

October
2016 | |

Health & Human Services Transformation Update



We're excited to share with you the latest steps toward King County's Health and Human Services Transformation [vision](#). The first few months of fall have been full of activity from the passage of the Best Starts for Kids implementation plan to a newly approved agreement at the state level to improve physical, mental and population health known as the Medicaid Waiver. Lots of activity to get caught up on in this edition:

- [Best Starts for Kids](#)
- [Equity and Social Justice](#)
- [Heroin and Opiate Addiction Task Force](#)
- [Accountable Community of Health](#)
- [Familiar Faces](#)
- [Seattle/King County Clinic for un- and under- insured](#)
- [ACA Enrollment efforts successful](#)
- [Upcoming RFI process for Medical/Dental/Access](#)
- [Communities of Opportunity](#)
- [Partnerships to Improve Community Health](#)

BEST STARTS FOR KIDS:

King County ready to implement groundbreaking initiative

On Sept. 19, the King County Council unanimously approved Executive Constantine's plan to implement Best Starts for Kids, a voter-approved initiative that will increase the number of children and youth in the region who reach adulthood healthy and ready to succeed. The approved plan will guide how the county invests nearly \$400 million over the next six years to increase the number of children who are born healthy and reach adulthood ready to succeed. You can read the full [press release](#) here.

A sincere thank-you to the hundreds of community partners who added critical input for a plan that emphasizes the importance of health equity, reflects the needs and strengths of the diverse communities across our region, and will ultimately improve the lives of children, young people and communities in our region.



A photo from an official signing of the legislation - King County Executive Dow Constantine joined members of the community, Children and Youth Advisory Board members, King County Council Chair Joe McDermott and King County Councilmembers Larry Gossett, Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Rod Dembowski in the celebration of the County Council's unanimous approval of the Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan.

Funding to begin the first steps of Best Starts implementation was approved by the Metropolitan King County Council on Monday, Oct. 3, 2016. This is a critical first step toward bringing the Implementation Plan to life!

Executive Constantine transmitted his 2017-2018 budget to the County Council on Sept. 26. The budget includes proposed funding to support Best Starts for Kids for the next two years. The Council has begun their review and approval process of the entire County biennial budget. Information on the budget approval process, including the schedule for budget public hearings, is available [here](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT BEST STARTS FOR KIDS

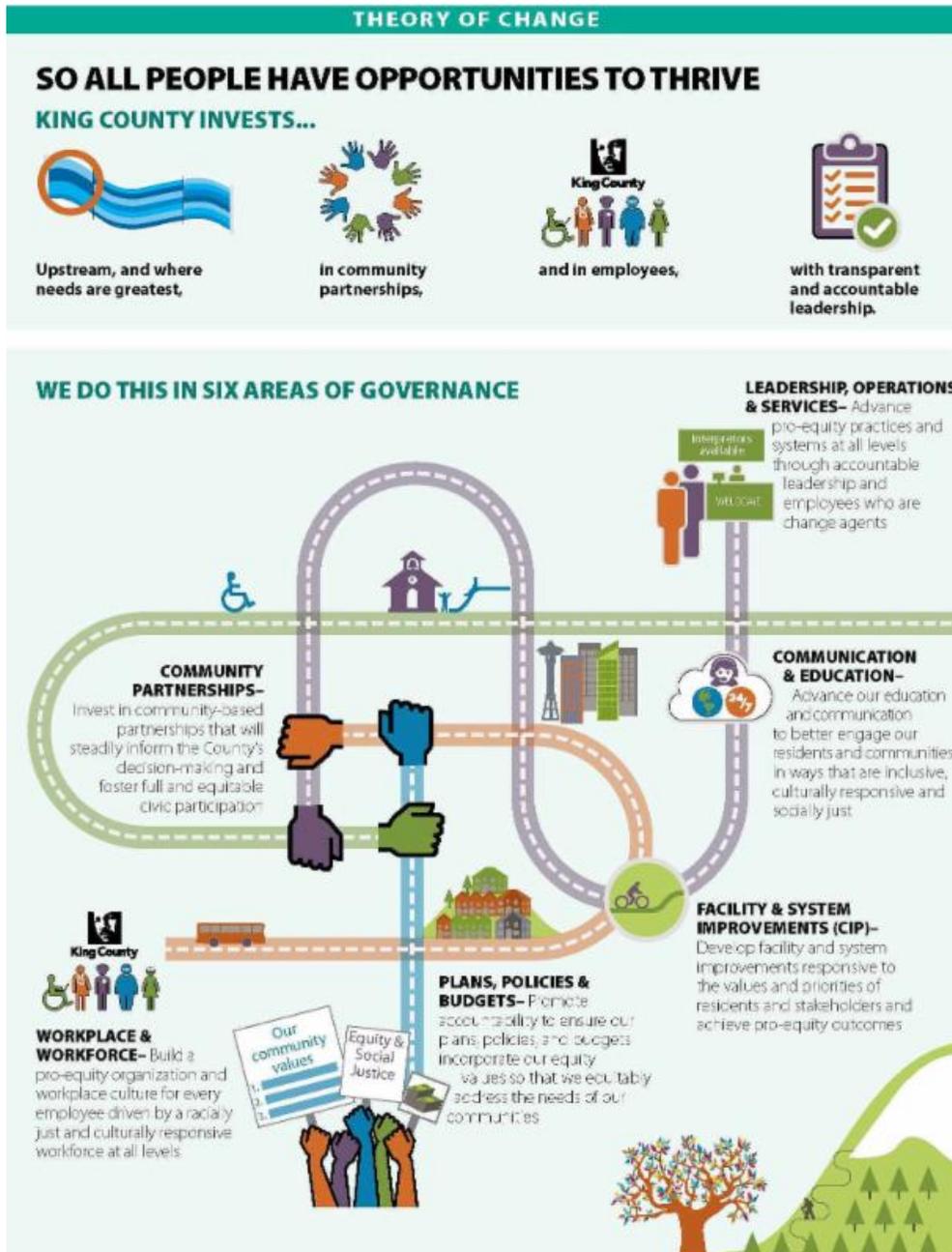
First-ever health survey to show needs and strengths of King County families

As posted on the Best Starts for Kids blog: 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. With a new community-wide survey started in August, King County will begin to fill this gap. The [Best Starts for Kids \(BSK\) health survey](#) is sponsored by the voter-approved [Best Starts for Kids initiative](#) and was developed in consultation with local experts and trusted community-based organizations.

The results will provide vital baseline information about King County children; results will be shared with the public in 2017. Follow-up surveys in 2018 and 2020 will track the effectiveness of BSK activities. [Read more](#).

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN RELEASED

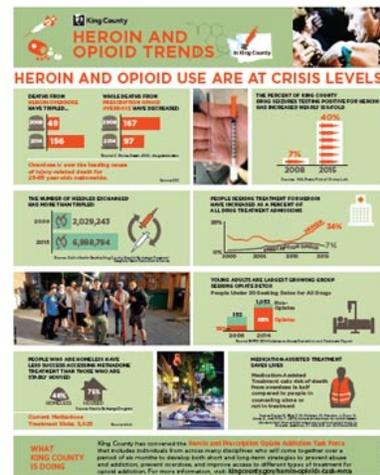
King County has produced our first Strategic Plan for Equity and Social Justice (ESJ), co-created with employees and community partners. The Plan is a six-year blueprint for action and change that will guide our pro-equity policy direction, our decision-making, planning, operations and services, and our workplace practices in order to advance equity and social justice within County government and in partnership with communities. [Read more.](#)



HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION OPIATE ADDICTION TASK FORCE DELIVERS RECOMMENDATIONS

On September 15, the [Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force](#) presented its [Final Report and Recommendations](#) to County Executive Constantine, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus and Renton Mayor Dennis Law. The recommendations provide action-oriented efforts to prevent opioid use disorders, provide access to on-demand treatment and offer harm reduction for people throughout the County who experience opioid use disorders.

Task Force sponsors are currently reviewing the recommendations. The Task Force will convene again within three months to hear feedback from the sponsors about implementation of recommendations.



ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

Medicaid Demonstration Waiver agreement signals expanding role for ACH

After months of detailed negotiations, the Washington State Health Care Authority announced an agreement-in-principle with the federal government on a five-year [Medicaid demonstration waiver](#) to continue implementing the governor's [Healthier Washington](#) plan.

You can read a Question and Answer blog post about the waiver on Public Health Insider [here](#).

The five-year demonstration will include \$375 million to support critical services for Apple Health clients and \$1.1 billion in incentives for locally-driven delivery system reform. Accountable Communities of Health across the state will play a pivotal role in selecting and monitoring waiver-funded Medicaid Transformation Projects to integrate care, improve population health and bend the Medicaid cost curve. These are not grants; funding for transformation projects will become available only after achievement of negotiated milestones. In the coming months, the state and federal governments will continue negotiating the details of this agreement and the [King County ACH](#) will receive more specific guidance about the parameters of this exciting opportunity. In preparation for this large body of work, the Governance subcommittee of the ACH is working on a plan to establish the ACH as a legal entity and to formalize the governance structure.

Housing-Health Partnership Project

The [King County ACH Interim Leadership Council](#) has selected the Housing-Health Partnership project as its first official ACH regional health improvement project. The Housing and Health Partnership project addresses significant health disparities faced by many Medicaid recipients living in public housing in Seattle and King County. Partners include: Mercy Housing Northwest, Global to Local, Neighborcare, Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, Public Health-Seattle & King County and HealthPoint. The project expands the use of community health workers to prevent and manage chronic disease. The Housing and Health Partnership group is taking steps to further integrate data with Seattle-King County Public Health and the Department of Commerce. They are also identifying additional resources for their work.

Community/Consumer Voice Work Group

An important goal of the King County ACH is that work reflects the local needs and priorities of our communities. One way we do that is through our Community/Consumer Voice Work Group. The Community/Consumer Voice Ad Hoc Work Group is part of the King County Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Interim Leadership Council. Composed of ACH Council members and other interested parties (and supported by King County staff), its focus is to provide guidance on appropriate methods and levels of authentic community engagement for the King County ACH.

Current priority areas include:

- Engage individual community members on targeted topics
- Provide information and engage community leaders, groups, and organizations about the Medicaid Transformation Waiver as planning moves forward
- Propose ways to intentionally focus ACH governing body makes decisions on disparities and equity

If you are interested in getting involved with this work group, please contact [Candace Jackson](#).

FAMILIAR FACES

Familiar Faces is a systems coordination effort toward better outcomes for high utilizers of the jail who have physical and behavioral health issues. Here are some things the initiative is working on:

VITAL Team Update

VITAL is the newly adopted name for an Intensive Care Management program that provides comprehensive and integrated services to adults who are experiencing mental health conditions and/or co-occurring substance use issues with flexible community-based support. The services include ongoing coordination with criminal justice system partners in order to support reentry as well as reduce incarceration and crisis system utilization.

The VITAL team has enrolled 26 clients since its launch in July of this year, which surpasses program enrollment targets. Staff is currently finalizing a dashboard that will provide real time data on program performance. The program has already identified cross-systems barriers, such as Releases of Information and language barriers, that create coordination impediments and competing priorities, which translates to poor client outcomes. The VITAL program is working collaboratively with the Familiar Faces Steering Committee to remediate such hindrances across systems. [Learn more](#).

Connecting providers with prosecutorial resources

One of the challenges community providers encounter in helping "Familiar Faces" navigate social and health system are the lack of seamless contact with the criminal justice system and records that can help assess eligibility for programs and services such as housing. To address this, King County, in collaboration with criminal justice stakeholders, launched a coordinated multi-jurisdictional system to reduce some of the legal barriers that contribute to client recidivism and wellbeing. Known as prosecutorial diversion, this approach allows community providers-with permission of their clients-to communicate directly with prosecutors involved in their criminal justice cases. This approach not only helps to identify legal barriers that may impact eligibility for social services but also allows for more seamless filing for dismissing charges or warrants.

Single Diversion Portal

Planning is underway to develop a Single Diversion Portal that will enable first responders (law enforcement, fire, and other first responders) to quickly access resources to help divert individuals with mental health or substance use disorders from utilizing jail and emergency departments. A "single portal" through which all regional diversion initiatives and programs can be accessed will provide a coordinated triage system. The next meeting of the Single Diversion Portal workgroup that is planning this work is set for October 24, 10 am to Noon. Contact [Jesse Benet](#) for more information.

REACHING UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED FOR FREE MEDICAL, DENTAL, & VISION CARE AT SEATTLE/KING COUNTY CLINIC

Healthcare organizations, civic agencies, non-profits, private businesses, and volunteers from around the region are collaborating in an effort to provide quality care for those in underserved and vulnerable populations. The *free health clinic will be hosted for four days* at KeyArena in Seattle Center. A full range of medical, dental, and vision services are offered-including but not limited to dental fillings and extractions, complete eye exams, free prescription eyeglasses, mammograms, Pap smears, flu vaccine, and foot care. There are no qualifying requirements. The Seattle/King County Clinic is the largest clinic of its kind within the state and is hoping to make its third year successful! Please visit the links below for more information.

When: Thursday, October 27 - Sunday, October 30, 2016

Where: KeyArena at Seattle Center, 401 1st Ave N Seattle, WA 98109

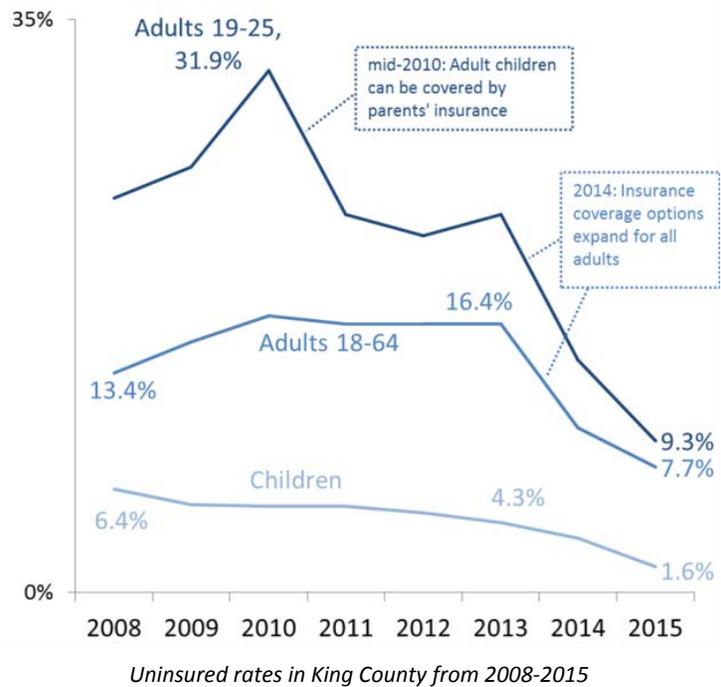
Volunteers needed - Volunteer healthcare professionals and volunteers in non-medical support roles are needed. Volunteers can work one or all four days. For more information, including instructions on how to register, please visit <http://seattlecenter.org/volunteers/>.

Patient outreach - Everyone is welcome, but the Seattle/King County Clinic focuses on providing services to those who are uninsured or underinsured, immigrant and refugee communities, and people experiencing homelessness. Detailed information about the clinic, including flyers in 12 languages, is available at <http://seattlecenter.org/patients/>.

FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER: THANKS TO AGGRESSIVE ACA ENROLLMENT EFFORTS, KING COUNTY CUTS UNINSURED RATE IN HALF

We have more evidence for how much the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is helping King County residents and how Public Health's enrollment outreach is paying off. The percentage of working-age adults without insurance has fallen by more than half, according to newly released data from the US Census Bureau (the gold standard for tracking how many people have insurance).

In King County, only 7.7% of adults age 18-64 lack health insurance. That's the lowest level on record (going back nearly 30 years, and probably the lowest level ever). [Read more.](#)



RFI PROCESS FOR MEDICAL/DENTAL/ACCESS FUNDING

Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) and the City of Seattle are in the early planning stages for a competitive Request for Investments (RFI) process for Medical/Dental/Access funding to be conducted in 2017 for funding to begin on January 1, 2018. These funds are managed by PHSKC on behalf of the City of Seattle. The Community Health Partnership funding was last competed in 2007. Since then, many changes have occurred in the health safety net system including implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act, Medicaid Expansion in Washington State and new City of Seattle and King County initiatives to address health services transformation, race, equity and social justice and homelessness.

Goals of the RFI Include:

- Improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations and reduce health disparities by increasing quality and access
- Strengthen the health safety net system by improving cooperation and cohesion among agencies
- Respond to changes in the health safety net system resulting from implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid Expansion in Washington State
- Align City of Seattle and King County investments with City, County and State initiatives to improve health and well-being

As part of our planning, we have scheduled a Stakeholder Engagement Event to gather input to shape the goals for the RFI. The event is scheduled for **November 4, 2016 from 11am to 12pm at the New Holly Gathering Hall**, 7054 32nd Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118.

For more information, please contact [Anne Meegan](#), Program Manager, Community Health Partnerships, Public Health-Seattle & King County.

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. COO is a public-private partnership between King County and Seattle Foundation. Continued funding for COO is included in the Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, which was [unanimously approved](#) by King County Council on September 19.

Communities of Opportunity connects local residents with tech careers

The Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) recently featured Communities of Opportunity's work to expand local hiring opportunities for communities of color. A total of 110 community members attended the tech career event in Rainier Valley to hear directly from technology professionals, employers, and training providers about new opportunities and resources meant to attract more women and people of color to enter our local tech workforce. 75% of the attendees were people of color and nearly half were from COO communities. [Read more.](#)

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.

Good Food Bags are affordable, healthy option for King County families

Summer is a busy time for our PICH partners building affordable, healthy food access in King County. Members of Public Health's Healthy Eating and Active Living unit visited **Seattle Tilth** to help pack Good Food Bags and learn more about this program to deliver half price, local produce to King County families with limited financial resources. [Read more.](#)



Teeing up fresh produce for south King County at former golf course

King County TV visited **Elk Run Farm** and the **South King County Food Coalition** to find out more about how a former golf course is supplying fresh produce to South King County families in need, and growing community in Maple Valley in the process. Check out the [video here.](#)

Growing gardens and children

In partnership with **Childcare Resources**, Public Health installed 13 garden beds at family home childcare sites. The garden beds are part of an ongoing project to make sure kids in family home childcare centers eat healthier, stay active, and achieve more. Learn more about this project in [this video](#) from Childcare Resources and the Somali Health Board.

