

CITY OF KIRKLAND

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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

To: City Council
From: Human Services Advisory Committee
Date: June 6, 2007
Subject: Joint Meeting with City Council

The Human Services Advisory Committee would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to meet together and discuss a number of issues of importance to the Advisory Committee and our community. The opportunity to meet in a study session allows for a better exchange of ideas and a better discussion of the issues.

Human Services Advisory Committee Members

Committee members will be present to discuss human service issues and respond to Council questions. Committee members would appreciate Council's consideration of the King County Alliance for Human Services request to adopt a resolution (Attachment C).

Tom Sherrard, Committee Chair
Katherine Robichaux
Bonnie Stinson
Anahita Narjihi
Chris Houden
Sharon Anderson, Human Services Coordinator

Committee's Role

The role of the Committee is to advise the City Council on all matters concerning human services. The Committee reviews all requests for funding of human services; develops recommendations on priorities, planning, funding and the delivery of human services. The Committee meets regularly; conducts site visits with local human service providers and participates in regional planning efforts to be a voice for Kirkland.

City's Commitment to Funding Human Service Programs - 20 Year Anniversary

The Kirkland City Council adopted human service policies and guidelines in 1986. These guidelines called for the establishment of the Human Services Advisory Committee and the distribution of a per-capita funding mechanism to support human service organizations that provide services for Kirkland residents.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Kirkland's investment in human service funding.

In 1987, the amount of City funds budgeted for Human Services was \$2.00 per-capita (\$40,000), funding four programs. For the 2007-2008 funding cycle, the City's total funding is \$10.86 per capita for a total of \$524,953. These funds support 46 programs.

Presentation by King County Alliance for Human Services

One of the recommendations of the King County Healthy Families and Communities Task Force was passage of a 0.1% sales tax to fund critically needed mental health and substance abuse services to help fill the regional human services funding gap. Steve Daschle, representing the King County Alliance for Human Services will give a brief presentation on the proposed Mental Health and Substance Abuse Sales Tax.

For Council's review, attached is:

- A. Description of the King County Alliance for Human Services
- B. Healthy Families and Communities Task Force Recommendation identifying an \$83 million shortfall in human service funding.
- C. Sample Resolution being requested by the King County Alliance for Human Services. If Council wishes, we can bring a resolution back for adoption.

Program Outcome Results for 2005-2006

At their joint study session in June 2006, Council requested information on the effectiveness of the human service programs the City funds and the impact these services have on the lives of Kirkland residents.

The Parks and Community Services Department implemented an outcome-based performance evaluation system in 2003. All human service programs funded by the City are required to identify one to three measurable outcomes; they provide both the numerical goals (outputs) and program outcomes. Copies of the report were sent to Council in April.

Outcome results are requested in applications for two-year funding and are submitted during the mid-biennium budget process. Staff will prepare outcome reports at the end of the funding cycle.

Veterans and Human Services Levy

Approved by King County voters in November of 2005, the Veterans and Human Services levy will generate approximately \$13.3 million per year for six years to implement human services for veterans, their families, and other low-income residents of King County. The goals of the levy are to reduce homelessness and emergency medical costs, reduce criminal justice system involvement, and increase self-sufficiency through employment. Oversight boards were created for both funds: one for the veterans' and one for the human services. The first year of funds will be used for capital projects.

City Human Service staff, and the Eastside Human Services Forum have tracked the implementation of the Veterans and Human Services levy and have been proactive in advocating for the funds to be dispersed across King County, including East King County.

Increasing Efficiencies/Pooled Contract Funding

For a number of years, nine North and East King County cities with competitive allocation processes for human service funds have had an agreed upon common application form. This provided for consistency, but not necessarily efficiency since agencies were required to fill out separate applications for each city.

For the 2007-2008 allocation cycles, the nine cities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing upon a joint application that could be filled out one time and submitted to any or a combination of one or more cities. In addition, seven of these cities successfully agreed upon pooling funds into a joint account, from which one contract can be executed with an agency receiving awards from multiple cities.

The City of Bellevue serves as the lead agency to administer these funds. Agencies submit an invoice to each participating city for approval. The lead city (Bellevue) then authorizes payment. Currently twelve agencies (nineteen programs) are taking advantage of pooled funding contracts. The success of this program is demonstrated in the fact that what would have been over 100 separate city-specific contracts were distilled into twelve pooled contracts.

An Interlocal Agreement detailing Kirkland's role in the pooled funding program will be presented to Council within the next six months. This is the first step in the process of evaluating an ARCH type regional model for human services funding on the Eastside.

Status of the Newly Funded Pilot Programs

Chinese Information and Services Center (CISC) - Eastside Cultural Navigator Program

The Cultural Navigator Program is a new service combining Information and Assistance, Interpretation, Translation, Advocacy and Case Management. The Peter Kirk Community Center (PKCC) is one of four Eastside locations to host the Cultural Navigators. Bilingual/bicultural navigators help limited and non-English speaking individuals and families is accessing appropriate services. At the PKCC, navigators are assigned four hours a week of Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and Spanish navigator service.

During the first quarter, CISC helped four Kirkland residents. Since this is a new service to the Eastside residents are not aware of the program. The navigator is mainly focusing their efforts on outreach, translating brochures, intake forms, client survey forms, and press releases in the native languages.

YWCA - Homeless Women's Center

As part of the goals for the Committee to End Homelessness, the new YWCA Eastside Women's Center, which opened on December 11, 2006, provides a safe and welcoming daytime drop-in center for low-income and homeless women who are seeking refuge from the streets- the first of its kind designed exclusively to meet the needs of single women on the Eastside. Bellevue First Congregational Church provides the building and space to house the program. The Cities of Kirkland, Bellevue and Redmond and the First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue are key funders.

Eastside Human Services Forum Event "The Face of Homelessness, Prevention and Intervention in East King County"

The Eastside Human Services Forum in partnership with the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) will host "The Face of Homelessness, Prevention and Intervention in East King County" on June 28, at Bellevue City Hall from 7:30am – 9:30am.

The event will include a publication from the Forum, *The Face of Homelessness on the Eastside*, as well as the introduction of the draft strategic plan developed by EHAC on prevention and intervention of homelessness in East King County. The Committee to End Homelessness provided funding for the development of the East King County plan and supports the efforts of the Eastside Homeless Advisory Committee. The meeting will include comment and discussion of the strategic plan. Both the event and the publication will be part of the overall King County 10 year Plan to End Homelessness, specifically designed to identify and meet the needs for East King County.

Support for Non-Profit Organizations

The City continues to take a leadership role in finding new in-kind opportunities to support human service organizations. The Computer Donation program has provided over 200 computers and related equipment to the non-profit agencies. When contacted by a local business, staff coordinated the distribution of office furniture and file cabinets to several agencies.

In 2006, it became apparent that the Kirkland Hopelink operations would have to move from its current building. A larger concern for the community was that the agency would need to move its offices, services and programs to the Bothell Hopelink. Moving the agency out of Kirkland would have had a serious impact for the clients they serve. In response, Council approved an emergency ordinance to allow for the relocation of the Kirkland Hopelink to a City-owned property.

We thank Council for your continued commitment and leadership to human services. Working together, we will continue to make a difference for Kirkland's residents.

Attachment A

Description of the King County Alliance for Human Services

The **King County Alliance for Human Services** is a group of King County Residents who are concerned about the abilities of all our neighbors to meet their basic human needs. Many of us are human service providers from across the county and from many different types of agencies. We are also funders, recipients of services, representatives from local governments and County government, and faith-based communities.

Our primary focus as we work together is to find stable, adequate, dedicated funding for community health and human services to strengthen communities throughout King County.

Alliance members work together to EDUCATE the community, including our elected leaders, about the urgent need for community health and human services, and the success that strengthen our communities, in every community throughout King County.

Members of the Alliance also ADVOCATE for public officials to work together to create long-term solutions for stable, adequate funding of much needed services.

In 2004 KCAHS participants worked with the members of the Task Force on Regional Human Services to help them understand complex issues around needs for services and the variety of constraints in service delivery. After studying these issues for six months, the Task Force came to several conclusions including:

- We need dedicated, adequate resources.
- We all need to better communicate the urgent need for services.

In 2005 and 2006 Alliance participants worked as part of the follow-up Healthy Families and Communities Task Force which recently decided that there is an annual funding gap of \$83.1 million for those services categorized as “regional” human services.

In 2007 the King County Alliance for Human Services is helping to build broader awareness and community-wide alliances necessary to implement these recommendations, identify revenue sources and grow public support for stable, adequate funding for community health and human services throughout King County.

We're all in this together! The Alliance meets monthly on the third Tuesday from 3:00-4:45, at Mercer View Community Center on Mercer Island with various work group meetings in-between.

For more information contact Julia Sterkovsky, Seattle Human Services Coalition, on behalf of the King County Alliance for Human Services, 206/325-7105, kcahs@shscoalition.org.

Attachment B

Healthy Families and Communities Task Force Recommendations, 2005-2006

The Healthy Families and Communities Task Force concluded that the County is not meeting the needs of the children, seniors, young people and families who need help. The Task Force estimates that at least \$83.1 million per year is needed to create safe, livable communities where people in need get the help they need.

The Task Force focused its findings in three key areas:

1. **Communicate need.** There is a lack of public understanding and appreciation of human services and how those services benefit not just those in need but create healthier and more livable communities.
2. **Build a system.** A truly regional infrastructure is needed to create greater efficiencies and effectiveness in long-range planning, administration and delivery of services. A key element will be better and more consistent data collection and reporting to increase accountability and track results.
3. **Dedicated resources.** The current system is inadequately financed to meet the basic needs of our communities. Funding for human services has been steadily declining in recent years. A new, dedicated revenue source is needed to create stability to meet current needs, and to plan effectively for the future.

The Task Force recommends the following funding packages to address the human services crisis in our community:

Veterans and Human Services Levy, \$7.65m- The HFC recommends that \$6.65 million be applied to reduce the funding deficit. The remaining \$1 million will be applied for special needs housing services for veterans.

Outreach, Information and Referral Services, \$1.3m- The State Legislature allocated \$2.5 million in 2006 for statewide 2-1-1, which provides residents with information on community health and human services. The new funding covers the \$1.3 million gap needed to ensure adequate access to vital services.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, \$20.8m- RCW 82.14.460 allows counties to impose a 0.1 percent sales tax increase to augment state funding for mental health and substance abuse related services. The sales tax increase, at an average cost of \$25 dollars per household per year, would raise an estimated \$47 million in the County. The HFC recommends that the County Council approve the sales tax increase.

Ballot Measure Options, \$48.07m- The HFC recommends that the County Executive develop a strategy to place two or three property tax measures before the voters over time, which together will close the outstanding \$48.07 million gap. The specific timing, sequencing and content of these proposed ballot measures should be decided by the County Executive and County Council after gauging voter attitude through research and public education.

Attachment C

**Resolution in Support of King County Council Vote for the Mental Health
Substance Abuse Sales Tax**

King County Alliance for Human Services
February 2007

WHEREAS, the Task Force on Regional Human Services, appointed by Executive Sims, found that the gap in funding for much needed county-wide community health and human services is \$83.1 million dollars, and

WHEREAS, The current tax structure of King County has statutory limitations inhibiting the growth of revenue, so that annual increases in costs are exceeding potential increases in funding, and

WHEREAS, a new, dedicated funding source is needed to raise revenue, and

WHEREAS, the King County Council has the authority granted under state law R.C.W. 82.14.460 to enact a 0.1 percent county wide sales tax increase for mental health and substance abuse services by county council vote, and

WHEREAS, a sales tax increase will raise an estimated \$48 million and will reduce the regional funding gap for essential programs and services for the homeless, mental health and substance abuse diversion, transition services for high risk youth and adults in the criminal justice system, and other counseling and supportive services, and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Families and Communities Task Force recommended the King County Council approve the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Sales Tax by December 2007.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved That:

The Board of Directors of <insert Organization name> supports the passing of a 0.1 percent sales tax increase for mental health and substance abuse, and will submit a letter urging the King County Council to enact the sales tax increase as recommended by the Healthy Families and Communities Task Force.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Signature

Signature