



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

King County Regional Homelessness Authority: Proposed Revisions to the Interlocal Agreement

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HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Agenda

- King County Regional Homelessness Authority Interlocal Agreement (ILA)
- Rationale for revising ILA
- Major proposed changes to ILA
- Process for approving ILA
- Next steps

Current ILA - Background

- Signed by Seattle Mayor and King County Executive on December 18, 2019
- Established KCRHA as a separate, regional governmental entity under RCW 39.34.030
- Seattle and King County committed to transfer most of their homeless services funding to KCRHA, who then administers contracts with homeless service providers
- Homelessness services includes shelters, day centers, diversion programs, rapid rehousing, and safe parking. It does not include development of new affordable housing
- For first five years (until December 18, 2024) neither party can unilaterally withdraw from ILA. After five years, agreement will automatically renew unless terminated

Purpose of KCRHA

- Purpose is to provide consolidated, aligned services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness, in order to reduce the incidence of unsheltered homelessness
- Regional homelessness authority is one of multiple strategies needed to effectively address homelessness

Current ILA – Major Components

- Governance structure
 - Implementation Board
 - Governing Committee
- Continuum of Care (CoC) Board serves as Advisory Committee to Implementation Board
- Purpose, mission and guiding principles
- Powers of authority and limits to powers
- Process for requesting funds, approving budgets and contracting
- Chief Executive Office expectations

Rationale for Revising ILA

- Create a more effective governance structure that provides better oversight and accountability, in order to help improve the functioning of KCRHA and rebuild public trust in the agency
- Address other opportunities to improve ILA, including clarity around mission and scope and clarity around CEO expectations.

Revised ILA – Summary of Proposed Changes

Governance Structure

- Reduces the number of oversight entities from two (Implementation Board and Governing Committee) to one (Governing Board)
- Like the Governing Committee, the Governing Board will have 12 members
 - Nine elected officials will be the same members currently serving on the Governing Committee (Seattle Mayor, King County Executive, 2 Seattle Councilmembers, 2 King County Councilmembers, 3 Sound Cities Association elected officials)
 - Three lived experience members will now be appointed by the elected officials from each caucus (Seattle, King County and Sound Cities Association), instead of the CoC Care Board
 - Lived experience members should now also have subject matter expertise, which is not required under the current ILA

Revised ILA – Summary of Proposed Changes

Governance Structure (continued)

- Provides clear authority and powers to the Governing Board to set strategic direction, make major policy decisions, approve the annual budget, provide financial oversight and monitor performance of KCRHA, the homeless system and homeless programs

Continuum of Care Board

- Provides the option for the CoC Board to serve as an Advisory Committee to the Governing Board
- CoC Board is required under 24 CFR, Part 578 to receive \$60 million in federal funds
- CoC Board retains control of CoC funding priorities and the Coordinated Entry process, as required by federal statute

Revised ILA – Summary of Proposed Changes

Mission and Scope

- Clarifies that KCRHA's mission is to reduce unsheltered homelessness by administering services that meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness (i.e. shelter, hygiene centers, transitional housing and rapid rehousing)
- Adds new section on KCRHA's existing scope of work

Guiding Principles

- KCRHA should be guided by housing first and other approaches that are evidence based and can successfully meet the full needs of those experiencing homelessness – including approaches that support recovery and behavioral health needs. (King County, not KCRHA, remains fully responsible for behavioral health services)

Revised ILA – Summary of Proposed Changes

Other Changes

- ILA to continue indefinitely until terminated; either Seattle or King County can unilaterally terminate at any time
- Creates more overt expectations for the Chief Executive Officer.
- Strengthens reporting obligations, including new requirements for financial reports, progress on annual workplans and CoC activities while continuing existing reporting requirements such as annual performance metrics
- Other changes for purposes of clarifying original intent, clarifying processes, making technical corrections and accommodating the transition from one governance structure to another

Process to revise ILA

- Involves four different parties – Seattle City Council, King County Council, the Seattle Mayor and the King County Executive
- Both legislative bodies must pass legislation to approve the revised ILA. Once the Mayor and the County Executive sign the ILA, it will go into effect on the date of the last signature
- King County's legislative process involves both King County Council and the Regional Policy Committee (RPC)
- Any proposed amendments may result in delays to finalizing and executing the revised ILA. If Councilmembers want to amend the ILA, such changes would need to be negotiated with the other three parties and, depending on where King County is in their process, may need to go back to the RPC

Next Steps (tentative schedule – subject to change)

Seattle

- Housing & Human Services Committee (discussion and possible vote) - September 11
- City Council (final action) – soonest possible date would be September 17

King County

- Committee of the Whole – August 27
- Regional Policy Committee (discussion only) – September 3
- Committee of the Whole (action) – September 24
- Regional Policy Committee (action) – September 30
- County Council (final action) – by October 15

Questions?