Convening of Cities
March 11, 2016

Wifi PWD: Tukwilarental
[Photo Credit Rex Hohlbein, Facing Homelessness]
Welcome & Opening Remarks

Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus
Sound Cities Association President and All Home Coordinating Board Member

Mark Putnam
All Home Director
Homelessness in King County

**Number of Households Housed**

- 2012: 677
- 2013: 748
- 2014: 714
- 2015: 507 (through Q3)

**Length of Time in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing (Days)**

- 2013: 151
- 2014: 112
- 2015: 130 (through Q3)

**Households Returning to Homelessness After Exiting to Permanent Housing**

- 2013: 20%
- 2014: 16%
- 2015: 12% (through Q3)

**Homelessness is in every zip code in King County**

**87% are from King County**

**50% are homeless for the first time**

For more info, visit allhomekc.org
Community-level Determinants of Homelessness

Research of 300+ cities and states found statistical correlation between these factors and rising homelessness:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing market</td>
<td>Increase in rent of $100 associated with 15% increase in homelessness in metro and 39% in rural/suburban areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic conditions</td>
<td>Areas with high poverty and unemployment rates associated with higher rates of homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic composition</td>
<td>Areas with more Hispanic, baby boomer, and single person households associated with higher rates of homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety net</td>
<td>States with lower mental health expenditures associated with higher rates of homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transience</td>
<td>Areas with more recently moved people associated with higher rates of homelessness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On November 2, 2015, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine issued declarations that **homelessness is in a state of emergency**.

Emergency declarations are associated with natural disasters, but the persistent and growing phenomenon of homelessness—here and nationwide—is a human-made crisis just as devastating to thousands as a flood or fire, said Executive Constantine.
The goal of the declaration was to draw attention to the large increase in the number of people sleeping outside in the region, often in unsafe conditions.

Moreover, the SOE declaration was an effort to:

1. Inject new emergency funding in programs serving the unsheltered
2. Request additional assistance from state and federal partners
3. Broaden public engagement and built greater awareness of the issue
Homelessness is Rare, Brief, and One-Time

Goal 1: RARE: Address the causes of homelessness

Goal 2: BRIEF, ONE-TIME: Improve and expand existing programs and processes

Goal 3: COMMUNITY: Engage the entire Community to End Homelessness

Data-driven governance and accountability

Person-centered, collaborative, compassionate, equitable

Less homeless           Fewer days            Reduced disparity
More housed          Fewer returns           Increased support
Fewer returns            Fewer returns           Increased support

Vision
Outcomes
Goal & Strategy for achieving our vision (for all populations)
How we work together
Our values
The National Context

Katy Miller
Regional Coordinator, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
USICH’s Role

• Create and Lead a Common Vision

• Establish Policy Priorities and Align Strategic Actions

• Reduce Fragmentation and Duplication

• Drive the National Implementation of Cost-Effective Solutions
Opening Doors, as amended in 2015

• Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
• Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
• Prevent and end homelessness for families, children, and youth in 2020.
• Set a path for ending all types of homelessness in 2020.

Read the plan: https://www.usich.gov/opening-doors
## Five Themes of Opening Doors

1. Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement
2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing
3. Increase economic security
4. Improve health and stability
5. Retool the homeless crisis response system

### Vision
The vision of Opening Doors is simple: no one should experience homelessness—no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

### Action Areas
Opening Doors directs us to take action across 10 objectives:

#### Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

- **Objective 1:** Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Americans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness.

#### Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

- **Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to prevent and end homelessness.

#### Increase Economic Security

- **Objective 4:** Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness.

#### Improve Health and Stability

- **Objective 7:** Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people’s vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness.

- **Objective 8:** Advance health and housing stability for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice.

- **Objective 9:** Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice.

### Retool the Homelessness Crisis Response System

- **Objective 10:** Transform homelessness services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing.
Population Breakdown

- Veterans
- Chronic
- Families
- Youth

Opening Doors
Regional Trends

• Increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness in West Coast Cities
• Need for more affordable housing and an affordability plan
• Must focus on long-term permanent housing solutions and not just the immediate crisis
• Increasing alignment between local, state, federal agencies
Growing Unsheltered Numbers

The increase in number of people living unsheltered and in encampments tells us:

• That we need more effective response systems to address the challenge of homelessness.

• Encampments are not a “solution” for people experiencing homelessness and communities.

• Providing lasting solutions and ending the homelessness requires a thoughtful, coordinated, and collaborative plan.

• People need to be linked to the right housing solutions
Approaches that work

• A regional coordinated response
• Ensuring a “Housing First” orientation to housing and services
• Coordinated outreach and assessment
• Focusing efforts and funding on approaches that quickly move people out of homelessness to permanent housing
• Think of shelter as a low barrier tool to move people inside and quickly out of homelessness
Ending Veteran Homelessness
Lessons Learned from Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Leadership at the highest levels
- Alignment of resources and goals with federal and state agencies
- Implementing a coordinated system to: 1) identify, 2) assess, and 3) rapidly place into appropriate housing
- Fully utilizing federal VASH and SSVF and leveraging other local housing resources
- Working with urgency to move people to permanent housing quickly
www.usich.gov
From Community Engagement to Community Ownership: Redmond Task Force on Homelessness

Colleen Kelly
City of Redmond Assistant Director of Community Planning

Ron Gibson
City of Redmond Police Chief
City of Bellingham Homeless Outreach Team: Building Relationships to End Chronic Homelessness

Greg Winter
Opportunity Council Executive Director
City of Bellingham
Homeless Outreach Team

Building relationships to end chronic homelessness
Outreach is...

- **An interactive process of repeated contact to build trusting relationships**
- **Designed to treat the whole person**
- **Teamwork**
- **Focused on coordinating a network of community-based services**
- **Improvisational, creative, flexible**

Outreach “seeks to establish a personal connection that provides the spark for the journey back to a vital and dignified life”
Second Response to people who are unsheltered.
Connect unsheltered people to behavioral health and other services.
Assess vulnerability to prioritize housing to people with the most complex needs.
Respond to neighborhood concerns.
Outreach to motels and other housing of last resort.
Coordinate with Police Dept., EMS, Parks and Public Works, business owners, other outreach efforts.
Help housing providers maintain contact with unsheltered people.
2,229 contacts with over 300 unique persons

352 vulnerability assessments completed
  - 90% scored high enough for housing intake

97% of outreach housing pool intakes have extremely low income (≤30% of median)

101 households enrolled in permanent housing

29 households enrolled in interim housing program (e.g. shelter, transitional)
Coordination with City Departments

- Participates with City Encampment Coordination team (Police, Parks, Public Works)
- Acts as encampment advance team for Police Code Enforcement officers
- Focused outreach on 40 people who are high priority for Police Department and Downtown*
  - Engaged with 24
  - Now housed: 11 of 24
  - On path to housing: 4 of 24

* 54 on original list, but 14 were later shown to be housed
Providing connections to services

- Detox, inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment
- Crisis Respite
- Jail discharge planning
- Hospital social workers
- Street and outpatient mental health services
- Transportation (directly and indirectly)
- State identification and other documentation
- Immigration agencies
- Supportive relocation and family reunification
- DSHS and Social Security
- WAHA intensive case management and health insurance
- Primary care physicians
- Bellingham Fire Dept. Community Paramedic
- Northwest Regional Council
- Veterans benefits and services
- Many other services
Case examples

- Responding to neighborhood and business concerns
- Housing connections
- Supportive relocation
Partnering with the Faith Community to Provide Safe Parking

Leslie Miller
City of Kirkland Human Services Coordinator

Pastor Kelly Dahlman-Oeth
Lake Washington United Methodist Church
New Approaches to Community Policing and Homelessness

Ric DeLand

Portland Police Bureau Lieutenant, Portland, Oregon
Experiences of Homelessness

Dahkota Beckham
Dana Dildine
Roger Franz

All Home Coordinating Board Members
City & Regional Discussions
Contacts:

Mark Putnam                    mark.putnam@allhomekc.org
Ellie Wilson-Jones                           ellie@soundcities.org
Megan Gibbard              megan.gibb@allhomekc.org