

April
2016 | |

Health & Human Services Transformation Update



King County is moving forward as we work towards the [vision](#) of the Health and Human Services Transformation Plan.

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NEW BEST STARTS FOR KIDS BLOG LAUNCHED

Best Starts for Kids has launched a [new blog](#). Visit the blog and click the "follow" button (on the right hand side) to receive email updates about Best Starts for Kids.



Here are other ways to stay informed about Best Starts for Kids.

- Sign up for Best Starts for Kids [newsletter](#) which includes a digest of key articles from blog
- Visit our website at www.kingcounty.gov/beststarts
- Join the conversation on Twitter using the #BestStarts hashtag

Community conversations in April and May

Join us for one of several community conversations to hear more about the emerging Best Starts for Kids implementation plan and to share your perspectives.

We've updated our schedule for community conversations -- dates are currently planned for April and May. Find the current schedule on the [Best Starts for Kids blog](#) or visit www.kingcounty.gov/beststarts.

INVESTIGATING THE LINK BETWEEN HOUSING RE-DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AT YESLER TERRACE

Public Health - Seattle & King County and the Seattle Housing Authority are working together to evaluate the health impacts of community redevelopment at Yesler Terrace. Previous research has indicated that community redevelopment initiatives can create healthier, more equitable neighborhoods and positive health outcomes. But there are significant knowledge gaps in how to measure the impacts on health of specific strategies related to community redevelopment.

As Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health stated, "This is an incredible opportunity to work with partners to make progress toward closing the health equity gap. It is through innovative collaborations with residents, public health, affordable housing and social services that we will expand opportunities for all our community members to live healthier lives."

The study is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Read more about the study [here](#).

ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

Developing Governance Structure

A current key task of the Accountable Community of Health (ACH) is identifying appropriate organizational and governance structures, particularly if the ACH is to serve as the coordinating entity for the region's Medicaid waiver project investments. Washington State is currently negotiating with the federal government for a waiver that could bring up to \$3 billion into the state over five years to catalyze health system transformation. ACHs could serve a critical role in administering regional waiver projects. A consultant team will carry out further analysis on various potential structures that were brainstormed during the February retreat and the [March meeting](#) of the King County Accountable Community of Health Interim Leadership Council.

Number crunchers, rejoice! Health and housing data are coming together

The work of the Accountable Communities of Health [performance measurement work group](#) has led to a first-of-its-kind cross-sector initiative to integrate affordable housing and health data to support improvements in community health in King County.



Strengthening housing and health partnerships is a priority of the King County ACH. Ultimately, access to integrated data from these different sectors can improve communities' capacity to plan, monitor, and innovate to improve health and well-being. The DASH grant was awarded in January 2016 and will run through July 2017. Read the blog post [here](#).

Community roundtable on Accountable Community of Health draws over 40 participants

On February 5, a community roundtable to discuss the King County Accountable Community of Health (ACH) was held in Tukwila. The event was co-planned and led by the Healthy King County Coalition and the Regional Equity Network. About 40 community members were in attendance and had a robust discussion of the emerging ACH structure in King County. ACHs are intended to bring sectors together to work on common strategies to improve health in their communities.

Supportive Housing Services Medicaid Benefit Training

Currently, state organizations are negotiating a Medicaid Waiver with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to create a new supportive housing services as part of a Medicaid benefit. This is known as the Section 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver. The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance is hosting a Supportive Housing Services Medicaid Training on Tuesday, May 10th at the Spokane Convention Center to provide additional information about the proposed new benefit. Visit the [event page](#) to learn more about the program.

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

Moving from planning to implementation

After monthly meetings in 2015 with the three Communities of Opportunity place-based sites (Rainier Valley, SeaTac/Tukwila and White Center), the planning phase is drawing to a close and implementation is getting underway. Each of the sites has developed specific strategies related to health, housing, economic development and community connections. The strategies center on built environment improvements, youth leadership development, small business incubation, affordable and mixed income housing, workforce development, healthy eating and physical activity.

A second round of policy and systems grantees will be announced this Spring. These grantees will address the health, housing and economic development priorities of Communities of Opportunity's framework for action, available [here](#).



Communities of Opportunity's 3 place-based sites

A local organization's perspective on why Communities of Opportunity is receiving national attention

This past weekend, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro honored Communities of Opportunity. The Seattle Foundation received the [Secretary's Awards for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships](#) in Washington D.C. at the Council of Foundations annual conference.

Sili Savusa, Executive Director of the White Center Community Development Association shared some thoughts about what she thinks is unique about the COO approach. [Read more](#).

Local work featured in national webinar

Living Cities, a national funder, reported results from their survey of over 500 cross-sector collaborations working on health and social issues in the U.S. in a webinar on March 16, 2016. Communities of Opportunity (COO) staff had the opportunity to present their perspectives. See the [recorded webinar](#) and more information about the [Cross-Sector Partnership Assessment](#).

FAMILIAR FACES

Piloting an approach to improved outcomes

An Intensive Care Management Team (ICMT) pilot has been proposed as one way to test doing things differently in order to achieve better outcomes for [Familiar Faces](#)-involved individuals and systems. The pilot will serve 60 adult individuals, with services anticipated to start mid-2016. Services provided by the ICMT will be an intensive, flexible community-based team that provides

integrated mental health and substance use disorder treatment integrated with primary health care, and life and other skill building into a single, comprehensive team that supports the reentry process. The team will work on providing permanent supportive housing with housing support and housing tenure.

The Familiar Faces Steering Committee is overseeing the development and evaluation of this work.

King County invited to join national Stepping Up Initiative

King County will join 49 other jurisdictions at a national summit to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails April 17-19, 2016. A team of 5 King County staff, including Councilmember Claudia Balducci, will be able to connect with other jurisdictions doing similar work. The [Stepping Up Initiative](#) is designed to rally local, state and national leaders around the goal of achieving a reduction in the number of people with mental illnesses in jail.

PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH

[Partnerships to Improve Community Health \(PICH\)](#) continues to work in cross-sector partnerships to foster communities where all children can grow up healthy. For example, the decades-old fitness facility at Tyee Educational Complex in SeaTac is getting a facelift. The PICH funded project installed new floors and brought in modern exercise machines, weights, and other equipment to bring Tyee's fitness room in line with other high schools in the district. The new fitness room opened to students at the end of March, and PE teachers will add a weight training class and sports fitness class to expand PE options next year. Tyee houses two small high schools attended by approximately 800 students in the Highline School District.

OPEN ENROLLMENT SUCCESS FOR COVERAGE IS HERE KING COUNTY

The third year of Open Enrollment under the Affordable Care Act proved successful in King County and statewide. Overall, the Washington Health Benefit Exchange surpassed its enrollments goal with a [25% increase in enrollments](#) compared to last year. King County's network of community enrollment Navigators - who assist people with the enrollment process - played a key role in the state's success. They helped more than 50,000 people enroll or renew their coverage (reaching more than 150% of the county target).

[Novel outreach strategies](#) this year included:

- "Health-care happy hour" events targeted artists and musicians on Capitol Hill, as well as the Hispanic community in White Center.
- Three months of targeted messaging to taxi and Uber drivers culminated with an event at a middle school parking lot in Tukwila.
- Public Health's ORCA-LIFT street-front office at Metro was open for enrollment and the public lined up down the sidewalk on the final day of enrollment (Sunday, January 31).
- Targeted outreach based on zip code data where potentially uninsured people live led to a focus on Hispanic owned businesses, as well as broader outreach to residents in Auburn, Federal Way and Kent (including events at the Outlet Collection Mall in Auburn and Public Health Centers in Federal Way and Kent).



Carol Allen of Public Health assisting an artist/performer with enrollment, at the Fred Wildlife Refuge performance space on Capitol Hill during "Health Care Happy Hour."

The County's creative strategies earned a shout-out from President Obama on March 3rd.