

## HCHN Advisory Group Update for HCHN Governance Council 2/11/19

- Introductions
- Last meeting, 2/6/19, the Advisory Group met at the Burien Community Center to connect with service providers working in South King County and individuals currently experiencing homelessness in the south county. The following organizations were represented at the meeting: Mary's Place, REACH, Neighborcare Health.....We focused on issues affecting those experiencing homelessness in South King County, roadblocks to providing effective healthcare to our homeless community members, and possible solutions.
  - South County presents unique difficulties
    - Geographically spread out, reaching folks at encampments can be difficult, relying on public transport in this area makes accessing services extremely difficult
    - Insufficient shelters, especially cold weather shelters
    - Insufficient funding/capacity at day centers, difficult to do laundry and take a shower
    - City councils, encouraged by particularly active housed community members, have, at times, been less than willing to take significant action to address homelessness in the area
  - with regards to providing healthcare, there are currently many shortcomings in south county
    - On Burien Nav Team, there are no healthcare providers
    - If someone elects to try and get into an in-patient treatment program, they often just present to the ER at Highline Hospital, and are discharged several hours later. No follow up. Opportunity missed.
    - Mobile medical have limited hours/availability, and not as effective at dealing with non-acute issues, and maintaining health
    - General lack of trust amongst many people experiencing homelessness toward healthcare providers
    - Again, insufficient public transportation makes it difficult to address medical issues at a primary care clinic
    - No medical respite in the area

NOTE – primary concern seemed to be the need for increased capacity at day centers and shelters which unclear if that would fall within purview of the HCHN

- We also discussed solutions to some of these problems, that hopefully fall within the purview of HCHN
  - Healthcare providers travel with nav team
  - Medical respite in south county
  - Increased funding/capacity building at day centers, which provide laundry and showers
  - Med management (lock box system) at day center
  - Streamlined lines of communication between outreach workers and treatment programs.

- Improved relationships between social workers at local hospitals and service providers (attempt to change discharging homeless patients with no information/services provided, not outside organizations contacted)