

Date: November 30, 2011

To: Councilmember Nick Licata, Chair
Seattle City Council Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee

Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember
Tim Burgess, Councilmember
Sally Clark, Councilmember

From: Dannette R. Smith, Director
Seattle Human Services Department

Re: Statement of Legislative Intent #65-4-A-1
Regional Review of Shelter or Interim Housing Capacity

This memorandum transmits the Seattle Human Services Department's (HSD) response to the City Council's Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) #65-4-A-1 included in the 2011 Adopted Budget, requesting a regional review of the shelter or interim housing.

HSD's attached report responds to the SLI in which the Seattle City Council requests that the "Executive, in collaboration with the Committee to End Homelessness Funder's Group, King County, United Way, faith-based organizations, and service providers examine the supply and demand for shelter or interim housing (including indoor shelter, car camping, etc.), and consider the possible location of new housing in geographic areas currently lacking availability of such housing. This review should incorporate the work being done by an organization selected by the Committee to End Homelessness, to help faith-based communities to expand information and education on what these communities can provide in the way of housing and services for homeless."

The Council SLI request coincided with Committee to End Homelessness (CEH)'s efforts to engage the community in an extensive "mid-plan review" of the King County Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The SLI response was originally due September 2011 and City Council extended the report deadline to November 30, 2011 to incorporate the regional CEH's mid-plan review, and new priorities established as part of CEH's Bodies of Work for 2011-2015.

There are a number of initiatives under way that are influencing how the CEH Interagency Council, Governing Board and Funders Group can help quantify the demand for shelter and respond to these needs. However, the work of three new CEH exploratory task forces on Single Adult Shelter, Immigrants & Refugees, and Youth & Young Adults is not yet complete and reports from the groups are anticipated in March/April 2012. In addition, the system is responding to new federal requirements imposed by the HEARTH Act, and the county-wide Family Homelessness Initiative creating a new coordinated entry and assessment system for families who are experiencing or are imminently at-risk of being homelessness begin operations in March.

At the same time, Seattle HSD will release the *Communities Supporting Safe & Stable* investment plan for City of Seattle human service investments in preventing and ending homelessness, under the countywide Ten-Year Plan. The plan is expected to be completed in February 2012. It will provide a framework for the next Request for Investment (RFI) processes which will include shelter/interim housing programs. The investment plan and RFI are incorporating work from regional planning for individuals, families, youth and young adults. All of these activities are influencing the ways in which the CEH and region responds to the needs for shelter and housing. Therefore, the attached SLI response includes a status report of these initiatives, rather than a set of specific recommendations on possible locations of new housing in geographic areas. Consideration for possible locations of new housing will not be made until after the initiatives and CEH task force deliverables are available.

The attached report provides: (1) SLI background and context for the regional response to homelessness; (2) a description of the shelter/interim housing inventory in the county; (3) unmet needs and (4) regional response to addressing services needed, including the implementation of new CEH initiatives. This report highlights the work of the CEH Single Adult Shelter Task Force; the implementation of a new Coordinated Entry and Assessment system for families experiencing and at-risk of homelessness in King County; and a CEH-funded program to support faith-based organizations working to end homelessness.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about HSD's response and attached report.

cc: Catherine Lester, Deputy Director, Seattle Human Services Department
Bill Block, Committee to End Homelessness
Alison Eisinger, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

Attachment: *Seattle Human Services Department, Response to Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent: 65-4-A-1, Regional Review of Shelter or Interim Housing Capacity.*