

agenda  
4/25 meeting  
Board approval  
needed -  
(per Connie)  
4/11/07

## EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM 2007 Tier 1 Statements

The mission of the Eastside Human Services Forum is to foster strong public and private partnerships to assure a stable network of health and human services for the benefit of all East King County residents. This will be accomplished through efforts to strengthen the funding base for human services, create partnerships and efficiencies, advocate to protect Eastside interests, and help inform decision makers (including funders, policy makers, and the public) about issues of importance.

We value human services and the role they play in everyone's quality of life. With a strong human services system, people's lives are better, cities save money, schools, hospitals and businesses are spared costly impacts, and society benefits in the short and long term.

In order to advocate for our priorities in 2007, EHSF has adopted the following public policy statements:

- 1) East King County's real and growing need for human services is at least as important as the need in other parts of King County. Funding for human services on the Eastside must accommodate the growing need.
- 2) We encourage individuals and corporations with ties to the Eastside to increase their investment in this community. Traditional sources of public and private funds, together with newly created revenue sources will be required to address the need for human services on the Eastside.
- 3) In view of our increasingly diverse communities, a sustained effort will be required to ensure that the Eastside's human services system can adequately respond.
- 4) EHSF is dedicated to serving the interests of the people in East King County, and we will work in the context of larger arenas (county and state) for our mutual benefit.
- 5) EHSF values a balance of services that include prevention, early intervention, crisis, and treatment. We will advocate for restoring prevention and intervention services that have been sacrificed in the current funding environment.
- 6) In light of recent research on infant brain development and what we now know about the economic and social cost savings of early prevention, the Eastside Human Services Forum will work with its members and partners in East King County to ensure that all children ages birth to 5 develop the cognitive, emotional, and motor competencies to help them succeed in school and in life.
- 7) The Eastside Human Services Forum supports collaborative efforts to prevent homelessness and to provide housing and services that help the homeless become self-sufficient.

# Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) 2007 Priorities and Work Program

## FOCUS ISSUES

### 1. 2007 Legislative Agenda

Objective: The 2007 legislative agenda will focus the Forum's advocacy efforts and increase the Forum's ability to act quickly on upcoming legislative efforts.

#### Goal 1: Promote Early Learning and Healthy Child Development

- Increase accessibility to child care by increasing the childcare subsidy.
- Implement a voluntary, statewide Quality Rating Improvement System for childcare providers to ensure high quality childcare for all children.

#### Goal 2: Increase Affordable Housing

Continue to strengthen the Housing Trust Fund by making a significant contribution to the Fund during each budget cycle.

#### Goal 3: Provide Health Care for All Children

"Cover All Kids by 2010" – ensure that all children have access to health care insurance. As a means to further restore the Children's Health Program, funding should be increased to reduce the growing wait list.

### 2. Regional and Subregional Funding

Objective: Strengthen the funding base for human services in East King County.

#### Action Steps:

- Monitor the distribution of King County Veterans' and Human Services Levy funds, SHB 2063 funds (housing projects) and funds from House Bill 2163, the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act. Advocate for Eastside needs as necessary.
- Stay informed about the King County proposal for a 0.1% sales tax increase for mental health and substance abuse services.
- Issue a press release about Eastside cities' increased funding for human services.
- Research a regional funding model similar to ARCH and make recommendations.
- Monitor state public health funding and advocate as needed.
- Increase collaboration and communication with other subregions.

Point Person(s): Emily Leslie, Colleen Kelly, Phil Noble

### 3. Business Involvement and Partnerships

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

- Fill one to two available Executive Board seats with representatives from an Eastside Chamber group.
- Explore opportunities to present at Chamber of Commerce meetings/luncheons
- Provide Eastside Chambers with human services updates for possible publication in their newsletters.

Point Person(s): Jim Lauinger, Debbie Lacy

#### **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:

- Host or co-sponsor an event to educate and inform about the Ten-Year Plan
- Identify an Eastside Human Services Forum point person to take the lead role in informing IAC/committee members regarding Eastside concerns.
- Lead efforts to create an Eastside strategic plan.
- Engage in appropriate activities in support of the Forum's legislative agenda item to increase the Housing Trust Fund.

Point Person(s): Arthur Sullivan, Camron Parker, Phil Noble

#### **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 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.
- Engage in appropriate activities to support the Forum's legislative agenda item regarding an increase for child care subsidies and the development of the Quality Rating Improvement System.
- Develop ways to support Family, Friends and Neighbor care and immigrant & refugee families.

Point Person(s): Alex O'Reilly, Judy Manchester, Margaret Moore

#### **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), continue to support the implementation of the Cultural Navigator pilot program.
- Release a publication about the program at the end of its first year.
- If ERIC determines there's a need for a Helpful Connections Guide reprint, support those efforts as well as the online updates for the Forum website.
- Pursue possible grant awards for Helpful Connections and/or the Cultural Navigator program.
- Collaborate with relevant Early Learning efforts in support of immigrant and refugee families.

Point Person(s): Alaric Bien, Colleen Kelly, Debbie Lacy

# 2007 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.

Chair: Alex O'Reilly

Members: Colleen Kelly, Camron Parker, Emily Leslie, Judy Manchester, Steve Gierke, Elizabeth Westburg, Elaine Cummins, Joy Hawkins (City of Bellevue Intern)

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 consistent marketing plan for the Forum. The Forum launches its first legislative agenda in 2007; 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 reviews the Forum's needs related to marketing and makes requests for appropriate resources to accomplish the marketing goals.

Chair: Brooke Buckingham

Members: Elaine Cummins, Carrie Hite, Judy Manchester, Cameryn Flynn, Rochelle Clayton-Strunk

Staff Support: Debbie Lacy

Meeting frequency: monthly

## **3. Membership**

The Membership Subcommittee is convening in 2007 to identify and recruit new Members and Friends, with the specific goal of filling five open Board seats. This subcommittee will recommend potential Board members and will also review the current Work Group roster to assess the need for additional partnerships. Subcommittee members will meet with potential and interested applicants to provide information about the Forum.

Chair:

Members: Emily Leslie, Joan Campbell, Doug Whalen, Marilyn Mason-Plunkett

Staff Support: Debbie Lacy

Meeting frequency: 1-2 meetings in the first half of 2007; most duties performed via phone, email and in person meetings with potential Members and Friends.