

Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) 2008 Priorities and Work Program

FOCUS ISSUES

1. 2008 Legislative Agenda

Objective: The 2008 legislative agenda will focus the Forum's advocacy efforts and increase the Forum's ability to act quickly on upcoming legislative efforts.

Goal 1: Affordable, High Quality Child Care Options

- Increase accessibility to child care by increasing investments in child care reimbursement rates.
- Fund implementation of the statewide Quality Rating Improvement System for child care providers to ensure high quality child care for all children.

Goal 2: Support All Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness

- Increase funding significantly for the Housing Trust Fund, with an ultimate goal of \$230 million.
- Appropriate \$8M to expand the Washington Families Fund this biennium.

Goal 3: Increase Accessibility to Available Resources

Increase funding for the Washington Information Network 211.

2. Regional and Subregional Funding

Objective: Advocate for Eastside needs to be addressed through regional funding

Action Steps:

- Analyze regional funding resources, i.e. Veterans and Human Services Levy, Mental Health Sales Tax, Housing and Homelessness Assistance Fund.
- Host or co-sponsor event to educate and inform and develop messages to position ourselves (including North King County) regarding the funding resources listed above.
- Begin process to develop a subregional human services plan (possibly with North King County)

Point Person(s): Emily Leslie, Colleen Kelly, Carrie Hite

3. Business Involvement and Partnerships

Objective: Strengthen partnerships with local business community members to further mutual interests related to healthy, thriving communities.

Action Steps:

- Identify one to two specific business sectors that are housing related
- Conduct a focus group with identified business sector members.
- Determine strategies and secure a champion within the targeted business sector who can advocate for human services with other business members.
- Invite speaker to present information about the Community Reinvestment Act (mandates that banks donate to "CRA eligible" community efforts focused on low-income people).

Point Person(s): Cindy Goodwin, Rochelle Clayton

4. Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Objective: In partnership with the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC), take a leadership role in highlighting Eastside homelessness concerns and strengthening the funding base in support of ending homelessness in East King County.

Action Steps:

- Advocate for implementation of the East King County Plan to End Homelessness at state and local level.
- Organize roll-out and scheduling of Plan presentations.
- Continue to track Committee to End Homelessness meetings and other regional homelessness meetings for issues pertinent to Eastside concerns, and summarize these issues concisely to keep local elected officials and others informed.
- Initiate discussion regarding the relationship between affordable housing, homelessness and the broader human services arena.

Point Person(s): pending (This focus area is in need of a main point person now that Camron Parker is unable to participate in the Forum due to his new position. Megan Hyla from the King County Housing Authority is a new member to the Work Group and will be one of the point people.)

5. Getting School Ready

Objective: Partner with Eastside efforts to strengthen parent support, early childhood education and school readiness efforts in East King County, including ensuring that resources get appropriately allocated for Eastside communities.

Action Steps:

- Partner with other groups (i.e. FACES East, SOAR, faith community) for expanding events/services for immigrant and refugee families as well as those who have special needs & disabilities.
- Provide continued support to the Getting School Ready Teams as they expand to additional schools.
- Develop ways to support Family, Friends and Neighbor care and immigrant & refugee families.
- Track legislative issues related to early learning (i.e., activities of the Department of Early Learning and Thrive By Five) to share information with appropriate Eastside electeds and decision-makers.

Point Person(s): Judy Manchester, Alex O'Reilly, Brooke Buckingham

6. Improve Access and Services for Immigrants and Refugees

Objective: The Forum aims to strengthen and improve services for immigrants and refugees as part of ensuring a healthy, effective service delivery system for all East King County families.

Action Steps:

In partnership with the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC),

- Support marketing efforts for the Cultural Navigator pilot program.
- Participate in evaluation of the first year of the Cultural Navigator program (strengths, improvements needed, etc.) and help advocate for continued funding.

Point Person(s): Alaric Bien, Pam Mauk, Colleen Kelly

7. Older Adults

Objective: As a growing demographic with unique human services needs and challenges, the Forum is addressing older adults as a new focus area for 2008. This year's activities will center around information gathering and defining how to best benefit Eastside older adults within the scope of the Forum's mission.

Action Steps:

- Coordinate with existing groups such as the Bellevue Network on Aging, the Kirkland Senior Council, and others on the Eastside.
- Gather data/trends on aging issues (healthcare, housing, transportation, financial, etc.) for Eastside. (Include information about language proficiency and cross-cultural issues.)
- Develop work plan actions based on above and implement/distribute

Point Person(s): Brooke Buckingham, Geoff Ethelston, Steve Gierke

2008 SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Education and Advocacy

This subcommittee assesses opportunities to provide public education messages about Eastside human services, which may take the form of publications, PSA's, press releases, forums/events, etc. The Education and Advocacy Subcommittee also assesses needs related to advocacy efforts using the current year's work plan and legislative agenda as a guide. This subcommittee serves in an advisory capacity, making recommendations to the Work Group and/or Board for educational activities and advocacy efforts. Members will also draft documents, publications, and other materials to be reviewed by the Work Group and Board. This subcommittee organizes educational events and forums as necessary throughout the year. The Education and Advocacy Subcommittee creates opportunities to provide ongoing and consistent education, updates, and measures of success to City Councils, King County Council, and other local decision-makers.

Chair: Alex O'Reilly

Members: Steve Gierke, Kathy Lambert, Emily Leslie, Judy Manchester, Carrie Hite

Staff Support: Debbie Lacy (EHSF Coordinator)

Meeting frequency: monthly

2. Marketing

The Marketing Subcommittee was created in 2006 out of a need to develop a marketing plan for the Forum. Having a consistent brand identity and materials will help strengthen the Forum's voice and presence in the community. This will be especially important in the next few years as legislation for funding human services goes to the voters. This subcommittee creates consistent messaging, speaking points, and presentation/appearance of materials (including publications and the website).

Chair: Rochelle Clayton

Members: Brooke Buckingham, Carrie Hite, Judy Manchester

Staff Support: Debbie Lacy (EHSF Coordinator)

Meeting frequency: monthly