

December
2016 | |

Health & Human Services Transformation Update



The Transformation Vision states,

"By 2020, the people of King County will experience significant gains in health and well-being because our community worked collectively to make the shift from a costly, crisis-oriented response to health and social problems, to one that focuses on prevention, embraces recovery, and eliminates disparities."

As 2016 comes to a close we are reflecting on the progress made towards that vision through collective efforts with our community. For example, the launch of the Child Health Survey is providing critical information about the health and well-being of families in our region and will serve as the baseline for progress as a result of Best Starts for Kids. Read more in this edition about:

- [Accountable Community of Health](#)
- [Health Insurance Enrollment in King County](#)
- [Best Starts for Kids](#)
- [Communities of Opportunity](#)
- [Partnerships to Improve Community Health](#)
- [Health in the Chinatown-International District](#)

ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

Medicaid Transformation Waiver Update

This fall, Washington State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reached an agreement in principle on a five-year [Medicaid demonstration project](#). This is an opportunity to accelerate changes in the state's Medicaid program that support the goals of Healthier Washington—better health, better care, and lower costs.



[Video Description: In this video, Nathan Johnson from the Washington State Health Care Authority gives an overview of Washington's Medicaid Transformation Waiver.]

Earlier this month, the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) released a pre-draft [Transformation Project Toolkit](#) that—once finalized—will be used to develop Medicaid transformation project plans across the nine regions across the state, including King County. The state plans on opening the draft for public comment in December.

Each Accountable Community of Health (ACH) across the state will be participating in critical work ahead of implementing required and optional projects. The King County ACH Interim Leadership Council (ILC) discussed the contents of the Toolkit at their December 12 meeting.

Physical-Behavioral Health Integration

The Physical and Behavioral Health Integration Design Committee (IDC) has been meeting since November 2015 to develop a recommended model of integrated care for the King County region. The IDC held its final meeting on Friday, December 9, 2016 where they finalized recommendations for this model. Representatives of the IDC will present these recommendations to the King County Accountable Communities of Health Interim Leadership Council in January 2017 and plan to outline next steps for implementation including alignment with the work of the ACH and the Medicaid waiver projects. More information about the committee can be found [here](#).

King County selected as one of six national sites to "ReThink Health"

Reposted from Public Health Insider: The King County Accountable Community of Health (ACH) is gaining some national attention as a leader in improving health systems and the health of our communities. Recently, the King County ACH was selected by ReThink Health to participate in a national cohort all working towards similar goals.

The cohort is designed to forge partnerships among the various health transformation efforts so that they may better synthesize evidence and share knowledge in their pursuit of better population health and healthcare, lower costs, and great health equity.

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and Rippel Foundations, ReThink Health Ventures will enable the King County ACH to connect with five partners from around the country:

- Sonoma, CA (Health Action Council)

- Trenton, NJ (Trenton Health Team)
- Rochester, NY (Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, with others)
- Central Oregon (the Central Oregon Health Council with PacificSource Community Solutions)
- Bernalillo County, NM (Bernalillo County Community Health Council)

[Read more.](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT THROUGH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Open enrollment through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange runs through January 31, 2017. Health insurance navigators are offering personal help at many locations across King County; visit King County's [insurance enrollment website](#) for more information.



Do you have questions about the local impact of the recent election on health insurance? If the Affordable Care Act is simply repealed, and not replaced, more than 200,000 King County residents could lose their health coverage. [Read more](#) on the Public Health Insider blog.

BEST STARTS FOR KIDS

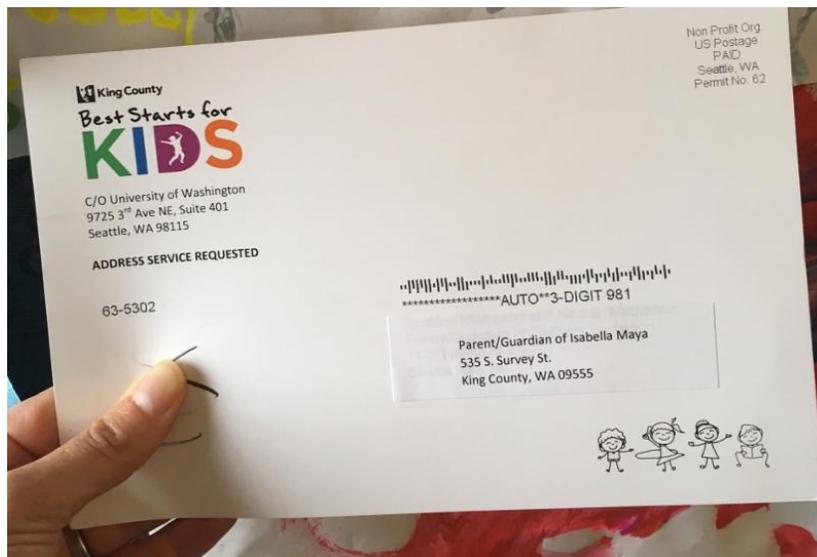
Executive launches the first Best Starts for Kids strategy, preventing youth and families from becoming homeless

The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative is the first strategy funded by Best Starts for Kids levy. The approach will help families that are on the verge of being homeless by addressing their specific needs, such as clothes for a job interview or help with the first month's rent. Unlike the traditional approach that provides a limited number of options that may or may not be helpful, this initiative starts with case managers asking, "What is it you need to avoid becoming homeless?" [Read more.](#)

Child Health Survey

Do children in our region get the medical checkups that are recommended? Do families in our region receive the child care they need? How many kids are ready to succeed in school? Until now, we didn't have a good source of information to understand the strengths and needs of local families. [The Best Starts for Kids Health Survey](#) is helping to fill that gap. The survey findings will be used to inform Best Starts for Kids programs and will serve as a baseline to help us track the progress of the initiative.

The research team has collected over 4,000 surveys from a randomly chosen sample of King County parents and caregivers with children in elementary school and younger. The research team has focused on ensuring access to participation from communities who are traditionally underrepresented in surveys and to ensure that all voices are heard. These efforts are making a difference. An estimated 52% of responses are from families who identify as people of color and 13% are from families speaking languages other than English.



[Image Description: A photo of sample postcard addressed to Parent/Guardian of Isabella Maya with return address Best Starts for Kids, c/o University of Washington]

In January, the second phase of the survey will launch which will enable any family in King County to take the survey. Keep an eye on the [Best Starts blog](#) for the launch of the community-wide survey opportunity. Learn more about the survey [here](#).

Hiring

Several positions with Best Starts for Kids are now open. Subscribe to the [Best Starts for Kids blog](#) to get up-to-date information on open positions.

Equity

Expanding opportunities for all children, youth families and our community means a clear focus on equity. Here are some of the ways Best Starts for Kids is keeping equity front and center:

- [Checking our biases: lessons learned from staff training](#)
- [Equity is fundamental to the community we want to build](#)

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

[Communities of Opportunity](#) (COO) is creating greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

Andréa Akita joins COO as Initiative Director

Andréa Akita began as Communities of Opportunity Initiative Director on December 12, 2016. She has more than 20 years of experience working in both the public and non-profit sectors on community development, affordable housing, and human services programs. She has extensive experience working deeply with communities on the issues that COO is working to address. Andréa, in the new Initiative Director position, is welcomed by the existing COO staff team.

PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Through [PICH](#), Public Health-Seattle & King County, Seattle Children's Hospital and the Healthy King County Coalition are working with partners to implement evidence-based and promising practices to improve nutrition and increase physical activity to reduce health disparities in south Seattle and south King County.

Make Food Make Fam: Youth in White Center and Delridge take on food marketing in their neighborhoods

After a year of campaign development, FEEST's youth-led counter marketing campaign launched with bus ads, social media ads, stickers, and a display at Dub Sea Coffee in Delridge. Read more [here](#).



[Image Description: A photo of two young women looking on while a third cuts food with a knife. Superimposed on the photo are the words "Make Food, Make Fam." as well as a FEEST logo and 2 hands with some produce]

Developing equitable health policies

The Healthy King County Coalition's Health Equity Assessment Tool allowed Puget Sound Educational Services District to apply an equity lens to their physical activity policy. The new policy will impact 4,700 children in our region, and contains innovative and evidence-based approaches to address barriers to physical activity and ensure all children have opportunities for active play. To learn more about the policy contact Cheryl Polasek, CPolasek@psed.org.

Innovative approaches to tobacco cessation

Public Health partnered with 10 Community Health Worker organizations to add a tobacco cessation intervention to their service model. 102 CHWs received the training, who will reach over 11,000 clients with life-saving information and resources on quitting tobacco. For more information contact Nori De La Peña, norilyn.delapena@kingcounty.gov.

Living Well Kent establishes a Food Policy Council

The Kent Food Policy Council brings together stakeholders, decision makers, and representatives from multiple sectors to drive improvements in food policy in Kent. The 15-person council will advise policy and systems changes to make healthy food accessible in Kent. Learn more about Living Well Kent [here](#).

AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT HEALTH IN THE CHINATOWN-INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Public Health Insider published a three-part series on the health of one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in our region, the Chinatown-International District (CID). With a one year nationally-funded grant, The BUILD Health Challenge has led to a robust community partnership that will take a deep look into the health and vibrancy of the CID. Read more at:

1. [What You May Not Know About Health In the Chinatown-International District](#)
2. [Safety, Stress and Public Health: Chinatown-International District Neighborhood Voices](#)
3. [A Way Forward: Sowing Community Solutions in the Chinatown-International District](#)



[Image Description: A photo of the top of the Chinatown Gate in the Chinatown-International District]

