

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

Committee on Housing Affordability, Human Services and Economic Resiliency
December 17, 2015

ORGANIZATION & OVERVIEW

A. Organization chart

See attached Org Chart and list of 2015 accomplishments

B. Overview

Public Health - Seattle & King County (Public Health) works to identify and promote the conditions under which all people can live within healthy communities and can achieve optimal health. Our goal is to protect and improve the health and well-being of all people in King County as measured by increasing the number of healthy years that people live and eliminating health disparities. Public Health is the one of the largest metropolitan health departments in the United States with 1400 employees and over 30 sites. The department serves a resident population of two million people in an environment of great complexity and scale, with 19 acute care hospitals and over 7000 medical professionals. Over 100 languages are spoken here, and King County is an international destination welcoming 30 million visitors annually.

Public Health protects the public from threats to their health, promotes better health, and helps to assure that people are provided with accessible, quality health care.

Department functions are carried out through core prevention programs, environmental health programs, personal health care services via a system of clinics and partnerships with community agencies, emergency medical services, correctional health services in the two King County jails, emergency preparedness programs, and public health public information, assessment and evaluation, and policy development.

C. Budget Snapshot

Public Health – Seattle & King County is one of the largest metropolitan health departments in the United States with annual budget of \$318 million. In addition to annual funding the City of Seattle provides for enhanced services, in 2015 Seattle allocated one time funds to cover an unexpected shortfall. The Seattle contribution in 2015 is detailed below:

Program	2015
Health Care for the Homeless Network	\$1,713,251
Community Health Centers (pass-through to community providers)	\$6,961,223
Infant Mortality Prevention (pass-through to community providers)	\$119,471
Seattle Access & Outreach	\$158,369
Methadone Treatment Access	\$560,464
Needle Exchange	\$432,661
HIV/AIDS Prevention – Community Based HIV Testing	\$163,801
HIV/AIDS Case Management	\$278,317
Community Based Oral Health	\$133,299

Public Health Leadership	\$45,296
Data and Evaluation Support	\$62,648
Domestic Violence Symposium	\$5,327
One-time contribution – Greenbridge	\$150,000
	Total \$10,784,172

D. Authorizing legislation

Public Health – Seattle & King County is a joint department of the City of Seattle and King County, a partnership that has been in place since 1951. An interlocal agreement between the County and the City outlines the principles of this partnership, which maintain that King County is ultimately responsible for delivery of public health services, including in the City, while the City has responsibility over its own financial contribution, but also has a strong advisory influence on overall policies that impact public health activities in Seattle. The City’s contributions are voluntary and must be used to enhance services in Seattle. The interlocal agreement has been in effect since 1996; it was updated in 2011.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.80.010 authorizes combined city-county health departments. It states “Any city with one hundred thousand or more population and the county in which it is located, are authorized as shall be agreed upon between the respective governing bodies of such city and said county, to establish and operate a combined city and county health department, and to appoint the director of public health.”

The King County Board of Health has the authority to develop and adopt rules and regulations for the protection of the health of King County. Public Health – Seattle & King County is responsible for carrying out the regulations set forth by the Board. The King County Board of Health is a federated body composed of three King County Council members, three City of Seattle Council members, two members appointed by the Sound Cities Association representing the other jurisdictions in King County, and three health professional members appointed by the elected members of the Board.

CURRENT ISSUES

ISSUE: CRISIS REPNSE TO HOMELESSNESS STATE OF EMERGENCY

Description/Background: In response to the increasingly significant needs of our region’s homeless population, Public Health will be partnering with HSD, other City departments and community agencies to address this crisis. Public Health has unique expertise related to the health of the homeless population through the work of our Health Care for the Homeless Network as well as health, safety and sanitation best practices for homeless encampments through Environmental Health’s Food and Facilities and Solid Waste programs.

ISSUE: SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

Description/Background:

- a. Enrollment efforts. In this third year of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), enrollment efforts are targeted to those residents who are hardest to reach. With an initial grant from the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, Public Health has created a network of in-person assistors (enrollment specialists) from many local organizations and hosted strategic enrollment events including one at City Hall on 11/7/2015. This enrollment season the outreach will be targeting zip codes in Seattle that have residents potentially eligible

for a Qualified Health Plan or Apple Health. There will be enrollment assistance throughout Seattle with a special focus on 98122, 98118, 98108, 98105, 98125, 98103, and communities of colors with outreach to Hispanic and Vietnamese small business owners (i.e. restaurants, stores, nail salons) and African American owned taxi-cab companies.

- b. Orca LIFT. Building on ACA enrollment success, Public Health is the lead agency for enrolling low-income residents in Metro's reduce fare program, Orca LIFT. 12,672 residents have been enrolled to date as of 7/10/15. 60% (7,603) of the enrollments are from the City of Seattle. Outreach has been expanded to include the City of Seattle Court Resource Center, Recovery Café and the Union Gospel Mission. Gay City is the primary enrollment location for residents living in the Capitol Hill area.
- c. Utility Discount Program (UDP). Application assistance is integrated in all the outreach Public Health conducts in Seattle and the Seattle City Light service area. Public Health has submitted about 110 UDP application through 09/30/2015 and the team is scheduling UPD enrollment events in January at Seattle Central Community College and the Tukwila School District (families living in Tukwila receive City of Seattle utility bills) to increase access to application assistance.
- d. Transforming the delivery of health and human services. The City of Seattle contributed to a countywide Transformation Plan, which calls for an accountable and integrated system of health, human services, and community-based prevention. The goal is that by 2020, residents will experience significant gains in health and wellbeing because our community worked collectively to make the shift from a costly, crisis-oriented response to health and social problems, to one that focuses on prevention, embraces recovery, and eliminates disparities. Work in two initial focus areas is underway: 1) Familiar Faces, an individual-level strategy that partners with adults who have complex health and social needs; and 2) Communities of Opportunity, a community-level strategy that works with communities to shape the health and well-being of their residents and the vibrancy of their neighborhoods.
- e. Familiar Faces. The Familiar Faces initiative is systems coordination for individuals who are high utilizers of the jail (defined as having been booked four or more times in a twelve-month period) and who also have a mental health and/or substance use condition.
 - I. A future vision for how systems can better serve "familiar faces" and improve their health and social outcomes, the quality of services they receive and lower costs has been developed by the Design Team. This work began in 2014, when a group of senior leaders from within the community and King County commissioned a Design Team to map the current state for this population as they transition from the jail to and within the community.
 - II. The Design Team is meeting to define shared outcomes as a first step towards implementing some "go first" pilots that could be fundable through the state's pending Medicaid Waiver that would support projects to test out redesigns of the health care delivery system.

ISSUE: SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEST STARTS FOR KIDS LEVY

Description/Background: Best Starts for Kids is an initiative to improve the health and well-being of King County by investing in prevention and early intervention for children, youth, families, and communities. The levy will generate about \$65 million per year to fund strategies targeting residents throughout King County, including those in the City of Seattle. It will be the most comprehensive approach to early childhood development in the nation, starting with prenatal support, sustaining the gain through teenage years, and investing in healthy, safe communities that reinforce progress. Public Health – Seattle & King County, along with the King County Department of Community and Human Services are leading the effort to bring the levy investment on-line in 2016 including creation of an advisory board and the development of an implementation plan.