



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 11, 2013

Motion 13910

Proposed No. 2013-0232.1

Sponsors Lambert

1 A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a progress report on
2 the development of a coordinated system to address youth
3 and young adult homelessness, as required by Ordinance
4 17476, Section 107, Proviso P1.

5 WHEREAS, Ordinance 17476 adopted the 2013 Annual Budget and the
6 2013/2014 Biennium Budget, and appropriated the housing opportunity fund 2013/2014
7 biennium budget at Section 107, and

8 WHEREAS, Ordinance 17476, Section 107, contained one proviso concerning
9 \$350,000 that shall not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits a series
10 of three reports with accompanying motions on the progress of the development of a
11 comprehensive plan to address the problem of youth and young adult homelessness, and

12 WHEREAS, the second of the three reports is due by May 1, 2013, on the updated
13 progress of the development of a coordinated engagement system to address youth and
14 young adult homelessness;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

16 The council acknowledges receipt of the second report, as described in this

17 motion, and releases \$100,000 for expenditure of the \$350,000 that is the subject of
18 Section 107, Proviso P1.
19

Motion 13910 was introduced on 5/13/2013 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 6/10/2013, by the following vote:

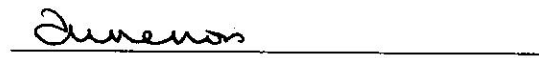
Yes: 7 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr.
Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Mr. von Reichbauer and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Progress Report

Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Progress Report



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

April 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

King County is currently in the first year of a county-wide community effort to create a more coordinated system that will enhance service delivery for homeless youth and young adults – quickly connecting them back with family when it is safe and appropriate to do so, or providing the immediate intervention needed to obtain safe housing. Under the auspices of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEHKC) the effort is referred to as the Homeless Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Initiative.

This progress report reviews advancement made on the initiative since January 2013 and follows an earlier, more detailed report. Specifically, progress has been made in the following areas:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Coordinated Engagement
- Data Coordination
- Comprehensive Plan to End YYA Homelessness in King County by 2020 (hereinafter “Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan Plan”).

II. COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT AND INPUT

The community of providers, government leaders, public and private funders, and homeless young people themselves remains vigorously involved in the Homeless YYA Initiative, and this involvement and diversity of perspectives is its hallmark strength. The Homeless YYA Initiative is conveyed through monthly stakeholder forums, guided by vigorous community input, and ultimately directed by aligned and involved public and private funders.

Oversight: CEHKC Funders Group and the YYA Funders Group

The CEHKC Funders Group and the YYA Funders group, working collaboratively, are ultimately directing the Homeless YYA Initiative. The City of Seattle and King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) are members of both the YYA Funders Group and CEHKC Funders Group and ensure alignment.

The YYA Funders group met in January and in March 2013. Bi-monthly meetings are scheduled through 2013, with facilitation provided by Building Changes. The YYA Funders Group developed a purpose and priorities statement which establishes the focus of their work in the coming year. Remaining in close alignment with the Homeless YYA Initiative staff and the CEHKC Funders Group, the YYA Funders have adopted the following objectives which include:

- Continue to support the launch of prevention and early intervention strategies, coordinated engagement, and data coordination

- Continuous learning for the funder community interested in YYA
- Support the King County-led Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan, and planning process.

The Pride Foundation joined the YYA Funders Group in January 2013.

The CEHKC Funders Group is reviewing the regional Combined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Homeless Housing regional priorities, to be included in the June NOFA release, including a priority for investment in a YYA housing model that has been identified as a promising practice.

Input: YYA Advisory Group

The YYA Advisory group is the key guiding “body of experts,” with membership defined by the CEHKC Investment Priority Charter for the Homeless YYA Initiative. The YYA Advisory Group met in January and in March 2013. The group reviewed the draft YYA Coordinated Engagement system design, the proposed scope and process for the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan, and reviewed their role in the initiative as a whole.

The group spoke at length about the need for continued clarity and strong communication between Homeless YYA Initiative staff and community. There are many strong partners in this initiative, many “cooks in the kitchen,” and ensuring every partner understands the process and has the ability for their expertise to be heard can be challenging.

Input: Stakeholder Forums

Monthly stakeholder forums are open opportunities to hear about the planning and implementation of a homeless YYA system in King County. Since January 2013, over 175 individuals have participated in a YYA Stakeholder Forum or a focus group. Forum locations have rotated through the County, including NAVOS in Burien, YouthSource in Renton, King County Library System in Issaquah, and the 2100 Building in Seattle.

A website for the Homeless YYA Initiative is in the process of being created and will include posted materials from each stakeholder forum and YYA Advisory Group meeting.

Input: New Efforts to Hear Youth Voice

Mockingbird Society is piloting an effort to support homeless and formerly homeless young people in advocacy, including input to the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan. From their materials:

The [Mockingbird Society] Homeless Youth Initiative (HYI) is a pilot program operated by The Mockingbird Society and funded by the Raikes Family Foundation. The [Mockingbird] HYI is independent of the King

County Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan. HYI's goal is to elevate youth voice and strengthen advocacy efforts regarding the issue of youth homelessness. Our intention is to engage, train, and support youth and young adults from across King County to provide their insight, wisdom, and experience in addressing systemic problems and solutions within the homeless youth system at the local, county, state, and federal levels.

Mockingbird Society staff and King County Homeless YYA Initiative staff meet regularly to determine points during the planning process which are best suited for YYA voice – ensuring that homeless young people have the opportunity for the greatest impact.

III. WORK ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

Work accomplished to date covers January through March 2013. This progress report follows the January 2013 report which reviews each strategy in much greater detail. The intention below is to clearly outline what has changed or moved forward since that earlier report.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Two new countywide prevention and early intervention efforts have begun as part of the Homeless YYA Initiative: National Safe Place and Cocoon House's Project SAFE. National Safe Place continues to expand "safe places" throughout King County where young people can present themselves as needing help. This program has improved the occupancy rates for youth shelters throughout the county, acting as a key referral source to those programs.

Cocoon House's Project SAFE is near launch. YouthCare is the lead agency in the project, and has completed the hiring process for program staff, including a family therapist who will conduct 90 minute intervention calls with families in crisis. The aim of this program is to keep young people in their homes – with support for the caregivers – if it is safe and appropriate to do so.

The Medina and Giddens Foundations are working with YouthCare and partner agencies to conduct early evaluation of both programs. Information from this evaluation will be included in the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan.

Coordinated Engagement

A coordinated engagement system will direct young people's access to housing by coordinating their applications, applying a common strengths-based assessment, and placing them in programs that have worked for other young people like them.

Accomplished to Date:

- The initial coordinated engagement system design has been completed by the work group, which represents YYA providers, Family Housing Connection, and YYA

housing programs.

- The coordinated engagement system design was presented to the YYA Advisory Group on January 7, 2013. Separate focus groups with YYA housing providers, case managers, young people, and funders occurred in January. Initial YYA housing provider and agency leadership commitment to the design is secured.
- Via a competitive request for proposals process through King County Community Service Division's Housing and Community Development section (HCD), Catholic Community Services was selected as the lead agency to implement coordinated engagement for homeless youth and young adults. Catholic Community Services brings a strong mission focus, broad regional coverage, and in-depth systems knowledge through their implementation of the family coordinated entry system.

Upcoming Benchmarks:

- Catholic Community Services is working with DCHS to determine messaging and develop an implementation plan to launch YYA Coordinated Engagement with a target date of July 1, 2013. Assessment tool and housing inventory development is in progress.
- Homeless YYA Initiative staff is hosting information sessions with the Seattle and King County Housing Authorities to review expectations for YYA housing programs to participate in coordinated engagement. Staff is also working closely with the City of Seattle and King County HCD to modify contract language and ensure clear communication to agencies.

Contracting and Budget for Coordinated Engagement System:

- Contract Discussions. Start-up and year one contract and budget are currently under discussion and negotiation with Catholic Community Services and DCHS. Family Homelessness Initiative staff is deeply involved in these negotiations to ensure efficiency and potential cost savings between family coordinated entry system and YYA coordinated engagement.
- Coordinated Engagement System Budget. Private funders have committed \$240,600 in 2013, \$243,240 in 2014, and \$246,600 in 2015, to support coordinated engagement. No funds have been expended yet for the system because we are still in the contract negotiation phase.

We have determined that there are necessary additional one-time start-up costs in the amount of \$100,600 for 2013 only. In addition, staff is working with the contractor to determine the actual ongoing costs of maintaining the system, once it is established. Homeless YYA Initiative staff is in discussions with private funders to cover any gap for the three year period of the MOA through a combination of public and private sources. The King County Department of Community and Human Services is

working with other public funders to identify funds that can be contributed for any additional costs of the system for 2013-2015 and beyond, which will leverage with private funds.

Data Coordination

The data coordination effort is driving towards a synchronized data system for assessing community progress toward the goal of ending YYA homelessness, beginning with a coordinated engagement database. The data system will be integrated within Safe Harbors, support coordination of services, measure community-wide outcomes, and will answer the following key questions: *What is the need and what works to address it? Are we making progress?*

Accomplished to Date:

- Development of the coordinated engagement data system will be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2013 and is underway currently. This data system will be aligned with the existing Family Housing Connection database, with a different “view.” Regular meetings and communication occur between Safe Harbors, the Homeless YYA Initiative, Catholic Community Services and the technical project manager contracted through King County to support the process. Safe Harbors staff remain tremendous and involved partners in this effort.
- The Homeless YYA Initiative worked with Safe Harbors to identify and flag all homeless YYA programs currently utilizing Safe Harbors. Data can now be pulled for the homeless YYA continuum specifically and consistently. The King County DCHS evaluation team is reviewing the 2012 Safe Harbors data set for this group of programs to determine our baseline as a community. This data will be included in the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan.
- The Homeless YYA Initiative staff is supporting conversations among the Safe Harbors sponsors regarding YouthCare’s Regional Case Management Database. YouthCare is currently leading this data initiative for homeless YYA’s programs in King County, with the goal of creating a single, integrated data view of each homeless young person as they receive services from multiple agencies. This Regional Case Management Database, built on the Adsystem platform, intends to establish how well the young person is progressing overall, how well the services provided are succeeding, and which service models are most effective. Much is unknown about the implications for this database in this early stage, however given the Homeless YYA Initiative priority regarding data coordination, staff are observing this project with great interest.

Upcoming Benchmarks:

- The Coordinated Engagement data system will be complete and user tested prior to the launch of Coordinated Engagement in July 2013.
- As part of the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan process, providers and funders are meeting to determine community and client-level shared outcomes to answer the following key questions: *What is the need and what works to address it? Are we making progress?* These shared outcomes will align with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH's) recent youth outcomes framework, and will ensure our data coordination and collection rolls up in one clear community-wide picture.

Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan

The Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan will be transmitted to King County Council by September 23, 2013. This plan will lay the clear path forward to best address, and ultimately end, YYA homelessness in King County. The timeline and key milestones for this planning process are currently in draft form, however given the tone of the Homeless YYA Initiative to date, it is clear the process will be one richly informed by the community of providers, funders, and the youth themselves. In particular, the YYA Advisory Group will guide and inform the process, acting as key custodians of the Comprehensive YYA Homelessness Plan.

The plan will, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- **Baseline data**
 - What do we know now through existing data about homeless young people in King County?
- **Environment/landscape scan**
 - What housing and services exist for homeless YYA in King County?
 - What funding is currently being directed to homeless YYA and from what sources?
 - Where are the gaps in funding and services?
 - What promising practices exist in ours and other communities?
- **Outcome framework**
 - Homeless YYA Theory of Change
 - Alignment with the USICH framework.

- Community goals and prioritization
 - Annual goals today through 2020 to reduce and ultimately end homelessness among YYA
 - If we were to have an additional dollar, where is that dollar best directed?
- Call to Action
 - Specific recommendations on housing and service investments for YYA
 - Summary of the work that remains to continue making progress toward the goal of ending YYA Homelessness.

Michele Valdez began work with DCHS as the second Homeless YYA Initiative staff in April 2013; her duties primarily focused on the plan itself. She was most recently at Solid Ground, and has strong knowledge of the Family Homelessness Initiative, as well as other system change efforts in Denver.

IV. CONTINUED PERSPECTIVE AND LESSONS LEARNED

King County remains poised to be a national leader around how to best address homelessness among youth and young adults. At the recent National Alliance to End Homelessness conference hosted in Seattle, Homeless YYA Initiative staff presented during two workshop panels. One fellow presenter said, when describing how quickly we as a community expect homeless young adults to exit services and be independent, “We ask so much of these kids.”

The Homeless YYA Initiative represents us as a King County community asking much of ourselves, also – so that we can better support young people struggling on our streets.