

April 27, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEH) Strategic Plan 2015-2019

STAFF CONTACTS

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, CMO, 452-4225

Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, Parks & Community Services, 452-6452

POLICY ISSUES

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEH) is seeking endorsement of the Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 from local governments in King County. Support of a regional initiative to address homelessness is consistent with multiple policy statements from the Human Services and Housing Elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2003, planning to end homelessness became a national initiative of the federal government and has since become a requirement for continued receipt of close to \$30 million in annual grant assistance to jurisdictions within King County from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County began in 2005 and offered a blueprint for how the region would work together to confront the issues that cause homelessness and create the housing and supportive services needed to end homelessness for the thousands of men, women and children who lived without a permanent roof over their heads. The plan was approved by the Metropolitan King County Council and endorsed by Bellevue and other cities representing 85 percent of the county's population, as well as by dozens of social organizations and faith communities countywide.

The federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing, or HEARTH Act, was signed into law in May 2009. The HEARTH Act governs Seattle and King County's largest source of federal funding. It amended and reauthorized the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 with a number of substantial changes, including an increase in emphasis on system performance.

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEH) Governing Board, charged with building political will countywide and overseeing plan implementation, includes a seat for a Bellevue elected official. Other key committees included the Interagency Council, comprised of representatives of multiple providers, funders, faith organizations, and other groups that serve or are affected by homelessness, the Consumer Advisory Council made up of homeless or formerly homeless individuals, and task groups addressing issues for the population groups of families, youth and young adults, and single adults. These committees work together to set priorities, develop detailed action plans, and coordinate implementation activities.

Councilmember John Chelminiak represents Bellevue on the Governing Board and Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, is one of two East King County representatives on the Interagency Council and Funders Group and also serves on the Single Adult Advisory Group. Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Planner, serves on the Family Advisory Group.

The original Ten-Year Plan set an aspirational goal and the response resulted in significant partnerships and outcomes. During the last 10 years, 5,700 additional housing units for homeless were secured in King County and nearly 40,000 people exited homelessness for stable housing. Of those who exited homelessness, 85% stabilized in housing for at least two years. However, the economic recession had a significant impact on homelessness and the numbers of homeless have increased, not decreased.

In the January 2015 *One Night Count* of homeless, there were 3,772 people found living unsheltered, on sidewalks, in cars, and tents in King County. Another 6,171 individuals were living in shelters or temporary housing for homeless. Of the total unsheltered, 134 were counted in selected urban areas on the Eastside (Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland). The 2015 *Count Us In* (a companion point-in-time count of homeless youth) counted 134 unsheltered homeless youth/young adults and a total of 824 unstably housed young people.

Bellevue's Investments in Homelessness Services: In 2015 the City has over \$2.1 million in capital funding and operating support for programs addressing homelessness and affordable housing. (Included as Attachment A). This includes crisis response and housing such as emergency assistance, eviction prevention, emergency winter and year-round shelters, day centers, transitional housing and permanent housing with support services. It also includes the City's investment in affordable housing development through A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and preserving the City's housing stock through the Major and Minor Home Repair Programs. In 2013, these programs reported serving over 2,700 Bellevue residents (duplicated count).

The non-profit agencies supported by the City are also participating in several of the countywide system changes underway through CEH such as the Family Homelessness Initiative and the federally mandated county-wide coordinated entry system for homeless families implemented two years ago. Another system change currently underway is in the type of housing in which homeless families are placed. For example, there are plans for existing transitional housing units, such as Hopelink Place in Bellevue and Avondale Park in Redmond, to be converted to permanent housing or permanent supportive housing for families who have greater needs.

CEH Project Director Mark Putnam will provide an overview of the proposed Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 at the April 27 study session. Co-presenting will be Meghan Altimore, Vice President of Community Services for Hopelink. Each of the three Goals of the Plan include proposed outcomes, strategies and action steps. Although there are lead organizations identified for most of the action steps, details on the costs to implement each strategy have not yet been determined. The Strategic Plan Timeline is included as Attachment B, and a draft Interest Statement on the Plan has been prepared by staff for Council consideration at a later date and is included as Attachment C.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide comments on the draft Interest Statement and direct staff to prepare a resolution supporting the goals of the CEH Strategic Plan 2015-2019. Both the Interest Statement and Resolution are to be considered for action at a future meeting.

2. Provide staff with alternative direction.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide comments on the draft Interest Statement and direct staff to prepare a resolution supporting the goals of the CEH Strategic Plan 2015-2019. Both the Interest Statement and Resolution are to be considered for action at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Homeless/Housing Related Programs

Attachment B: CEH Strategic Plan Timeline

Attachment C: Draft Interest Statement Regarding CEH Strategic Plan for 2015-2019

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

CEH Strategic Plan 2015-2019 – Final Draft, April 15, 2015