



SCA Public Issues Committee

April 10, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by using the following link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81080632092?pwd=WnN1TVRKcTI2TzFqWXNZNIIOUFVLZz09>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 810 8063 2092 / Passcode: 632261

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Roll Call** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 3 minutes
- 2. Public Comment** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
- 3. [Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2024 Meeting](#)** 2 minutes
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- 4. Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
- 5. Executive Director’s Report** – David Hoffman, SCA Executive Director 5 minutes
- 6. [Public Defender Caseload Standards](#)** 25 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
- 7. [Regional Homelessness Authority Update](#)** 25 minutes
UPDATE
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Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst
- 8. [Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal](#)** 25 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director
- 9. [Metro Free Youth Transit Passes](#)** 15 minutes
UPDATE
Page 25
Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst

10. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#)

5 minutes

UPDATE

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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

11. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, April 17, 2024
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 8, 2024

12. For the Good of the Order

13. Adjourn

Sound Cities Association

Mission

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision

Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

Values

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking. SCA acknowledges the systemic racism and inequalities in our society and continues its commitment to the work needed to address them.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AHC	Affordable Housing Committee
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflows
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DCHS	King County Department of Community and Human Services
DVI Task Force	Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force
EDDB	Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
EMAC	Emergency Management Advisory Committee
EMS Advisory Task Force	Emergency Medical Services Levy Advisory Task Force
ETP	Eastside Transportation Partnership
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
JRC	Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants
K4C	King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
KCD	King Conservation District
KCDAC	King Conservation District Advisory Committee
KCFCD	King County Flood Control District
KCFCDAC	King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
KCPEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
LHWMP	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
LHWMP MCC	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
PIC	Public Issues Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSCAAAC	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council
PSERN	Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RLSJC	Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee
RPC	Regional Policy Committee
RPEC	PSRC Regional Project Evaluation Committee
RTC	Regional Transit Committee

RWQC	Regional Water Quality Committee
SCA	Sound Cities Association
SCAACG	South Central Action Area Caucus Group
SCATBd	South County Area Transportation Board
SeaShore	Seashore Transportation Forum
SKHHP	South King Housing and Homelessness Partners
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board
WTD	King County Wastewater Treatment Division

2024 Public Issues Committee Roster

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Larry Brown
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Rami Al-Kabra	Carston Curd
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation		
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Brenden Elwood
Pacific	Vic Cave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Perez	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Jovita McConnell
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

March 13, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ONLINE MEETING

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Chris Roberts, Shoreline, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. 26 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: David White, Algona (PIC Alternate); Sid Gupta, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Katie Halse, Bellevue Staff; Kamuron Gurol, King County Staff; Kelly Rider, King County Staff; Sharman Herrin, King County Staff; Susan McLaughlin, King County Staff; Kate Baber, King County Staff; Matthew Goldman, King County Staff; Tania Mondaca, King County Staff; and Mina Hashemi, King County Staff.

Roberts noted that any discussion in the online chat would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC meeting minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

2. Public Comment

Chair Roberts asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Roberts closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the December February 14, 2024 PIC Meeting Minutes

Chair Roberts asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the February 14, 2024 PIC meeting.

Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, Bellevue, moved, seconded by Mayor Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to approve the February 14, 2024, PIC Meeting minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Roberts asked for volunteers to serve on a working group to suggest any revisions to the PIC Operating Policies. The purpose of the subcommittee is to make recommendations about improving how PIC operates, meeting format, and procedures for bringing forward and considering issues, among other topics.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman reported on being in the final stages of hiring a new policy analyst for SCA.

6. Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan

Kelly Rider, Interim Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services; Dr. Susan McLaughlin, Director, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division, and Dr. Matthew Goldman McLaughlin, King County; and, Dr. Mathew Goldman, King County Crisis Care

Centers Medical Director, provided an update on the Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan and responded to member questions.

7. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update

Kamuron Gurol, Director, King County Wastewater Treatment Division provided an update on the regional wastewater services plan and answered questions about its scope and the department’s work to update the plan for the first time since 1999.

8. Legislative Session Recap

SCA Policy Analyst Andie Parnell provided a brief recap on the 2024 state legislative session and reported on bills and initiatives that relate to SCA’s legislative priorities as approved by the Board in December 2023.

9. Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry shared an update on pending city levies and ballot measures. Vice Chair Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, noted the city is considering a measure for the August ballot to renew its Transportation Benefit District.

10. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 10, 2024

11. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
March 13, 2024**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Cheryl Rakes
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	none
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Rami Al-Kabra	Carston Curd
Burien	Kevin Schilling	none
Carnation		
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	none
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	none
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	none
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	none
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Brenden Elwood
Pacific	Vic Kave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Perez	Ed Prince
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	none
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Hannah Hedrick
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are **highlighted**.

SCA PIC March 13, 2024

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:42:00 From Matthew Goldman, King County to Hosts and panelists:

King County local jurisdiction staff are invited to join a behavioral health crisis data webinar hosted by King County's Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). Minh Phan, DCHS' Crisis Services Data and Evaluation Manager, will provide a briefing and guidance on how to interpret the newly released data brief titled Behavioral Health Crisis Interaction in 2022 by King County Crisis Response Zone.

The webinar will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 11:00am - 12:00pm. Register here:

https://kingcounty.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucOGrqDloE9EjqJ4T1vyAyIYX3NtwM_rx#/

20:41:12 From Andie Parnell, SCA to Hosts and panelists:

AWC will provide a full recap of city-related issues from the 2024 legislative session on April 11th. Register for the virtual event here: <https://wacities.org/events-education/upcoming-awc-events/events-details?ID=2542>



April 10, 2024
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:
Public Defender Caseload Standards

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159

Update

The Washington State Supreme Court is considering recommendations made by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors that would change public defense standards, including reducing by nearly two-thirds the maximum caseload for defense attorneys. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) wrote a letter to the Supreme Court on March 26th ([Attachment A](#)) raising concerns about the feasibility of the proposed standards and urging the Supreme Court to partner with cities to consider alternatives that take into account workforce challenges and the need for develop sustainable revenue to fund these positions. AWC staff will join the April PIC meeting to provide additional information about the new standards and their potential impacts.

Background

In March, the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Board of Governors voted to adopt revised public defense standards and submit those as a recommendation to the Washington State Supreme Court. These standards are currently advisory for cities and counties; however, if adopted by the Supreme Court, they would become binding.

Included in the recommendations before the Supreme Court is a change to caseload standards that would reduce by nearly two-thirds the maximum caseload for public defense lawyers. The revised caseload standards were proposed in [response](#) to a [national study](#) and to what the WSBA Council on Public Defense calls a “crisis of attrition and inability to recruit brought about by excessive workloads and poor compensation.”¹

The Supreme Court has the option to adopt the recommendations of the WSBA or not, or to adopt alternative rules.

The proposed new caseload standards, and particularly their scale, have led to concerns about the availability of funds to support the proposed changes and the practical feasibility of quickly tripling the number of qualified defense lawyers. In Washington State, the vast majority of public defense costs are paid for out of city and county general fund budgets. Municipal courts, like district courts, only have jurisdiction over gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors, and infractions.

¹ WSBA Council of Public Defense [memo](#) to WSBA Board of Governors, February 23, 2024.

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) wrote a letter to the Supreme Court on March 26th ([Attachment A](#)) raising concerns about the feasibility of the proposed standards and urging the Supreme Court to partner with cities to consider alternatives that take into account workforce challenges and the need to develop sustainable revenue to fund these positions. AWC staff will join the April PIC meeting to provide additional information about the new standards and their potential impacts.

In addition, to help inform its advocacy on behalf of cities, AWC is seeking information from cities about the potential impacts of the proposed new rules. Cities are encouraged to provide input to AWC Government Affairs Advocate Lindsey Hueer (lindseyh@awcnet.org). Examples of information being requested include:

- Current expenditures on public defense and the potential budgetary impacts of tripling these expenditures without alternative funding.
- Examples of challenges with finding adequate numbers of qualified attorneys.
- The types of cases that are handled in your municipal court, including information about the number cases that used to be charged as felonies that are now charged as misdemeanors.

Cities who are concerned about the impact of the proposed standards may consider sharing those concerns at two upcoming Washington State Office of Public Defense 2025-2027 budget development listening sessions being held on [April 22, 2024, at 4:00 PM](#) or [May 10, 2024, at 12:00 PM](#).

Next Steps

Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Executive Director David Hoffman, david@soundcities.org , 206-910-9246.

TO: Washington State Supreme Court
FROM: Deanna Dawson, CEO of the Association of Washington Cities
DATE: March 26, 2024
RE: WSBA Recommended Revised Standards for Indigent Defense and Caseload Limits

Dear Chief Justice González, Associate Chief Justice Yu, and the Honorable Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court:

I write to you today to share concerns that we have with the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governor’s recommended changes to the Washington Standards for Indigent Defense, and to reach out in partnership so that we may work together to address the indigent defense needs in our state.

As a former public defender, I know first-hand the challenges facing these hard working attorneys. We appreciate the work they do in assisting some of the most vulnerable in our communities, and cities are committed to providing effective assistance of counsel as guaranteed by the 6th and 14th amendments to the US Constitution and the Washington State Constitution.

At the same time, cities all across Washington State are facing significant challenges in recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of qualified public defense attorneys. This is a challenge that I am personally familiar with, and our cities are grappling with each day. These challenges are even more acute in the rural areas of our state.

In the face of these challenges, AWC and our cities are working to solve the issues. We supported recent legislative efforts to increase the number of prosecutors and public defenders in the state and will continue to do so in the future. Cities are also establishing and expanding innovative and best-practice therapeutic courts and other diversion programs that require substantial financial investment and personnel but result in better long-term outcomes.

Cities are engaged in the issue and want to be part of the solution. We know that the current recommendation will not solve the issue. There are many complex factors at play. We need to work together to address the workforce challenges, to build a pipeline of attorneys to take on these roles, and to develop sustainable revenue to fund these positions. Rapidly tripling the required number of public defense attorneys without addressing these issues will only exacerbate the challenges and render the criminal judicial system non-functional.

We are asking for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss practical and feasible solutions that will ensure the criminal justice system is functional for all involved, including public defenders and their clients.

The proposed standards are financially not feasible for municipalities

As you know, the State currently funds a small fraction of public defense costs, and the vast majority of the expenses are borne by local governments. Public defense costs are paid out of a city’s general fund budget; funding sources for a city’s general fund are statutorily and constitutionally limited. Cities are constrained not only by the limits of their residents’ ability to pay, but also by legal restrictions on the city’s ability to raise revenue. A tripling of the required number of public defense attorneys would be a tremendous cost that far exceeds the capacities of cities to fund.

Based on initial rough estimates, implementation of the recommended caseload standards would result in an increase of misdemeanor public defense expenses statewide potentially in excess of \$400 million dollars annually. This, of course, does not include the costs to counties for felony public defense.

Cities simply cannot afford this cost, and do not have the tools to raise the needed revenue. Local government funding constraints will result in cities facing an untenable choice to cut critical programs, including funding for other court staff and judicial programs, as well as human service programs designed to address root causes of criminal behavior and to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system.

Recent legislative changes have already resulted in a large increase in criminal justice costs for cities, without a commensurate increase in funding for municipalities. And at the same time, cities are looking at new and innovative ways to fund upstream solutions. Adding additional costs to cities at this time will hamper these efforts and the progress being made.

Even if funding were available, there is an inadequate workforce to meet the proposed caseload standards

Funding is not the only challenge. To implement reduced caseload standards, jurisdictions will require not only additional state funding, but also a concerted legislative effort to increase the workforce pipeline for public defenders and support staff.

As noted throughout the recommendations from the Council for Public Defense, nationally we are experiencing a significant shortage of public defense attorneys. Even if full funding were provided by the state, jurisdictions will not be able to hire triple the number of public defense attorneys in three years compared to today. A reduced caseload standard will not result in three-times as many individuals being interested in pursuing a career in public defense in such a short amount of time. Cities statewide would be hampered in their ability address misdemeanor crimes consistently and effectively, including crimes like drug possession, domestic violence, and DUI.

AWC supports careful consideration of the caseload standards for indigent defense attorneys. However, implementation of a large reduction in caseload standards must be accompanied by state investments in public defense, as well as a concerted effort to increase the workforce pipeline for defense attorneys, support staff, prosecutors, victim's advocates, defense investigators, and social workers.

The recommended caseload standards are not feasible, and we ask for the opportunity to meet with you before the court considers proposing changes to court rules and discuss viable solutions and alternatives to the proposed standards. I welcome any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,



Deanna Dawson
CEO, Association of Washington Cities

Item 7:
Regional Homelessness Authority Update
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060

SCA King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee (GC) Members:

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Council President Ed Prince, Renton

SCA King County Regional Homelessness Authority Implementation Board (IB) Members:

Nate Caminos; Dr. Damien Pattenaude

Discussion

KCRHA manages countywide homelessness crisis response and distributes public funds to organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness. At the February PIC meeting, members were given an update on recent work and briefed on upcoming work in 2024, including: completing a search for a new permanent CEO, developing subregional implementation plans, providing new data collected during the annual Point in Time Count, and assessing and potentially revising its governance structure. At its April meeting, PIC will be joined by SCA representatives on the KCRHA Governing Committee who will share an update on KCRHA's work.

Background

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) was established in late 2019, under an [interlocal agreement](#) (ILA) between King County and the City of Seattle. The original 5-year term of the ILA expires at the end of 2024, after which the agreement will automatically be renewed for an indefinite period or until it is terminated by Seattle and King County.

KCRHA manages the countywide homelessness crisis response and distributes public funds from the City of Seattle, King County, and Continuum of Care (CoC) funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness.

The Governing Committee and Implementation Board oversee KCRHA. The Governing Committee provides high-level guidance and oversight, approves the budget, and hires, fires, and reviews the performance of the CEO. The Implementation Board develops and recommends organizational goals, policies, and plans to the Governing Committee, and ensures their implementation.

Ongoing Work

CEO Search & Interim CEO

KCRHA is currently conducting a national search for a permanent CEO. The job description was [posted](#) in early 2024 and active recruitment is underway through the search firm NPAG.

In July 2023, the Governing Committee created a CEO Search Advisory Committee to collaborate with a search firm to identify CEO candidates. The top candidates chosen by the Search Advisory Committee would then be reviewed by the full Implementation Board and Governing Committee. The Search Advisory Committee began reviewing CEO candidates with NPAG in late March 2024.

The Governing Committee and Implementation Board recommended L. Darrell Powell to the interim CEO position in early 2024. Mr. Powell replaced Helen Howell who served as interim CEO for nine months.

Point-In-Time Count

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a regional Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count every two years. This is a count of the number of unhoused people across King County to help track demographics and illuminate year-over-year trends for the region. The data collected is used to inform HUD on funding needs for programs and services.

KCRHA conducted the PIT Count from January 22 to February 2, 2024. More than 130 volunteers and KCRHA staff were on-site at 17 hub sites and collected more than 1,250 surveys from people living unsheltered in urban, suburban, and rural areas across King County. KCRHA is working with researchers at the University of Washington to analyze the survey sample data. Results will be available and submitted to HUD in early summer.

Governance Review Subcommittee

In July 2023, the Governance Review Subcommittee was created to develop recommendations for immediate and medium-term actions to improve KCRHA's oversight, accountability, and decision-making structure.

The Subcommittee held four working sessions between August and October, as well as one-on-one meetings between the consultant and each Subcommittee member. The following action themes were identified in these discussions:

1. Strengthen current governance structure;
2. Increase meaningful input and decision making with better IB/GC supports;
3. Improve understanding of KCRHA's work; and
4. Improve policy and program alignment.

Some detailed improvements include:

- Clarity on the role and responsibilities of all parties and how those intersect (Implementation Board, Governing Committee, subcommittees, Lived Experience Coalition, KCRHA leadership and staff, etc.);
- Stronger coordination between parties through regular updates and clear goals; and
- Greater understanding of internal KCRHA processes, program policies and regional discussions.

Following the work of the Subcommittee, the Governing Committee and Implementation Board amended the KCRHA Bylaws to accomplish consistency with the ILA, member accountability, and role clarity. The Subcommittee will convene in 2024.

Subregional Implementation Plans

In 2023, KCRHA approved its first [Five-Year Plan](#) and is now working on subregional implementation plans, which will provide additional detail on how KCRHA will implement various activities in each geographic subregion. Each subregional implementation plan will include additional details on 30 activities included in the five-year plan, how they will be tailored to each subregion, and specific outcomes expected from each activity.

The 30 activities included in subregional implementation plans include the following themes:

- Severe weather
- Capacity building
- Outreach
- Families with children
- Youth and young adults
- Temporary housing and shelter

The implementation plans will also include an analysis of the existing service landscape in each subregion, gaps in services, and a review of current resources and investments in homelessness services. Draft implementation plans will be available in the Spring.

Budget Planning

The Implementation Board and the Governing Committee approved KCRHA's \$224.4 million operating budget for 2024. The majority of KCRHA's budget goes to contracted non-profit service providers. KCRHA has begun the 2025 budget development process and is on track to submit the budget proposal to King County and the City of Seattle in June.

At the March Implementation Board meeting, KCRHA recommended a Stabilization Request for an increase in funding to maintain service levels (except for the loss of homelessness prevention and outreach funding in 2025). The Stabilization Request would result in a total funding level of \$269 million for 2025, an approximate \$25 million increase above current projections for KCRHA's 2024 baseline budget. The incremental budget changes would include \$13 million from the City of Seattle and \$11.3 million from King County.¹

¹ More information on pages 25-48 of the [March Implementation Board meeting packet](#).

2024 Media Clips

- [As List of Finalists for KCRHA Director Comes Together, Council Raises Questions About Agency's Future](#) , PubliCola (3/27/24)
- [Financial lifeline works to keep vulnerable WA youth housed](#), Seattle Times (3/17/24)
- [Executive Dow Constantine Details How King County Tackles the Homelessness Crisis Through Housing Solutions](#) , Hacks and Wonks Podcast (3/5/24)
- [Why King County homeless count continues, even with accuracy in doubt](#) , Seattle Times (2/7/24)
- [Criminalization of homelessness is cruel, costly, and ineffective](#) , Seattle Times (1/31/24)
- [KCRHA board recommends new Interim CEO](#) , Seattle Times (1/29/24)
- [What to watch on homeless issues in 2024](#) , National Alliance to End Homelessness (1/24/24)
- [Cold weather emergency highlights homelessness system's flaws](#) , Seattle Times (1/23/24)
- [Approach to homelessness is in the Supreme Court's hands](#) , Seattle Times (1/18/24)

Questions and comments can be directed to Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org , 206-724-4060.



April 10, 2024
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:

Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Task Force Representatives from SCA Cities

Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Mayor Kevin Schilling, Burien; Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way; Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Deputy Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish; Councilmember Keith Scully, Shoreline; Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley; Mayor Vic Kave, Pacific; Councilmember Catherine Cotton, Snoqualmie; Fire Chief Brad Thompson, Auburn (Valley Regional Fire Authority)

Update

The Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Task Force was convened in January 2024 to begin the planning process to reauthorize the Medic One/EMS levy for 2026-2031. The objective of the EMS Advisory Task Force is to review and propose Medic One/EMS program recommendations and the proposed levy rate to be put before the voters of King County in 2025. PIC will be joined by staff from King County who will provide an overview of the levy development process

Background

The King County Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system of King County is a regional, cross-jurisdictional system that provides essential life-saving services to King County residents and visitors. Medic One/EMS services rely on coordination between fire departments, paramedic agencies, EMS dispatch centers, and hospitals. The system is managed by the EMS division of Public Health – Seattle and King County, and funded through a property tax known as the EMS levy (sometimes referred to as “Medic One”).

The EMS system relies on a tiered approach to deliver necessary medical intervention in the most efficient manner possible. The Basic Life Support (BLS) tier responds to all service requests and is provided by first responders to an incident, generally firefighters who have trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMS levy contributes some BLS funding to local fire agencies to help offset costs of providing EMS services; however, most BLS funding is raised and managed locally. The Advanced Life Support (ALS) tier is activated when the response requires out-of-hospital emergency medical care for critical or life-threatening injuries and illnesses. ALS is provided by highly trained “medic units” located throughout King County and is funded entirely by the Medic One/EMS levy.

The current Medic One/EMS levy will expire on December 31, 2025, and the EMS Advisory Task Force has been formed to undertake an extensive planning process to develop a strategic plan and financing plan to reauthorize the levy for 2026-2031. A reauthorization levy will be placed on the ballot at a to be determined election in 2025 (currently anticipated for November 2025).

Placing the Medic One/EMS levy on the ballot for renewal will require approval by the legislative authority of at least 75% of cities in King County with populations exceeding 50,000¹ (or 9 of the 11 such cities in King County) and the King County Council. Approval of the levy requires an affirmative vote from a simple majority of voters. The current levy was approved beginning in 2020 at a rate of 26.5-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and has lowered to a rate of 22.7-cents in 2024 due to increases in assessed values.

Per an interlocal agreement with King County, Seattle receives all Medic One/EMS levy funds raised within its boundaries. Funds raised outside of Seattle placed in the King County EMS fund and managed regionally by the King County EMS Division.

EMS Task Force

The EMS Advisory Task Force was convened in January to begin the planning process for the Medic One/EMS levy for 2026-2031. The objective of the EMS Advisory Task Force is to review and propose Medic One/EMS program recommendations and the proposed levy rate to be put before the voters of King County. Responsibilities include reviewing and proposing recommendations related to current and projected EMS system needs; developing a financial plan based on those needs; and, proposing the levy rate, levy length, and timing of the levy ballot measure.

The levy planning process utilizes four subcommittees to analyze system program and cost needs to develop the strategic plan and levy. The subcommittees are broken into four basic program areas:

Advanced Life Support Subcommittee (paramedic service) role: reviewing and identifying service needs and the number of medic units required to serve those needs over the life of the levy; establishing the cost of each unit and allocation methodology; developing the financial plan and refining costs; and incorporating strategies to deliver cost efficiencies and system effectiveness.

Basic Life Support Subcommittee (EMTs and first responders) role: reviewing BLS funding and how it's allocated among BLS agencies; improving system effectiveness with strategies to manage EMS patients' varying and complex needs; and identifying cost efficiencies.

Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee role: assessing the types of regional programs and strategies needed to meet current and future needs; reviewing pilot projects

¹ There are currently 11 cities in King County with populations greater than 50,000: Auburn, Bellevue, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, and Shoreline.

from the current levy span; and identifying future strategic initiatives, cost efficiencies and system effectiveness opportunities.

Finance Subcommittee role: The Finance Subcommittee will assess the programmatic recommendations developed by the other subcommittees and provide financial advice, viewing the proposals as a whole package, rather than independent program areas. In addition, the Subcommittee will review economic forecasts, determine indices for inflating costs, and develop financial policies.

Medic One/EMS Advisory Task Force Meeting Schedule

Meeting 1 February 2024	Meeting 2 May 2024	Meeting 3 July 2024	Meeting 4 October 2024
EMS Orientation	Preliminary Review	Full Draft Review	Final Review
Meeting Objectives: 1. Review Task Force expectations and timeline 2. EMS system review 3. Identify subcommittee chairs	Meeting Objectives: 1. EMS levy review (length, rate, timing) 2. Preliminary subcommittee programmatic and financial recommendations	Meeting Objectives: 1. Subcommittees to report on full draft programmatic and financial recommendations 2. Discuss EMS levy options (length, rate, timing)	Meeting Objectives: 1. Approve programmatic recommendations and Financial Plan 2. Finalize EMS levy options (length, rate, timing)

Next Steps

The EMS Task Force and its four subcommittees are scheduled to continue meeting throughout 2024 to develop the strategic plan and levy renewal proposal. Detailed information about potential service changes and cost estimates are being prepared by each subcommittee in preparation for the full Task Force meeting in May. Additional information about the Medic One/EMS system, the levy, and meeting materials can be found on the [project website](#) .

The levy ordinance and strategic plan are expected to be transmitted from King County Executive Dow Constantine to the County Council in February 2025. Prior to action by the County Council, the levy must be approved for placement on the ballot by the legislative authority of at least 75% of cities in King County with populations exceeding 50,000² (or 9 of the 11 such cities in King County). Final approval of the levy requires an affirmative vote from a simple majority of voters.

Additional information can be found in the framework for the 2026-2031 Medic One/EMS Levy Planning Process and EMS Levy Fact Sheet ([Attachment A](#)).

² There are currently 11 cities in King County with populations greater than 50,000: Auburn, Bellevue, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, and Shoreline.

Framework for the 2026-2031 Medic One/EMS levy planning process

OVERVIEW

The King County Medic One/EMS system is funded principally via countywide, voter-approved EMS levy. **The current six-year (2020-2025) Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025.** The EMS Division will bring together regional partners and the EMS Advisory Task Force to develop a new Strategic Plan and levy to go before the voters in 2025.

PROCESS

This all-inclusive process will be rooted in partnerships and consensus-building. It will take approximately 10 months to develop, finalize, and obtain *Task Force* support for levy recommendations.

1. EMS Advisory Task Force

- Consists of regional elected officials and decision-makers.
- Responsible for overseeing the development and vetting of Medic One/EMS levies.
- Will review and endorse broad policy decisions for the system:
 - Current and projected EMS system programmatic needs;
 - Financial Plan based on those needs; and
 - Levy rate, levy length, and timing of levy ballot measure.

2. Subcommittees

- **4 subcommittees** will conduct the bulk of the program and cost analysis. They will meet once a month (except Finance, which meets every few months). These 4 subcommittees will focus on the areas of:
 - ALS
 - BLS
 - Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives (core support services and pilots)
 - Finance
- Subcommittees will be chaired by EMS Advisory Task Force members.
- Subcommittees will consist of EMS partners and subject matter experts from all aspects of Medic One/EMS system.
- Subcommittees generate recommendations; Finance Subcommittee develops and reviews a financial plan to support these needs; Subcommittees present to *Task Force*.

NEXT STEPS

Convene Task Force (kickoff levy planning process)	February 15, 2024
Initiate Subcommittee meetings	March 2024
Recommendations finalized	October 2024
Strategic Plan & Levy Ordinance to King County Council	February 2025

EMS LEVY FACT SHEET

What is Medic One/EMS?

Any time you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, you are using the Medic One/EMS system. The Medic One/EMS system serving Seattle and King County is known worldwide for its excellence and innovation.

It serves over **2.3 million people** throughout King County and provides lifesaving services on average **every 2 minutes**.

Last year, the Medic One/EMS system treated over **250,000 people** in King County. In 2022, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was **47%** throughout the region.

Because of our strong program, cardiac arrest victims here are **2 to 3 times more likely to survive**, compared to other cities.

Why does our system work so well?

We get these high survival rates because of the unique configuration of our system. It includes the following key components:

It is a regional system based on partnerships that are built on collaborative, cross-jurisdictional coordination so that no matter where you are in King County, you receive the same, consistent, high quality medical care.

It uses a tiered medical model founded on medicine so its services and practices are based on the highest standards of training, care, and scientific evidence.

It is equity-driven and committed to providing high-quality emergency medical services that uplift and safeguard the well-being of all King County communities.

It uses programs and innovative strategies to obtain superior medical outcomes and continually improve to meet its own needs and expectations, and those of its residents.

It is funded by an EMS levy which has proven to be reliable and stable.

What is the EMS levy?

The Medic One/EMS system of King County has been primarily supported by a countywide, voter-approved EMS levy since 1979.

The current Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025.

Voters will be asked to renew the levy in order to continue funding this life-saving service.

In 2024, the region will begin its comprehensive levy planning process to develop the Strategic Plan and levy rate for the next Medic One/EMS levy.

This brings together **leaders and decision-makers from throughout region** and **EMS system partners** to assess the needs of the system and develop recommendations to direct the system into the future.

EMS Advisory Task Force for the 2026-2031 levy planning process

	Name	Organization	Representation Category
1	Karan Gill	Chief of Staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine	King County Executive
2	Reagan Dunn	Councilmember, King County	King County Council
3	Tom Goff	Director of Local and Regional Affairs, King County Council	King County Council
4	Brad Thompson	Fire Chief, Valley Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Auburn	Cities over 50,000 in population
5	Lynne Robinson	Mayor, City of Bellevue	Cities over 50,000 in population
6	Kevin Schilling	Mayor, City of Burien	Cities over 50,000 in population
7	Jim Ferrell	Mayor, City of Federal Way	Cities over 50,000 in population
8	Brian Carson	Fire Chief, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Kent	Cities over 50,000 in population
9	Penny Sweet	Councilmember, City of Kirkland	Cities over 50,000 in population
10	Angela Birney	Mayor, City of Redmond	Cities over 50,000 in population
11	Armondo Pavone	Mayor, City of Renton	Cities over 50,000 in population
12	Karen Howe	Deputy Mayor, City of Sammamish	Cities over 50,000 in population
13	Harold Scoggins	Fire Chief, City of Seattle	Cities over 50,000 in population
14	Keith Scully	Councilmember, City of Shoreline	Cities over 50,000 in population
15	Vic Kave	Mayor, City of Pacific	Cities under 50,000 in population
16	Catherine Cotton	Councilmember, City of Snoqualmie	Cities under 50,000 in population
17	Sean Kelly	Mayor, City of Maple Valley	Cities under 50,000 in population
18	Don Gentry	Fire Commissioner, Mountain View Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
19	Anita Sandall	Fire Commissioner, Eastside Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
20	Jenny Jones	Fire Commissioner, Enumclaw Fire Dept	King County Fire Commissioners

Item 9:

Free Youth Transit Passes

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org , 206-724-4060

SCA Regional Transit Committee Members

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr. (Caucus Chair), Covington; Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue (Caucus Vice Chair); Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Deputy Council President Barb de Michele, Issaquah; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Councilmember Betsy Robertson, Shoreline; Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle (Alternate); Councilmember Neal Black, Kirkland (Alternate); Deputy Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish (Alternate); Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines (Alternate).

Discussion

PIC members will receive a briefing on King County Metro’s Free Youth Transit Pass and opportunities to engage their constituents.

The Regional Transit Committee and King County Council approved the Free Youth Transit Pass for all King County Metro services, which took effect on September 1, 2022. Youth 18 years and under can ride for free by using a Youth ORCA card, showing a student ID, or just boarding on transit systems across the region. In its first year, King County Metro estimates that more than seven million rides were taken by youth under age 19, and 44,000 Youth ORCA cards were distributed throughout the county.

King County Metro is conducting public engagement for the Free Youth Transit Pass through the Youth Mobility Program, Tap for Transit campaign, Transit Equity Internship, a communications toolkit and a classroom transit education curriculum. Over the next year Metro will be working with stakeholders to overhaul their reduced fare programs, including the Free Youth Transit Pass, to make the programs easier to access and easier to administer.

PIC members can support Metro’s efforts to increase youth ridership by sharing the communications toolkit and youth educational opportunities with their constituents and school districts.

Background

King County Metro offers free or reduced fares for low-income and very-low-income people,

seniors, people with disabilities, and children, and youth.¹ Children under age six ride free on all Metro services. The youth fare, for ages 6 through 18 had previously been set at \$1.50 for Metro buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles, or streetcars; \$3.75 for the West Seattle water taxi route; and \$4.50 for the Vashon Island water taxi route. To access the youth fare, Metro had created an ORCA youth card, which also offered these reduced-price youth fares on the services of ORCA's partner agencies.

In 2022 the State Legislature passed the Move Ahead Washington transportation investment program, which offered transit support grants for transit agencies with a free fare for youth. In response, the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council approved legislation to amend the King County Code to set the transit fare to zero for youth from 6 to 18 for all Metro services. The Free Youth Transit Pass took effect September 1, 2022.

Youth can ride for free by using a Youth ORCA card, showing a student ID, or just getting on board transit systems across King County.² King County Metro encourages youth to use Youth ORCA cards, or a school ID card, when boarding transit to help Metro track ridership trends and to minimize fare disputes between youth customers and operators.

From September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023, King County Metro estimates that more than seven million rides were taken by youth under age 19 on Metro buses. Metro utilized their Youth Mobility Program to spread the word and distribute more than 22,000 Youth ORCA cards at 41 schools. In all, more than 44,000 Youth ORCA cards were distributed in King County.³

Implementation & Engagement

King County Metro is conducting public engagement for the Free Youth Transit Pass through Metro's Youth Mobility Program, Tap for Transit campaign, Transit Equity Internship, a communications toolkit and a classroom transit education curriculum.

King County Metro established the Youth Mobility Program in early 2022. The program works with local jurisdictions, schools, community organizations, operators, and young people to promote accessible, sustainable, and safe access to mobility options. The Youth Mobility Program has engaged in various activities to increase youth access to transit, engage in education and outreach, empower youth leadership, and create career exposure and internship opportunities with the goal of improving youth mobility.

In 2023, King County Metro launched a ["Tap for Transit" media campaign](#) that encourages all transit users, especially youth, to tap their ORCA cards every time they board. Each tap provides

¹ To qualify for an [ORCA LIFT card](#), a person's gross household income (before taxes are taken out) must be no more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level as established by the U.S. Health and Human Services Dept; The [Regional Reduced Fare Permit \(RRFP\)](#) gives riders ages 65+, riders with disabilities, and Medicare card holders reduced fares on participating transit agencies in the Puget Sound area.

² Youth 18 and younger can order a free Youth ORCA card [here](#) . When cardholders turn 19 years old, their registered Youth ORCA card will automatically convert to an Adult ORCA card.

³ More information can be found on the [Metro Matters blog](#) .

Metro with data used to improve Metro services. For example, more taps at a specific location or at a certain time of day can indicate to Metro to increase service at that location.

King County Metro hosted its second annual [Youth Transit Equity Internship](#) in July 2023. The internship program is for youth ages 15-18 interested in public transit and community leadership. Transit Equity Interns become peer ambassadors of transportation resources, explore career pathways within Metro, and build skills and knowledge of transit, urban planning, climate justice, and local government. Transit Equity Interns participate in workshops, field trips and conversations with decision-makers.

King County Metro recently published a [communications toolkit](#) to help spread the word about the Free Youth Transit Pass and increase youth ridership. The toolkit is free to download and includes social media post templates, an email blast template, and flyers.

The Youth Mobility Program has developed and tested several [transit education curriculum modules](#) for youth in grades 2-5 and 6-12 in partnership with local schools. Educators and youth-serving organizations are welcome to use these materials with students in any capacity. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and into the 2024-2025 school year and beyond, Metro will expand partnerships to implement this curriculum in more school districts and areas, with an emphasis on middle and high schools.

King County Metro estimates that youth make up about 8-12% of their ridership. However, data quality about youth ridership is inconsistent and most youth riders do not regularly use an ORCA card. To overcome these challenges, King County Metro is exploring future options for digital fare media and developing new ways to measure youth ridership and program impact including observational counts, school surveys, and qualitative feedback. King County Metro will also continue to conduct qualitative youth research and observational studies at select bus stops serving schools, to help understand how students' engagement with transit changes over time.

In 2023, Metro led a regional advertising campaign with partner agencies for the Free Youth Transit Pass, which led to over 22 million total impressions (or ad views) just within that few weeks period.⁴ The campaign's goal was to raise awareness that youth can ride transit for free and encourage youth to try transit and obtain a Youth ORCA card. Metro and their partner agencies are developing the next iteration of a Free Youth Transit Pass regional marketing campaign for the 2024-25 school year.

Next Steps

Local leaders and agencies can support Metro's efforts by amplifying key messages to internal and community networks such as:

- Sharing the communications toolkit and promoting use of transit education curriculum materials through any existing relationships with schools and educators;
- Empowering youth to share information with their peers; and,

⁴ As part of the regional marketing campaign, Metro published: [Youth ride free! What I love about transit.](#)

- Encouraging schools and organizational staff to sign up for the Youth Mobility Program newsletter.⁵

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Andie Parnell at andie@soundcities.org or 206-724-4060.

Resources:

- [Youth Ride Free - ORCA Cards](#)
- [Going all the places: Celebrating the first year of the Free Youth Transit Pass at Metro](#)
- [Regional marketing campaign: "What I love about transit"](#)
- ["Tap for Transit" media campaign](#)
- [Youth Transit Equity Internship](#)
- [Shareable communications toolkit](#)
- [Shareable transit education curriculum modules](#)
- [Subscribe: Youth Mobility Program newsletter](#)

⁵ Subscribe to King County Metro's Youth Mobility Program newsletter [here](#).



April 10, 2024
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024	August	Des Moines	Public safety levy
2024	August	Covington	Transportation Benefit District renewal

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024	November	Seattle	Transportation levy renewal (“Move Seattle”)
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
2027		King County	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal
2029		King County	Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy
TBD		King County	Climate resiliency levy lid lift

Next Steps

SCA members are encouraged to send information about any levies or ballot measures under consideration by your city or that will impact SCA cities to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or (206) 499-4159. Items shown as potential future ballot measures have not yet been approved to be placed on the ballot by the respective legislative authority.