



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

November 2014

Dear community stakeholder,

We'd like to update you on several initiatives and community partnerships that are underway to improve the health and well-being of King County residents and communities. At King County, we're transforming how we do business, working and learning in new ways with new partners to build a more equitable King County.

Communities of Opportunity

Off and running

Communities of Opportunity is a joint initiative between The Seattle Foundation and King County which takes a new approach to building social equity in our region. Read [more](#).

First-round investments awarded

In early October, King County and The Seattle Foundation announced awardees for the first round of Communities of Opportunity investments. A total of [\\$1.1 million in grants](#) - with a majority of the grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$125,000 - will empower local communities to carry out a diverse package of health, housing, and economic opportunity projects that aim to reduce disparities in health and well-being among King County residents.

Geographic community award Letter of Interest due Nov. 14

Released earlier this month is a [Letter of Interest](#) to begin the process of identifying up to three geographic communities (neighborhoods or cities) that are interested in joining as a partner in the COO initiative over three to five years. The Letter of Interest will be used to open a dialogue to explore potential partnerships in a community-driven initiative to improve health and social outcomes.

Familiar Faces

Initial work launched

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What is the HHS 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

Design Team launched

In September 2014, a Design Team began working towards changing systems to improve health and social outcomes for adults who are high utilizers of the jail and who also experience mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The Design Team is a group of leaders representing a diverse group of organizations including housing providers, behavioral health and physical health providers, Medicaid managed care plans, Washington State Health Care Authority, and King County staff.

Mapping the current state of services for "Familiar Faces"

Using Lean principles to help guide its work, the Design Team has begun developing a current state map of the systems that provide care to this subpopulation. The goal is to better understand how these individuals move through the various systems and where there might be opportunities to work across systems to produce a better experience and better outcomes. The Design Team is observing the work within each system and talking with clients.

After this current state map is developed, the Design Team is tasked with developing a future state vision and identifying the steps, changes, and/or investments necessary to achieve that vision. Recommendations and implementation of these recommendations will begin in 2015. More [here](#).

Partnerships to Improve Community Health

A new \$9 million grant secured

A \$9 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was awarded to a partnership of Public Health-Seattle & King County, [Seattle Children's](#) and the [Healthy King County Coalition](#) to continue our local fight against obesity and tobacco use. The three-year grant will support organizations and institutions to lead changes that make King County communities healthier. Read [more](#).

Coverage is Here King County

Health insurance open enrollment is coming

Open enrollment begins Nov. 15

The second open enrollment season for enrolling in Qualified Health Plan coverage through WA Healthplanfinder runs from November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015. Apple Health (Medicaid) enrollment is open continuously.

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.

Key Dates

Mid-Sept--Mid-Dec:
Familiar Faces Design Team current state mapping

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

November 14: [COO Letters of Interest due](#)

November 20:
[Advising Partners Group meeting](#)

December:
Announcement of COO 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](#).

In King County, we expect an increase in the number of insurance carriers and Qualified Health Plans from which individuals will be able to choose, and small businesses will also be able to begin purchasing coverage for their employees through WA Healthplanfinder SHOP.

Enrollment events

In preparation for the new enrollment season, Public Health-Seattle & King County, the lead In-Person Assister Organization for King County, is working to recertify the county's 600+ in-person assisters, as well as planning a series of enrollment events to be held throughout the county. Along with enrolling newly eligible individuals into coverage, in-person assisters will help residents who enrolled in coverage last year to renew their coverage for this year.

Information on upcoming enrollment events as well as general information about open enrollment and renewals can be found [here](#).

Accountable Community of Health (ACH)

Planning phase has begun

In the King County region and across the state, planning is underway for the development of Accountable Communities of Health.

About ACHs

ACHs are an element described in [Healthier Washington](#), the state's health system innovation plan. ACHs are intended to leverage collaboration already taking place in communities by creating a more formal structure for bringing public and private entities together to work on achieving the "triple aim" of better health, better care, and lower costs.

Gathering perspectives on ACH

King County is facilitating the initial planning phase for this region under a grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority. A consulting team comprising Cedar River Group and Watanabe Consultation has been gathering and analyzing a range of perspectives on the ACH concept. This community engagement will help formulate options and recommendations for the next stages of ACH.

An ACH roadmap will be available by the end of 2014 for the King County region. A draft plan will be shared via this stakeholder list in early December, and we'll look forward to your feedback. For more information, visit the [King County ACH website](#) or the [Washington State Communities of Health website](#).

Medicaid/Medicare Financial Alignment Demonstration

New developments

After several months of planning and negotiating, Washington is moving forward with implementation of the Duals Demonstration Project. Washington is among a group of states working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to test a new model of integrated care and financing for people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. The demonstration will take place in King and Snohomish Counties.

Planning for new managed care model

In King County, planning is underway to prepare for testing this new managed care model for dual eligibles. This demonstration could affect about 21,000 people in King County, mostly older adults and people with disabilities.

Partners and timeline

There has been a change in the health plans that will be implementing the project in King County. The two health plans that have been identified as potential partners for the demonstration include United Healthcare and Community Health Plan of Washington.

According to the state, the start date for implementation is now July 2015 and will begin with a voluntary, opt-in phase. After that, three phases of passive enrollment will occur in September 2015, November 2015, and January 2016. Learn [more about the project here](#).

Physical/Behavioral Health Integration

Initial planning

Efforts are underway to respond to [2SSB 6312](#), a bill signed during the 2014 legislative session concerning the state purchasing of mental health and chemical dependency treatment services. Some of the key components to this bill include:

- Alignment of Medicaid purchasing areas for physical health, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services into common Regional Service Areas (RSAs). The state recently [announced the new RSAs](#); King County has been designated as a stand-alone RSA.
- Integrated purchasing of chemical dependency and mental health services through managed care contracts by April 2016. To achieve this

goal, each regional service area will have a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) that will be responsible for the administration and delivery of integrated behavioral health services.

- Regional service areas may elect to become "early adopters" of full integration of physical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services by January 1, 2016. Early adopter regions are eligible to participate in a share of any savings that accrue as a result of full integration.

King County is conducting an analysis of the potential options for integration, including consideration of the risks and benefits to King County in pursuing early adopter status.

More information on these physical/behavioral health integration efforts can be found online:

- [Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force](#)
(Washington State)
- [Developing Behavioral Health Organizations](#)
(Washington State Division of Behavioral Health)
- [Healthier Washington](#)



King County

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

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