

Homeless Planning for Emergencies Stakeholder Group

OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

Background

In early fall 2009, the Public Health Preparedness Section partnered with Healthcare for the Homeless Network to bring together homeless advocates to help inform both the H1N1 and Green River flood planning effort. The group agreed to continue to meet and serve as advocates for the homeless community during preparedness times and mobilize in the event of an emergency or disaster. The stakeholder group established the following goals and activities:

Goals

1. Advise emergency planners regarding the needs of homeless people in emergency response plans.
2. Advocate on behalf of homeless people during preparedness planning and in event of an emergency.

Activities

1. Establish two-way communication systems between community providers and Public Health
2. Meet twice, annually with meetings scheduled to bookend flu season, or as needed
3. Mobilize quickly to respond in an emergency

Accomplishments

- Developed a tiered shelter response for a pandemic influenza
- Draft protocols to respond to emergencies affecting homeless persons

Activation Triggers:

- Extreme weather conditions
- Flooding in areas frequented by homeless individuals
- Mass care shelter established with likelihood of large number of homeless residents
- Significant communicable disease outbreaks and medical emergencies
- Earthquake

Membership

Membership of the King County Homeless Planning for Emergencies stakeholder group includes but is not confined to the following:

Catholic Community Services

Compass Housing Alliance

City of Auburn

City of Kent

City of Renton

City of Seattle

- Human Services Department
- Office of Emergency Management

City of Tukwila

Committee to End Homelessness

Department of Community & Human Services

Public Health- Seattle & King County

- HealthCare for the Homeless Network
- Preparedness Section
- Mobile Medical Van Program

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness