

February
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Health & Human Services Transformation Update



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INNOVATIVE ONE-STOP CENTER FOR HEALTH BRINGS EXPANDED CARE OPTIONS TO NORTH SEATTLE

Three leading King County health organizations are welcoming the public to a transformative new health care center in North Seattle - greatly expanding access and introducing a bold model for patient-centered care to the Puget Sound region.



Leaders from the three partner organizations (Public Health, Neighborcare, Valley Cities), the steering committee, and elected leaders at Grand Opening Ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 23, 2016.

The Meridian Center for Health is more than an attractive building and a public-private

partnership. It offers a seamless, coordinated and integrated experience for people who have multiple health or social service needs. This is especially important for those who have financial, insurance, language, transportation, health or other barriers to overcome.

The partners at the Meridian Center for Health -- Neighborcare Health (medical, dental and pharmacy), Public Health - Seattle & King County (WIC nutrition and maternity support services), and Valley Cities (mental health and substance use recovery services) -- have embraced a "no wrong door" approach, with each organization helping clients get what they need, regardless of where they begin. [Read more](#).

ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

Want to learn more about the Accountable Community of Health? Check out this blog post and video, "[What the Heck is an ACH: Five Things You Should Know](#)" on the Public Health Insider. It's our humorous attempt to raise awareness about the ACH.



Medicaid Transformation Waiver

The proposed Medicaid Transformation Waiver is an opportunity to transform the healthcare delivery system for the 25 percent of Washington's population served by Medicaid (Apple Health).

The term "waiver" refers to the federal government allowing states to do something under Medicaid that they couldn't ordinarily do under Medicaid rules such as pilot or demonstration projects.

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and Department of Social and Health Services requested transformation project ideas be submitted for the [Medicaid waiver](#) by Friday, January 15, 2016. About 180 transformation project ideas were submitted and can be viewed in the HCA website. A number of ideas came from the King County region. The King County ACH's [Interim Leadership Council](#) will provide comments to the Health Care Authority. HCA is accepting public comments on the project suggestions through February 21, 2016.

PHYSICAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

The Physical/Behavioral Health Integration (PBHI) Design Subcommittee had its first meeting of the year on January 13. The Subcommittee has developed a work plan for the rest of the year to explore different models of integration. The February and March meetings will focus on models that integrate behavioral health into primary care settings. (February will be focused on models that primarily serve adults; March will be focused on those that serve children). Meeting information will be available [online](#).

FAMILIAR FACES

Familiar Faces receives Train the Trainer grant

On January 12, King County in partnership with 21 other co-applicants-many of whom are involved with the Familiar Faces Initiative, was selected by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to receive a "**Train the Trainer in Trauma-Informed Responses for Criminal Justice**" technical assistance grant. Over 58 applicants applied and this was one of six awards made nationally. This is a wonderful opportunity as we move forward in the work to apply a consistent, standard application of this best practice across our health and social services systems and our criminal justice reform efforts that are foundational for the Familiar Faces Future State Vision. For more information about the grant, please contact [Patty Noble-Desy](#) at King County.

Upcoming Request for Proposals

King County is working with the Familiar Faces Steering Committee to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to test and refine the concept of flexible community-based care teams to serve a subset of the Familiar Faces population. The goal is for this to be a learning lab for the community to learn about how best to design these teams to improve outcomes for the population. Community meetings were held on January 22 and January 29 about this opportunity; the plan is to issue the RFP in February. For more information about this RFP, please contact [Jesse Benet](#).

Steering Committee

The Familiar Faces "kitchen cabinet" was re-launched as the Familiar Faces Steering Committee in January 2016. The membership includes clients in an effort to more directly incorporate the experiences and ideas of those involved in the criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse systems.

Familiar Faces Medicaid Waiver Proposal

As mentioned above, the Washington HealthCare Authority accepted proposals for Medicaid Waiver projects. A waiver toolkit proposal was submitted based on the work of the Familiar Faces Future State Vision. The project focuses on developing flexible, community-based care teams to serve high utilizers of the jail.

For more information about the Familiar Faces Initiative or the Physical and Behavioral Health Subcommittee, please contact [Liz Arjun](#).

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

Aligned Funding Awards

On December 31, 2015, the Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority (Pacific Hospital PDA) announced three awards totaling \$150,000 in aligned funding with Communities of Opportunity. Funds awarded under this process will support COO programs that help eliminate disparities in access to health resources and/or improve health outcomes for underserved communities in King County. The grant recipients and grant descriptions are:

- Global to Local: Food Innovation Network's Healthy Food Entrepreneurship Program
- White Center Community Development Association: Healthy White Center
- HomeSight: Rainier Valley Healthy Youth Development Project

Place-based Site Updates

Food Innovation Network: The SeaTac/Tukwila Communities of Opportunity site completed a needs assessment for commercial kitchens among the food entrepreneurs in the Food Innovation Network. They held focus groups and collected almost 100 surveys. Their three priorities for 2016 are:

- Community leadership development to be provided by food advocates
- Lease a commercial kitchen for a pilot group of eight to ten entrepreneurs in early 2016
- Complete business plan and action steps for larger facility, including a capital plan

Public safety, education and education--key community priorities in White Center: White Center is using community input from their December 5 Community Summit in their workplan. Over 100 people attended and 65 completed a real-time electronic survey to identify priorities. The priorities that emerged are public safety, education, housing and economic opportunity. White Center is interested in working in 2016 on strategies such as:

- Health: improving healthy affordable food access and youth physical activity and leadership development
- Housing: improving housing quality and preventing displacement, housing plus community gathering place and non-profit owned space
- Economic Opportunity: increasing number of residents with living wage jobs, increasing youth academic success, assisting small businesses including food business and urban agriculture, matching job seeker skills with employer needs through Worksource
- Community Connections: supporting and preserving existing cultural anchor spaces, encouraging civic participation and volunteering

Four coalitions working together in Rainier Valley: Working with lead agency HomeSight, four coalitions (On Board Othello, Multicultural Community Center Coalition, S-CORE and the Rainier Beach Action Coalition) have worked together to prioritize strategies they will work on in 2016.

- Health: support of cross cultural youth dialogue and youth development to both reduce violence and increase access to affordable healthy food through a Food Innovation District.
- Housing: develop new affordable/mixed-income housing and support for mixed-use housing and community benefit projects to prevent displacement and encourage community owned housing assets.
- Economic Opportunity: support a Food Innovation District, attract employers/green jobs with living wages and increase youth/adult employment training,
- Community Connections: support and preserve existing cultural anchor spaces and shared

ownership work space for community non-profits; support beautiful and safe community gathering spaces

PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) uses a cross-sector, collaborative approach to build healthy and affordable food systems, create opportunities for physical activity, and protect families and youth from tobacco. Over 24 organizations representing schools, hospitals, city governments, parks, community organizations, and the Health Department are actively engaged in this effort. In its first year, PICH's 33 projects have helped build environments and places that foster health. Take a look at our summary of projects in action [here](#).

- Two additional farmers markets now accept EBT/SNAP benefits, improving access to fresh, locally produced foods.
 - Three school districts adopted curricula to improve access to physical activity in schools.
 - Over 800 market-rate housing units in South King County implemented smoke-free policies, protecting over 2,000 residents from the harmful impacts of secondhand smoke.
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