



## **Integrated Services**

### **Objective:**

Ensure a network of integrated and effective health and human services is available to people in need

### **Strategy:**

Support partnerships to deliver integrated and effective services to people in need

### **Why is this strategy important?**

Public funds for health and human services continue to be limited, with more need for services than King County can provide alone. King County must work as one partner among many to promote healthy families and safe communities. In concert with federal, state, and local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, foundations, faith communities, businesses, schools, the criminal justice system and others, King County will seek to build and sustain a coordinated regional health and human services system to provide services, supports, safety and opportunity to individuals throughout King County.

### **How is our performance?**

There are many examples of King County's support for partnerships to deliver integrated and effective services to people in need.

The Committee to End Homelessness Funder's Group is a collaboration of the key funders of regional homeless housing and supportive services who have come together to identify shared priorities and jointly fund projects and services to support the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The 2010 Combined Notice of Funding Availability totaled \$55 million from 7 funders and 22 different fund sources. The Funders Group was chosen in May 2011 as one of the "Top 25 Innovations in American Government" by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Another example is the King County Work Training Program, which works with over 30 partners representing community and technical colleges, public and private sector employers, and community-based agencies. Many of these partners provide services onsite at WorkSource Renton. This centrally located site provides universal access to job seekers and employers by co-locating a variety of employment and training services in one place.

Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) and Community Transformation Grants are national initiatives to prevent chronic disease and promote health through policy, systems and environment changes. King County was one of 55 sites throughout the United States awarded initial grant funding through the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and subsequently in partnership with Seattle Children's. These initiatives are tackling obesity and tobacco use, the leading causes of preventable death in our region. Results from these initiatives will take time, but many local

jurisdictions have taken steps to improve health, including implementing tobacco-free areas and improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and parks. Evaluations of these improvements are forthcoming.

In addition, through a unique public-private partnership called Global to Local, the County is leading efforts to leverage the knowledge and expertise of the many global public health organizations in our community to help areas of our community with the greatest diversity and health needs.

King County also plays the leading role in coordinating planning and response to infectious and communicable disease epidemics, working with hospitals, health care providers, schools, local governments, and first responders (police and firefighters), among others. Newer partnerships that address other types of disease, such as heart disease and diabetes, include a broad effort to improve our community with the Healthy King County Coalition to reduce tobacco use, increase access to healthy foods, reduce consumption of sugary drinks, and increase opportunities for exercise, so that people can avoid these illnesses in the first place.

Another key strategy for King County is to identify new types of health care teams that connect people to other supports within our community so that they can enjoy maximum health, and quality improvement initiatives in our clinics. Through these strategies, the County is modeling ways to serve more people, more efficiently, and with better results. The County also provides health care services to low-income insured and uninsured individuals including special clinics for teens, dental care for children, maternity support for pregnant women and their babies through age 2 months, additional intensive support for first-time young moms to ensure that they and their babies are healthy, care for patients with tuberculosis, STD and HIV testing. In addition, King County continues to lead efforts to address the health care needs of individuals experiencing homelessness through mobile medical services, and support for services that allow people to improve stability and avoid or recover from homelessness. Finally, King County provides free or low-cost services that help to protect the health of the overall county population, including immunizations against disease and education about ways to stay healthy.

Partnerships internal to King County have resulted in providing affordable housing in close proximity to transit by making the most strategic use of County surplus land. In addition, many partnerships between the Department of Community and Human Services and Public Health- Seattle and King County have provided joint funding for projects that reduce reliance on crisis medical and criminal justice systems as well as supporting a cost-effective approach to providing early intervention and prevention in human services.

## **Moving forward**

On November 5, 2012, the King County Council passed Motion 13768 requesting the executive, in collaboration with the departments of community and human services and public health, and a community stakeholder panel informed by local and national expertise to develop a plan for an accountable and integrated system of health, human services and community based prevention and recovery. The goal is to create seamless access to a broad range of health, human services, and prevention for individuals in need. King County will continue to work with other jurisdictions and organizations to define a regionalthe continuum of health, human services system and community-based prevention and recovery and to strengthen financing, access, and overall effectiveness of services.