

## Health & Human Services Transformation Update

The past few months have been marked by several milestones in the work towards King County's Transformation [vision](#) - a vision to shift from a costly, crisis-oriented response to health and social problems, to one that focuses on prevention, embraces recovery, and eliminates disparities. These milestones include the selection of the first official regional health improvement project through the *Accountable Communities of Health* and Executive Constantine's Best Starts for Kids implementation plan that was sent to County Council on June 1, 2016.

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### IN THE NEWS:

In case you missed it, recent media stories focus on many of the key issues our Transformation effort is working to address-particularly the inequities in income and health we are experiencing in our region.

- This recent Seattle Times article, [Where you live in King County may tell how long you'll live](#) references Communities of Opportunity and Best Starts for Kids as approaches to addressing this inequity.

- King County Executive Dow Constantine spoke with KUOW reporter Carolyn Adolph about how a shrinking middle class is creating a ["tale of two cities"](#) in our region. And the latest Pew Research, [America's Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within Metropolitan Areas](#) highlights this very issue.

## BEST STARTS FOR KIDS

### Implementation Plan transmitted to Metropolitan King County Council

King County Executive Dow Constantine sent the Best Starts for Kids [Implementation Plan](#) to the King County Council on June 1, 2016.

The plan is a culmination of research, data and the thoughts of hundreds of parents, human services providers, community leaders, and experts in child and adolescent development. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their ideas during our [community conversations](#) and other forums, across King County.



The plan will invest in programs that foster healthy child development, support families and build strong communities. It is driven by the abundance of research that has identified the key milestones in human development where we can have the greatest impact.

There will continue to be opportunities for community input. Over the next few months the County Council will **host** hearings where the public can give additional thoughts about the plan. You can get information on Council meetings at the [County Council agenda webpage](#). Once the plan is approved we will continue to work with the community on its implementation.

### What we learned from community conversations

Through a series of ten community conversations, we had the opportunity to hear from hundreds of people that reflect the diversity of our King County region. [This feedback](#) informed the direction of the Executive's Best Starts for Kids implementation plan.

### New opportunity to learn about needs of our children and families through Best Starts for Kids Health Survey

In the Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan sent to the King County Council on June 1, the King County Executive proposed the Best Starts for Kids Health Survey. This survey will be the first time we will have local information about the health of infants up to elementary-aged children in King County. Findings will be used to assess needs, assist with planning interventions, and evaluate impacts of the Best Starts for Kids Levy. This data is critical because we have to know where we're starting, and we need to make sure we're on the right track for communities, families, and children. Look for more updates on the [Best Starts for Kids website](#) in mid-July 2016.

## COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

### 18 organizations & partnerships receive grant awards to affect policy & systems change

Seattle Foundation announced \$1,226,000 in grants to 18 local efforts leading systems and policy change work in King County. The awardees demonstrate strong capacity to affect broad change, as well as strong community leadership and engagement necessary to achieve such progress. [Read more](#) about the systems and policy change efforts.

## Community leaders and content experts working together to design next phase of Communities of Opportunity

In May, the Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group spent two days in SeaTac designing how Communities of Opportunity (COO) will expand and shift over the next five years. Making bold change will involve collective action from many public and private sectors. COO [Interim Governance Group](#) members are looking forward to working with many sectors and community partners to test and scale how to turn the curve on today's inequitable health, housing, economic opportunity and community connection indicators.



Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group members and staff on May 13, 2016

Map images and more information at: [www.kingcounty.gov/coo](http://www.kingcounty.gov/coo).

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## ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

### Health and housing project selected

The [King County ACH Interim Leadership Council](#) has selected the Housing-Health Partnership project as its first official ACH regional health improvement project. The project will address the significant health disparities faced by many Medicaid recipients living in affordable and public housing in Seattle and King County. The project will focus on providing access to health and wellness interventions through the use of community health worker programs that offer health education, wellness activities, screenings, chronic disease management support targeted to Medicaid clients and other low-income residents. This project will be submitted to the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) for approval under the State Innovation Model grant.

### Medicaid Waiver Update

The Washington State Health Care Authority hosted a webinar on April 26 to provide updates on their progress towards negotiating a Medicaid waiver with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The term, "waiver" refers to the federal government allowing states to pilot projects under Medicaid that they couldn't ordinarily do under Medicaid rules. They also released the Framework for the Medicaid Transformation Waiver [Project Toolkit](#) from which the final toolkit will be built. You can view the [webinar video](#) or review the [slide deck](#) to learn more about the status of a Medicaid waiver in Washington State.

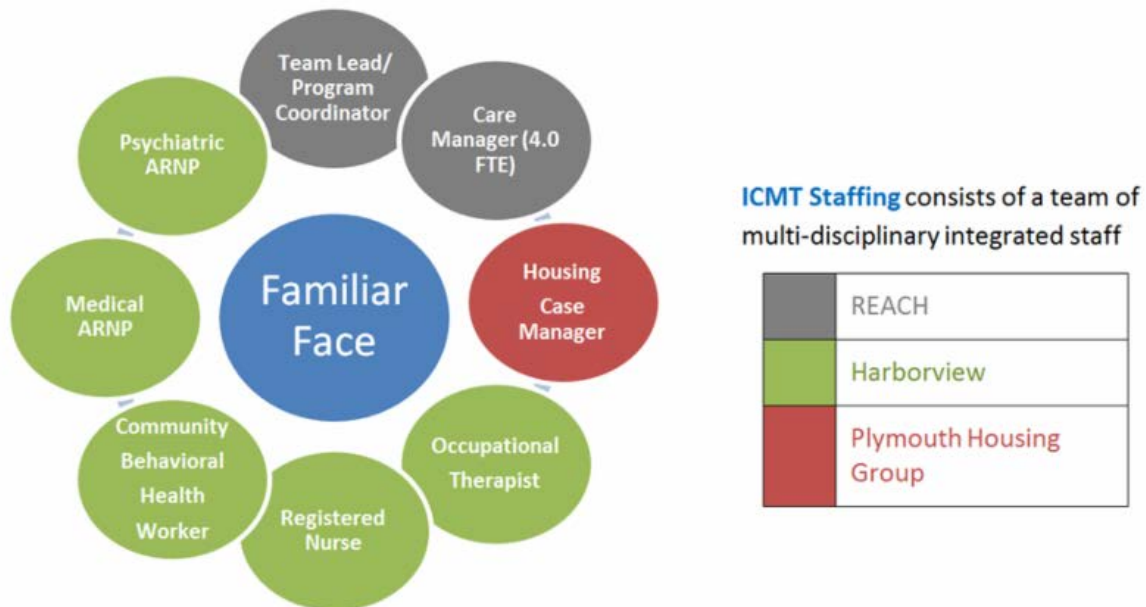
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## FAMILIAR FACES

### New demonstration project to support adults experiencing behavioral health challenges

Three organizations are working together on a demonstration project, Familiar Faces Intensive

Care Management. Drawing on the expertise of a flexible community-based team, the project is designed to provide comprehensive services to adults experiencing behavioral health challenges who have been repeatedly booked in the King County Jail. The goal is to support up to 60 individuals to achieve improved quality of life and reduce recidivism. Services will include outreach-based primary medical care, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and life skills development. The team will also provide ongoing coordination with criminal justice system partners in order to support reentry and reduce incarceration and crisis system utilization. Enrollment of participants begins in June 2016.



All services will be provided from a Harm Reduction framework, utilizing Motivational Interviewing skills and aligned with Trauma Informed Care principles. Partners providing direct services to participants in this project include The REACH Program of Evergreen Treatment Services, Harborview Medical Center and Plymouth Housing Group.

**Ensuring continuity of care and addressing social determinants of health as individuals leave King County jail**

United Healthcare of Washington, a Washington AppleHealth Medicaid health plan, and the Jail Health Services Division of Public Health - Seattle & King County are working together to develop a demonstration program to test innovative ways to conduct release planning and continuity of health and social services. The demonstration will allow managed-care case workers to enter the King County jails and conduct release planning and transitional care services for United Healthcare members. This demonstration will explore ways to coordinate data to better address the needs of individuals and work to address issues such as housing, employment and other social determinants of health. The work may lay the foundation for other managed care organizations to partner on this effort in the future.

**King County at White House to share new models to break the cycle of jail re-entry**

The White House Office of Science and Technology convened jurisdictions from across the nation (55 Counties and 7 states) to discuss how data can inform best practices to support the over 11 million people churning through US jails each year. Leaders from King County Department of Community and Human Services and United Healthcare, representing Familiar Faces work, attended a day-long convening at the White House on June 13, 2016, where they had the opportunity to share their expertise on models such as the importance of harm reduction (vs.

compliance models), and the vital need to address homelessness and attend to housing as a center point to diversion and reentry planning.

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## PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

King County is working with community partners to develop recommendations for delivering fully integrated physical and behavioral health care in the region by 2020. A key part of this work is the work of the Physical and Behavioral Health Integration Design Committee (IDC). This committee is comprised of a number of providers across the region involved in delivering health care services including mental health, substance use disorder treatment and physical health services, and others representing key social services important to supporting overall health. The IDC has been meeting since November 2015 and is charged with developing recommendations about the optimal clinical and infrastructure models for delivering fully integrated care in the region and the timeline for when and how this should occur. These recommendations will be offered to the [King County Accountable Community of Health](#) for consideration and endorsement and then to the King County Executive and King County Council later this year. You can read more about the work of the committee [here](#).

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## PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH



PICH continues to increase the availability and affordability of healthy food throughout King County. On June 7, the Renton Farmers Market opened for the season and had its first Fresh Bucks transaction. Fresh Bucks provides a dollar for dollar match up to \$10 for people who use SNAP benefits to buy produce at farmers markets. The Renton Market is the first city-run farmers market in Washington to accept Fresh Bucks. In partnership with the City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment, PICH is expanding the [Fresh Bucks program](#) to more farmers markets in King County.

For the past year and a half, our partners at the South King County Food Coalition have been turning a [former golf-course into a productive farm](#) to supply produce to local food banks. Join us on July 7, 2016 for Elk Run Farm's grand opening and first harvest! Reach out to Hannah Johnson, [hannah.johnson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:hannah.johnson@kingcounty.gov) for more details.

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