



# King County

## Metropolitan King County Council Law, Justice and Human Services Committee

### STAFF REPORT

**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**DATE: February 28, 2008**

**BRIEFING: 2008-B0037**

**PREPARED BY: Kelli Carroll**

**SUBJECT:** A briefing on 1811 Eastlake, the Downtown Emergency Service Center supportive housing project and the Maxwell Award for Excellence.

**BACKGROUND:** 1811 Eastlake opened its doors in December 2005. The Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) project provides supportive housing for 75 formerly homeless men and women living with chronic alcohol addiction. 1811 does not require residents to stop drinking in order to live in the facility, nor forbids residents from consuming alcohol in their rooms. Residents benefit from 24-hour, seven days a week supportive services ranging from state-licensed mental health and chemical dependency treatment to case management, on-site medical treatment and medication monitoring to weekly community building activities.

**SUMMARY:** 1811 Eastlake is the first housing program of its kind in Washington to use the innovative housing first model to address the needs of chronic homeless alcoholics.

DESC received a \$400,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund an evaluation of the first three years of 1811's operation. The University of Washington's Addictive Behaviors Center Research Center is evaluating the first two years of outcomes, focusing on two areas: (1) the impact of 1811 on the utilization of crisis care and (2) impacts to quality of life, including effect on alcohol consumption and basic health.

A report of preliminary findings released in January of 2008 for the initial cohort of residents housed at 1811 demonstrates significant areas of cost avoidance, including reduced use of the Dutch Schisler Sobering Center and Harborview Medical Center. 1811 residents have cut their jail bookings almost in half.

Other highlights include:

- Reduction of alcohol-related incidents: According to the Downtown Seattle Association's Metropolitan Improvement District, residents of 1811 Eastlake have a 48% reduction in alcohol-related incidents and a 21% reduction in calls to the county's sobering unit van, as compared to a six month period prior to the opening of the facility
- Residents are drinking less: residents report that they are drinking to intoxication fewer days, with longer periods between incidents

Client Use of Services	n	One-year utilization prior to move-in	Per resident avg utilization prior to move-in	One-year utilization post move-in*	Per resident avg utilization post move-in*	Costs prior to move-in	Costs post move-in*	% change
Medical expenses**	77					\$3,507,717	\$2,071,709	-41%
EMS paramedic interventions	63	634	10	526	8	\$762,085	\$621,086	-19%
County jail bookings	74	190	3	105	1	\$37,474	\$20,709	-45%
County jail days	74	2,312	31	1,343	18	\$238,529	\$138,557	-42%
Sobering Center admissions	70	6,432	92	837	12	\$916,560	\$119,273	-87%
Detox visits	50	82	2	93	2	\$13,733	\$15,576	13%
DESC shelter night stays	59	1,870	32	156	3	\$44,338	\$3,699	-92%
						<b>Aggregate reduction in cost of services used:</b>		<b>\$2,529,827</b>

\* includes utilization and costs of those people who moved out.

\*\* based on charges submitted to Medicaid. Visits to Harborview Medical Center alone decreased 32%, from 1,152 to 787 (an average drop of 5 visits [16 to 11] per resident).

It is estimated that 1811 Eastlake residents avoided nearly \$1 million in costs to the county as compared to the previous year.

King County contributed \$2.22 million in capital and operating funding for 1811.

On January 25, 2008 the Fannie Mae Foundation and Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness presented DESC with the 2007 Maxwell Award of Excellence for its 1811 Eastlake project. The award includes a \$75,000 grant for DESC to continue its work in the field of supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

The Fannie Mae Foundation's Maxwell Awards program seeks to encourage and recognize the outstanding work of nonprofit organizations that develop and maintain affordable housing in urban, metropolitan, and rural communities across the country. The awards are named in honor of David O. Maxwell, who retired in 1991 after 10 years of service as chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae and chairman of the board for the Fannie Mae Foundation.

**ATTENDEE:**

Bill Hobson, Executive Director, Downtown Emergency Services Center

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 1811 Eastlake: First Year Preliminary Findings
2. Seattle Times, "Chronic Alcoholic Program Reports Progress", 1/9/2008
3. Seattle PI, "Housing Homeless Saves Money", 1/9/2008