



Health and Human Services Transformation | [Website](#)

June 2014

Dear community stakeholder,

This newsletter provides an update on activities related to the implementation of the [King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan](#). We are working to work to strengthen communications and share news and learnings more frequently. We welcome your feedback on what you'd like to see in future editions.

What is the Health and Human Services Transformation Plan?

The Transformation Plan charts a five-year course to a better performing health and human services system for the residents and communities of King County. Called for by the Metropolitan King County Council, a cross-sector panel advised on the Plan's development in 2013. The Plan was accepted by the County Council in July 2013. It is grounded in a vision that calls for shifting from today's crisis and sick-care oriented systems to one focused on prevention, wellness, recovery, and the elimination of disparities.

Community Partners Engaged in Shaping Next Steps

In March 2014, representatives from about 20 organizations agreed to come together as the Advising Partners Group to strategize on ways to move the King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan into action. The Advising Partners Group will meet for a period of approximately six months to offer input on:

- structures and mechanisms for launching the two early strategies of the Transformation Plan
- guidelines for use of the catalyst fund in 2014
- additional partnerships and investors
- community and resident engagement
- alignment with state health reform initiatives and the State Health Care Innovation Plan
- evaluation framework
- ongoing governance/oversight structure(s)

In This Issue

[Advising Partners](#)

[Community-level](#)

[Request for Proposals](#)

[Individual-level](#)

[ACH Exploration](#)

[Catalyst Fund](#)

[Staffing](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[Staying in Touch](#)

Key Dates

June 13: [Communities of Opportunity RFP released](#)

June 23: [Communities of Opportunity Design Committee Meeting](#)

June 30-Dec. 31:
[Accountable Community of Health planning period](#)

July 18: [Communities of Opportunity RFP responses due](#)

July 21: [Communities of Opportunity Design Committee Meeting](#)

July/Aug.: Convene Individual-level Design Committee

Aug. 6: [Advising Partners](#)

[More](#), including the membership list and meeting materials, can be found online.

Community Level Strategy Gets Underway as the "Communities of Opportunity" Initiative

The Transformation Plan calls for supporting *targeted communities in developing capacity and solutions that will improve the community features* that shape the health and well-being of residents and the vibrancy of neighborhoods, such as housing, physical environment, adequate employment, early childhood supports, and access to services.

Communities of Opportunity Initiative

We're excited to report progress on the community-level strategy, which in the first quarter of 2014 evolved into a partnership with The Seattle Foundation and King County. Now called the "Communities of Opportunity" initiative, it is being co-developed with community residents and groups, city governments, policymakers, and other funders and partners. In working to create Communities of Opportunity, King County and The Seattle Foundation have committed to aligning efforts across sectors to maximize resources and improve health, social, racial, and economic equity for low-income individuals and communities. The intent is to support prevention-focused, community-identified goals by partnering with communities in support of their priorities in ways that build upon assets and strengthen capacities.

The Seattle Foundation has made a multi-year commitment to support Communities of Opportunity, and in 2014 King County will be applying a portion of the Catalyst Fund to this initiative. Other partners and investors are welcome under the Communities of Opportunity umbrella. A design committee has been formed and is currently working to help develop and refine the larger initiative framework.

Request for Proposals (RFP) recently issued

Communities of Opportunity recently took its first major step by announcing the first of two anticipated funding rounds in 2014. Learn [more](#).

Seattle-King County Selected for Living Cities Integration Initiative

Another encouraging development from the first quarter 2014 was that King County was invited to apply to a national foundation, Living Cities, as one of five new sites around the country for participation in its "Integration Initiative." In May, we learned that we were selected! Living Cities draws Communities of

[Group](#) meeting

Late summer/early fall: Communities of Opportunity place-based investments

Staying in Touch

For now we'll continue to share news and updates through this stakeholder network email list, and also on [our website](#). People wishing to be added to, or removed from, this list can indicate so through the links at the bottom of this message or [write to us](#).

Opportunity into a national learning community focused on system change and working in multi-sector collaboratives to improve the lives of low-income people. King County joins the cities of Albuquerque, New Orleans, San Antonio, and San Francisco in receiving Round 2 one-year planning grants. Additional grants and loans may be available after the planning process is complete. Learn [more](#).

Individual/Family-level Strategy Developments

The Transformation Plan also calls for early work on improving health and social outcomes, while simultaneously reducing costs, *for individuals in King County who have complex health and social needs* commonly characterized by high use of services and supports.

Individuals with complex health and social issues

Activities are underway to scope the work on improving outcomes for individuals with complex conditions. Focusing on this population for improved integration was a high priority of the Transformation Plan due to the opportunities and changes driven by health reform. Initial steps will include bringing together the relevant system partners, narrowing the defined population to a manageable starting point, getting to agreement on outcomes and then identifying and carrying out policy and process improvements to achieve those outcomes. Conversations to-date have been leading toward a focus on individuals who touch the criminal justice system and who may also have a mental health, substance use, and/or chronic health conditions.

Medicaid-Medicare Dual Eligibles Demonstration

King County and the City of Seattle are working together and with Washington State to continue preparing for the 2015 implementation of an integrated care demonstration for people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The State, King County, and the health plans are working together to co-convene, later this summer, a King County Duals Demonstration Project Community Collaborative which will be the vehicle to provide critical community input and oversight into the implementation of the project, in support of its success.

Aligning with the State Health Care Innovation Plan: Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Exploration

The Transformation Plan calls for taking proactive steps to align integration activities with the State Health Care Innovation Plan (SHCIP), given the complementary

nature of the goals and strategies of the two plans. One of the building blocks called for in the SHCIP is the creation of "Accountable Communities of Health" (ACH). An ACH is described as a regionally based, voluntary collaborative whose purpose is to align actions among diverse sectors to achieve healthy communities and populations, improve health care quality, and lower costs.

In early May, the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) announced a [Community of Health Planning Grant opportunity](#) for organizations interested in assisting regional planning and collaboration.

Recognizing that the ACH could serve as a platform to advance the Transformation Plan -which already has cross-sector partners engaged in efforts to improve health and well-being - King County applied to serve as convener/co-convener of ACH planning for the King County region.

On June 13, the Health Care Authority announced 10 planning grants, and King County was named as one of the apparently successful applicants. If you'd like to learn more about ACH planning as it develops, be sure to sign up for our [e-mail list](#) and/or visit our [webpage](#).

Catalyst Fund Guidelines Developed

On June 9, 2014, the Metropolitan King County Council approved the Executive's request for 2014 funding to help jumpstart the Transformation Plan's implementation, including a \$500,000 catalyst fund. In early 2014, the County worked with community advisers to develop [guidelines](#) for the use of the fund and how it will advance the work under the two early strategies.

In the latter half of 2014, the Catalyst Fund will:

- Invest in actions that catalyze health and human service system changes
- Invest in strategies that are known to impact better outcomes for individuals and communities, through the two early strategies of the Transformation Plan
- Build capacity of communities and organizations to participate in transformation in measurable ways
- Leverage funding from other investors and partners

Staffing

We've welcomed two new staff in positions that are jointly accountable to both the King County Department

of Community and Human Services and to Public Health-Seattle & King County.

A.J. McClure has been hired to be the Transformation Plan Coordinator. A.J. will be leading efforts to assure effective structures and strategies for making meaningful progress on the plan. He worked on policy and communications for King County Councilmember Julia Patterson and participated in the development of the Transformation Plan. He also served as a regional policy advisor for the City of Seattle and worked for a number of community organizations focusing on a variety of issues such as education, human services, energy efficiency, and immigrant/civil rights.

Liz Arjun has been hired as a Transformation Plan Analyst. Liz served as a Regional Outreach Specialist in the Office of the Regional Director for the Department of Health and Human Services on issues related to implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Prior to that, she worked for the Community Health Plan of Washington to advance health coverage for low-income residents through implementation of the Affordable Care Act and at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families providing policy analysis and technical assistance to state based advocates on children's health issues.

Thank you again for your interest in the King County Health and Human Services Transformation. If you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

[A.J. McClure](#), HHS Transformation Plan Coordinator
King County Health and Human Services Transformation



King County

HHSTransformation@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/exec/HHSTransformation

401 5th Ave., Ste. 900
Seattle, WA 98104