

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Update on Lake City Partners and King County Regional Homelessness Authority
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services
PRESENTED BY:	Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Community Services Manager
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In 2015, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 379 supporting King County’s proclamation of emergency regarding homelessness in King County. Since then, the City has taken several actions related to addressing homelessness in Shoreline. A significant outcome of this work was the opening of The Oaks Enhanced Shelter in Shoreline in April 2021, which is managed by Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness.

Additionally, King County and the City of Seattle entered into an interlocal agreement to create the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. The purpose of the Authority is to address homelessness throughout King County through the consolidation of funding and coordination of services county-wide. The Authority was created in 2019, but faced implementation delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal of tonight’s discussion is to share information with Council on the shelter operations after its first year as well as provide updates to Council from the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). Staff will be joined by outgoing Executive Director of Lake City Partners, Walt Washington, KCRHA’s CEO, Marc Dones, and Sub-Regional Planning Manager, Alexis Mercedes Rinck.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This is a discussion item only and has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required at this time. This staff report is for information and to provide context for the proposed discussion.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

Shoreline's Response to the Homelessness Crisis

In December 2015, the Council adopted [Resolution No. 379](#) supporting King County's proclamation of emergency regarding homelessness in King County and the City's commitment to work with King County and partner agencies on plans to address homelessness. Since that time, Shoreline and King County have taken several actions in support of the declaration of emergency and Resolution No. 379.

Since the adoption of [Resolution No. 379](#), the Council has taken several steps in support of services for Shoreline's unhoused residents. In 2018, the Council adopted Goal 5, Action Step 9 in the 2018-2020 City Council Goals and Work Plan. This action step directed staff to, "Engage in an analysis with service providers to identify what services and processes exist to connect those experiencing homelessness and/or opioid addiction with supportive services and identify gaps that may exist."

On February 25, 2019, staff presented Council with an overview of services available to individuals in Shoreline experiencing homelessness. Council requested staff return to Council with recommendations regarding priorities and opportunities to enhance services for individuals in Shoreline experiencing homelessness and/or opioid addiction. The staff report from the February 25 discussion can be found here: [Discussion of Council Goal 5, Action Step 9 – Engage in an Analysis with Service Providers to Identify What Services and Processes Exist to Connect those Experiencing Homelessness and/or Opioid Addiction with Supportive Services and Identify Gaps That May Exist.](#)

On February 10, 2020, staff returned to Council after conducting the gap analysis and recommended that a year-round shelter/Navigation Center was the most critical need and highest priority for Council consideration. This Council discussion laid the groundwork for citing the enhanced shelter in Shoreline, as Council soon after developed the following goal as part of the 2020-2022 Council Goals and Work Plan: "Council Goal 5, Action Step 7: Begin a process of developing partnerships with North King County cities and other key stakeholders in support of siting a 24/7 shelter/navigation center to serve homeless single adults in North King County." The staff report from the February 10 discussion can be found here: [Discussion of Recommendations Related to Council Goal 5, Action Step 9—Engage in an Analysis with Service Providers to Identify What Services and Processes Exist to Connect those Experiencing Homelessness and/or Opioid Addiction with Supportive Services and Identify Gaps that May Exist.](#)

Staff subsequently began work towards this Council goal by convening the North King County Shelter Task Force. In June 2020, before the first official meeting of the Task Force, City staff was notified that The Oaks at Forest Bay Nursing Home (The Oaks), located at 16357 Aurora Avenue N, was discontinuing its operation as a nursing home and would be available for sale. Concurrently, the Washington State Department of Commerce released a grant making significant funds available to expand homeless shelter capacity throughout the State. City staff reached out to King County Department of Community and Human Services (KC DCHS) to inquire about the potential for the County to acquire the facility and include it in a KC DCHS application for the Commerce

grant funds. King County staff reached out to the King County Housing Authority about partnering on the purchase of the site for use as a shelter.

Further work brought together the agencies listed above as well as representatives of Lake City Partners (LCP) in order to discuss options relating to siting a shelter at this property. This presented a unique opportunity to have a “shelter-ready” site that would be available relatively quickly for shelter programming. Feasibility of the site and program continued into the summer and fall, and the property was purchased by the King County Housing Authority with the intent to site a 24/7 enhanced shelter on the site. The City supported this action by adopting Interim Zoning Regulations to allow the site to be used as shelter. More information on this action can be found in the following staff report: [Public Hearing and Adopting Ordinance No. 906 - Interim Zoning Regulations to Allow Siting a 24/7 Enhanced Shelter in the R-48 Zone District.](#)

The approval of the Interim Zoning Regulations also required a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City, the County and Lake City Partners to address overall shelter operations. Council authorized the MOA on November 23, 2020. More information can be found in the following staff report: [Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Operation of an Enhanced Shelter Within the City of Shoreline with King County and Lake City Partners.](#)

With the siting of the shelter in North King County, the Task Force members determined that there was value in continuing to convene as a sub-regional collective focused on homelessness. The group voted to become the North King County Coalition on Homelessness with a new chartered purpose: “To support policies and community-based efforts to provide services, shelter and/or permanent housing options for those in our communities who are experiencing homelessness. We anticipate that the Coalition will ultimately serve as sub-regional hub for the King County Regional Homelessness Authority.” Since that time, Shoreline, Bothell, Kenmore, Woodinville, and Lake Forest Park have each appointed a City Council representative to the Coalition and it is serving as the North King County sub-regional hub for the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. More information can be found in the following staff report: [Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into the North King County Coalition on Homelessness Memorandum of Agreement.](#)

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

While the City was taking action on Council Goal 5, Action Step 7, work was proceeding between King County and the City of Seattle to improve the regional response to homelessness. This process started in 2005, when King County developed a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness; however, by 2015, even more people were experiencing homelessness in our region. This caused the focus to shift to develop regional strategies that were focused on:

- Keeping people from becoming homeless in the first place;
- For those that do become homeless, working to make it as brief as an experience as possible; and
- Ensuring individuals and families do not experience homelessness again.

With this shift in strategy, the King County Committee to End Homelessness became All Home and both King County and the City of Seattle engaged in several studies and reports that found that the region's response to homelessness was "too weak to drive change." The All Home Governing Board included representatives from the region, including then Councilmember Keith Scully.

In May 2018, King County and the City of Seattle signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to coordinate data, analysis, Request for Proposals, and evaluation processes related to investments in homelessness services. Further, King County and Seattle worked with several philanthropic groups to fund a critical review of the region's homelessness investments and to make recommendations for any changes. Council was briefed on this progress and invited to comment on key questions related to this work during its June 17, 2019, Council meeting. More information on the regional efforts can be found in the following staff report: [Discussion of the King County Homelessness System Redesign](#).

In response to the recommendations to change, the City of Seattle and King County entered into an Interlocal Agreement in 2019 to establish the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) with the goal of unifying and coordinating efforts related to the overall homelessness response system. KCRHA staff attended the August 9, 2021, Council meeting to provide an overview of the new Authority and sub-regional planning activities. More information can be found in the following staff report: [Discussion and Introduction of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority](#).

Council further discussed the formation of the KCRHA during its November 4, 2019, Council meeting in order to provide direction to the Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee on whether the Sound Cities Association should adopt a formal position on the KCRHA. More information can be found in the following staff report: [Discussion of the Sound Cities Association Statement of Principles Related to the Proposed King County Regional Authority on Homelessness](#).

DISCUSSION

Since the approval of Resolution No. 379, Shoreline has undertaken continued efforts to respond to the issue of homelessness in our community. Tonight, Council will receive an update on Human Services funding for services supporting people experiencing homelessness, including The Oaks Shelter (The Oaks), and the efforts of the King County Regional Health Authority. Staff will be joined by outgoing Executive Director of Lake City Partners, Walt Washington, to share additional information on operation of The Oaks during the first year of operation, other program metrics and successes, and plans for hiring a new Executive Director. KCRHA's CEO, Marc Dones, and Sub-Regional Planning Manager, Alexis Mercedes Rinck, will present information on the KCRHA, its involvement in Shoreline, and priorities for the next 12-24 months.

Homelessness Services Supported by Shoreline Human Services Funding Severe Weather Shelter

The 2021-2022 season of the Shoreline Severe Weather Shelter ended on March 31. This was the shelter's third winter and operated during times of snow or low temperatures. The Severe Weather Shelter is a partnership with the North Urban

Human Services Alliance (NUHSA) and St. Dunstan’s Church in Shoreline. The threshold for activation is generally a prediction of four-plus hours of temperatures at or below 33 degrees overnight or a snow accumulation of two or more inches. When activated, the shelter is open from 8:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Each time it is activated, a notification is sent to our community partners, fire, police, and City staff, and a notice is placed on our recorded Severe Weather Shelter phone line. For the 2021-2022 season, the shelter was open for 12 nights, with an average of seven people served each night.

Homelessness Outreach

The City provides funding to support a Housing and Outreach Specialist through Lake City Partners. This role was originally funded as a pilot with King County funding but is now supported through the City’s Human Services funding. The position provides street outreach on a part-time basis and works with City staff to respond to specific circumstances of camping within the City’s right-of-way or parks. The City also provides a small amount of additional funding for additional outreach support when the Severe Weather Shelter is activated.

The Oaks Shelter

The Oaks Shelter opened for operations on April 1, 2021, and moved those individuals being served at Lake City Partner’s rotating winter shelter to The Oaks. In May 2021, they began to accept additional referrals. Since that time, Lake City Partners has maintained a steady waitlist and remained full. There have been staff changes, as well as transitions in leadership, which has affected consistent reporting on performance measures. That said, many improvements have been made to data reporting that will result in more consistent reporting going forward.

Performance Measures: As part of the Memorandum of Understanding and funding agreement with Lake City Partners, they must report on established performance measures. There have been challenges in accessing data, but Lake City Partner’s staff have worked diligently with the regional data system to track and report the services provided.

Measure	All	Shoreline
Number of Unduplicated Residents Served/Intakes	96	34
Number of Exits	35	26

For those Shoreline clients exiting The Oaks, seven exited to housing, three into treatment, and 16 exited either voluntarily or involuntary from the program.

Notable Data: Of the 34 individuals who last had residency in Shoreline, 28 were white and six were persons of color. Two were older than 60 years of age and two were between 18-24 years old. Sixteen were male and 18 were female. Approximately 75% of participants indicated they were disabled and a little more than half indicated they had a behavioral health disorder. A large majority reported their prior living situation was a place not meant for habitation (vehicle, abandoned building, etc.) and about two-thirds indicated they had been homeless more than 12 months in the past 3 years.

Emergency Response Calls: There was general community concern before the opening of The Oaks that there would be a large amount of emergency response calls being made to the facility. From April through December 2021, 19 calls were received for an average of 2.11 calls per month. For comparison, when the facility was used as a nursing facility there were 43 calls made in 2018 and 60 calls made in 2019 to 911. Overall, this is an average of 4.29 calls per month. When the location was in operation as a nursing home, a small number of calls were listed that may not have required an in person response, such as calls that were hang ups or cancelled.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

This staff report specifically addresses the following Council Goals:

- Council Goal 5, Action Step 9 – Continue to support the North King County Enhanced Shelter serving homeless adults in North King County through partnership and agreement with King County, Lake City Partners and the community; and
- Council Goal 5, Action Step 10 – Actively monitor developments related to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority with a particular focus on actions and resources related to sub-regional planning efforts.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

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RECOMMENDATION

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