft Agenda Topics: Consent Agenda, Coordination with Mainstream Systems, State Legislative Update, HMIS, IAC Retreat



All Things CEH

an Update on CEH & Community Initiatives for March 2010

Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)

Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov) and Kristine Gullin (kristine.gullin@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Plymouth Congregational Church. Meeting summaries of previous Consumer Advisory Council meetings available at www.cehkc.org

Recent Meeting: February 17, 2010

Updates on Governing Board, IAC and Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day. Discussed how to recruit a more diverse CAC membership. Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare, presented a slideshow (also presented to the IAC on January 11, 2010) of a model for ending youth homelessness, describing a system of interventions that allow for “stepping stones” with varying levels of housing and services, and appropriate to YYA developmental stages. Members thanked her for the presentation and noted that many of the program model elements, such as tailored services, are applicable to all populations, while recognizing the special significance to young adults per their developmental stage.

Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
***Note day change from Wednesday to Tuesday evening for March only**
Plymouth Congregational Church – 1217 Sixth Ave, Seattle

Draft Agenda Topics: Discussion Ideas/Topics for IAC Retreat, Legislative Session Results and One Night Count Report (if available).

Single Adults Committee

Chair: Steve Roberts (stevesroberts@comcast.net) and Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: Single Adults will meet quarterly in 2010, 2:30pm – 4:00pm at YWCA Opportunity Place, 2024 Third Ave, Seattle.

Recent Meeting February 22, 2010

Discussion of new HPRP Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Projects for Single Adults.
Discussion FACT/PACT/FISH Projects – intensive service & housing projects for Chronically Homeless Single Adults. Dave Murphy contact. (dave.murphy@kingcounty.gov)
Brainstorm which systems will be important for coordinating mainstream systems.

Upcoming Meeting: April 19, 2010, 2:30pm – 4:00pm
YWCA Opportunity Place – 2024 Third Ave, Seattle

Families Committee

Co-Chairs: Doreen Cato & Dan McDougall-Treacy. Staff: Gretchen Bruce (gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: quarterly or ad hoc from 10 am to Noon.

Recent Meeting: January 25, 2010

Thorough review of the King County Family Homelessness Project, the proposed strategies for moving towards the Housing Stabilization Model, the proposed design for Coordinated Entry and Assessment for Families.

Upcoming Meeting: April 19, 2010, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Wellspring Family Services - 1900 Rainier Avenue S, Seattle

Youth and Young Adult Committee (YYA)

Co-Chairs: Mike Heinisch, Brooke Scharnke Staff: Marci Curtin (marci.curtin@seattle.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Wed of the month, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, usually at the 2100 Building but may rotate.

Recent Meeting: February 10, 2010, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Debrief CEH Y&YA subcommittee's IAC presentation and discuss future presentations. 2009 CEH Y&YA subcommittee goals and 2010 goals. Review rough draft platform paper information and discuss possible uses.

Upcoming Meeting: March 10, 2010
Kent Family Center - 13111 SE 274th, Kent

Draft Agenda Topics: Review, vote on and approve the 2010 focus areas. Review platform paper information



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Public Relations

Chair: Sherry Hamilton (sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov). *NEW MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010* Typical Meeting Schedule: 4th Wed of month, 3:30pm – 4:30pm at Chinook Building 401 – 5th Ave, Room 526.

Upcoming Meeting: March 24, 2010, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Chinook Building, 401 Fifth Avenue, Room 526, Seattle

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 8:30am – 10:00am, DESC/DSHS shared building

Upcoming Meeting: March 2, 2010, 8:30am – 9:30am, phone conference – call (206) 205-6642
March 9, 2010, 8:30am – 9:30am, phone conference – call (206) 205-1111

Draft Agenda Topics: Continued tracking of session

RELATED COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)

The General meeting is the 3rd Thurs of each month, 9:00am -11:00am 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

Upcoming General Meeting: March 18, 2010, 9:00am – 11:00am
East Cherry YWCA – 2820 E Cherry Street, Seattle

Agenda Topics: Rapid Rehousing for Families and Singles, Olympia update, THANKS to One Night Count leads

SKCCH YYAC will now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 10.30-noon.

For more information, contact YYA Co-Chairs Lee Colbert and Ken Myers at: skcch_yyac@homelessinfo.org

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, 12:00pm -1:30pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett at itfh@comcast.net or call at (425) 442-5418.

Upcoming Meeting: March 17, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1245 – 10th Ave E, Seattle

South King County Forum on Homelessness

Contact: Jason Johnson, City of Kent JaJohnson@ci.kent.wa.us. The SKC Forum on Homelessness meets the 1st Wed. of every month at 9:00am – 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/humanservices/index.aspx?id=2728>

Upcoming Meeting: March 3, 2010, 9:00am – 10:30am
Kent Senior Activity Center – 600 E Smith Street, Kent

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, (NOTE: new time) First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE (just south of 520)

Recent Meeting: February 14, 2010

- Updates/Feedback to Gov Board, IAC, Funders Group
- Preliminary research on funding expirations among eastside projects under the Ten Year Plan - which projects are expiring by what date, amount, population served, etc. They will continue to refine the collection and analysis.
- Discussion of priority issues within 2010 legislative session
- ONC numbers - down slightly on the eastside, and thanks to volunteers

Upcoming Meeting: March 11, 2010 2:00pm – 4:00pm
First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue – 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue



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University District Service Provider's Alliance Service Provider Team

Contact: Lindsey Nutting 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, 11:00am – 12:30pm, Street Youth Ministries Drop In, 4540 – 15th Ave NE

Upcoming Meeting:

March 10, 2010, 11:00am – 12:30pm
Street Youth Ministries Drop-In – 4540 – 15th Ave NE, Seattle