



**King County**

**Department of  
Community and Human Services**

Leonardo Flor, Director

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104

**(206) 263-9100** Fax (206) 205-6565  
TTY Relay 711

February 19, 2019

TO: Councilmember Kohl-Welles, Health, Housing and Human Services (3HS) Committee Chair  
FR: Leo Flor, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Director  
RE: DCHS Cold Weather Operations Summary and Initial Lessons Learned

This memorandum accompanies a February 19, 2019 briefing to 3HS. It summarizes key actions and initial lessons learned from DCHS's operations during the cold weather emergency of February 8-17.

**1. Continued DCHS Mission-Critical Operations**

- a. Designated Crisis Responders (24/7)
- b. Emergency Services Patrol (24/7)
- c. Shelter & Day Center Operations (24/7)

**2. Shelter & Day Center Operations**

- a. Using County Buildings to Operate Shelter and Day Center Services

	4 <sup>th</sup> & Jefferson Shelter (50 Spaces)	Admin. Building Shelter (50 Spaces)	Harborview Hall (100 Beds)	4 <sup>th</sup> & Jefferson Day Center
Usage (Low-High)	37-49	39-49	88-100	Operated at or near capacity continuously

- a. Opened Additional 100 Overnight Shelter Spaces and Additional Day Center when Weather Closed other Institutions

	4 <sup>th</sup> & Jefferson Shelter, Emergency (50 Spaces)	Admin. Building Shelter, Emergency (50 Spaces)		Admin. Building Aux. Day Center
Usage (Low-High)	0	0		4-25 (est.)

- b. Additional County Building Capacity is Coming Online
- c. Outreach and Transportation to Maximize Shelter System Capacity and Reach Non-Shelter-Seeking Populations (ESP)
- d. Making Longer-Term Contacts to Assist Persons Who Don't Normally Seek Shelter

**3. Emergency Operations Center Support and Inter-jurisdictional Coordination**

- a. Eastside Call Center Response
- b. Eastside Shelter Assessments and Warming Center Establishment
- c. County-Seattle Capacity & Assessment Coordination

**4. Learning for the Next Emergency**

- Emergency Day Center Contingency is Critical
- Shelter Network Support
- Transportation Contingencies for Snow/Ice
- Digital *and* Physical Communications
- Regional Response