

# Health & Human Services Transformation Update

Here's the latest about our work toward the Health & Human Services 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.

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## 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 is currently in review by the King County Council. The COO portion of the plan will be discussed at the Council meeting, Tuesday afternoon, August 16. Visit the King County Council [agenda page](#) for more information.

### [Community-owned data is our truest form of accountability](#)

As noted in a recent Best Starts for Kids Blog post, collecting and analyzing social determinants of health data to inform strategies that improve health is a focus for Public Health - Seattle & King County. But, we don't always have the resources to collect neighborhood level data. Our community partnerships through Communities of Opportunity (COO) are working to change that. [Read the post.](#)

### [Why 50-year-old housing practices could be linked to poor health outcomes today](#)

A new post featured on Public Health Insider explains how residential segregation could be linked to poor health outcomes today. The post also points to Communities of Opportunity as one way to create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive regardless of race or place. [Read the post.](#)

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## BEST STARTS FOR KIDS



The [Best Starts for Kids](#) Implementation Plan is currently in review by King County Council. You can visit the King County Council [agenda page](#) for information on upcoming meetings when the Best Starts for Kids initiative will be discussed. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 16.

### Children and Youth Advisory Board

For Best Starts for Kids, we've had the fortune of working with a broad range of community and content experts through our Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB). The CYAB brings together many leaders working to create a healthier place for all King County children and families. Their work as members of the Advisory Board is just one piece of that leadership. Learn more about how Board members are positively impacting our community at this blog post: [Children and Youth Advisory Board members leading change in many ways](#)

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## ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH IN KING COUNTY

### ACHs and Value-Based Payment

[King County Accountable Community of Health](#) (ACH) is one of nine regions working with Washington State to make shifts in the health care system to achieve better health, better care, and lower costs. A key piece of this approach is a shift in the way the state reimburses health care providers--particularly for Medicaid. Currently, payment systems reward volume of services--such as number of tests ordered. The ACH will support statewide efforts to move towards new payment systems that reward good outcomes.

The Health Care Authority has developed a [Value-based Road Map](#). The road map sets an ambitious goal of linking 90 percent of the payments they make to health care providers to quality and value by 2021. This document is an important framework and provides context for the Medicaid Transformation Waiver currently being negotiated at the state and federal level.

### Want to learn about Supportive Housing Services and Medicaid? Webinars available in August

Two state agencies are hosting [webinars](#) throughout August to provide information on supportive housing and Medicaid payments. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with supports for tenants and case management for people with complex needs at risk for chronic homelessness. The approach would create a Medicaid benefit to pay for these services provided in permanent supportive housing.

Currently, state organizations are negotiating a Medicaid Waiver with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to create 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 the educational webinars for supportive housing providers and other housing and health stakeholders.

## **FAMILIAR FACES**

### **Intensive Care Management Team begins enrollment**

Intensive Care Management provides comprehensive and integrated services to adults who are experiencing behavioral health challenges (mental health conditions and/or co-occurring substance use issues), need an intensive level of community-based support, and may be experiencing homelessness. This is one of the [Familiar Faces](#) "go-first" strategies. The newly formed [Intensive Care Management Team](#), provided by Evergreen Treatment Services REACH program and Harborview Behavioral Health, is almost fully staffed and began enrolling Familiar Faces on July 5, 2016.

### **Working to find additional ways to avoid individuals from becoming or remaining Familiar Faces**

The Familiar Faces Steering Committee is focusing on Diversion and Reentry. Diversion keeps individuals from becoming Familiar Faces, and Reentry works to support current Familiar Faces. The Steering Committee is working to identify issues, barriers and resources needed to support Familiar Faces' "go-first" strategies and move the initiative forward.



### **Welcoming LaMont Green, Familiar Faces Project Manager**

LaMont Green recently joined King County as Familiar Faces Project Manager. LaMont comes to us from the City of Tacoma Office of Equity and Human Rights where he served as a Senior Policy Analyst. In this position, he provided in-depth policy analysis and leadership in implementing equitable systems change for the Tacoma Police Department, Community and Economic Development, and Neighborhood and Community Services.

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## **HEROIN AND OPIATE ADDICTION TASK FORCE**

The [Heroin and Opiate Addiction Task Force](#) is finalizing recommendations to task force sponsors King County Executive Constantine, Seattle Mayor Murray, Renton Mayor Law and Auburn Mayor Backus. Recommendations will be included in a report and will address primary prevention, treatment expansion and enhancement and user health and overdose prevention. Task Force members have been actively engaged in work group meetings, community outreach events and research to gather the best ideas available to respond to the challenge of opioid addiction. Because the need for an urgent response is great, the Task Force members have initiated many efforts to respond already, including expanding the use of Naloxone throughout the County. The final Task Force report will be submitted to the sponsors by September 30, 2016.

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## **PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH**

King County [Partnerships to Improve Community Health](#) (PICH) works with local agencies to implement evidence-based and promising practices to improve nutrition and increase physical activity, prevent tobacco use and reduce health disparities in south Seattle and south King County.

### **Integrating tobacco cessation into Community Health Worker programs**

Public Health's Tobacco Prevention Program is helping train Community Health Workers (CHWs) to support clients in quitting tobacco. So far, 62 CHWs in 6 organizations have received the training, reaching 6,000 clients with life-saving tools on quitting tobacco. For more information contact Nori de la Pena: [norilyn.delapena@kingcounty.gov](mailto:norilyn.delapena@kingcounty.gov)

### **FEEST launches youth-led counter marketing campaign**

Over the past year and a half, Public Health partnered with the Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team (FEEST) to develop a youth-centered, culturally relevant marketing campaign around healthy eating.

FEEST's youth interns attended the Allied Media Conference in Detroit to learn about media advocacy, attended an intensive summer workshop, and worked throughout the school year alongside FEEST staff and media professionals to develop messages and imagery for the campaign. Look for this campaign on t-shirts, buses, and murals in White Center and Delridge, or [read more here](#).

