

# King County Somali Health Board

## About Us

King County Somali Health Board is a coalition of King County Somali health leaders and health systems representatives working in collaboration to improve health outcomes of Somali residents.

## Value

We believe everyone in King County, regardless of their race, color or creed deserves to have a healthy and high quality of life.

## Vision

A healthy King County in which health systems and service providers work together with Somali communities and Somali health professionals to promote positive health outcomes.

## Mission

To improve health outcomes in King County Somali communities through:

- Meaningful partnership development
- Mutual education of providers and community leaders
- Advocating for culturally appropriate and relevant policies and services.

## Goals

1. Create a forum to build relationships between health systems (e.g. hospitals, community health centers, Public Health), services (e.g. food banks, housing ) and Somali community and health leaders
2. Identify key health conditions, concerns and questions
3. Identify and address systems issues that impact access and the Somali experience of health care and treatment
4. Provide opportunities for mutual education
5. Formalize mechanisms to communicate key health and safety information to Somali residents in King County
6. Act as an advisory group to offer recommendations to health and governmental systems to better serve Somali people in King County
7. Create a space for Somali health professionals to work together.

8. Act as a bridge for health care and service providers in the early learning environment (recommended addition but not discussed)
9. Provide access to health information for Somali people and those who provide health, education and social services to the Somali community.

### **Expectations and commitments for Membership (draft)**

- Organizations should commit to having representation at every board meeting and should commit to reporting back and disseminating learnings/information within their own organizations.
- It is preferred that health professionals (and Somali health professionals) are represented at these meetings.
- Share information learned at the meetings with as many people as possible.
- Develop a profile of each member of what we are here to learn and what expertise we can share with the group. Be resources to one another. Share our expertise.
- Serve as ambassadors for the work
- Have a commitment from Somali leaders and community.
- Share referrals to other professionals in the room, utilize these important connections.
- Outreach in Somali communities
- Advocate to the community about the Health Board to reach as many people as possible.
- Have a virtual presence. (e.g. website and/or Facebook page)