

connections



Welcome to the Connections Kirkland newsletter!

Connections would like to thank the community for sharing in our excitement as we partner together to bring immediate access mental health crisis care to King County. In today's newsletter we have exciting updates on our opening timeframe, new team members, and open positions. Read on to learn more!

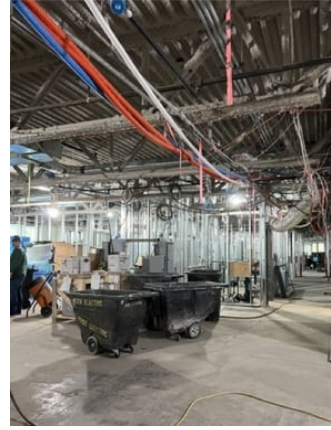
Connections Kirkland opening Summer 2024

Construction at Connections Kirkland is well under way and making fantastic progress. Drywall is going up, furniture is ordered, and an opening timeframe of Summer 2024 has been set!

Turning the former corporate office space into a state-of-the-art facility required the team to take the building down to the studs. The space is being rebuilt into a calming, therapeutic, and safe space for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis to get immediate access to treatment.

As we get closer to opening, we look forward to bringing the community together to celebrate.

Stay tuned!



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

Meet our new community engagement specialist

We are thrilled to welcome Tasnim Rehamani to the Connections Kirkland team as our community engagement specialist!

As a proud resident of Washington state for more than 30 years, Tasnim has made it her life's work to serve her community. In her role, Tasnim will be out and about in the community, talking about Connections, our services, and how we can partner with local providers and resources to best serve those in crisis.



Tasnim Rehamani
Community engagement
specialist

Most recently, Tasnim was a case manager for a local non-profit and has held other resourcing and coordinating roles for healthcare organizations in the area. Tasnim is a board member for the Northshore YMCA, a volunteer for the city of Kirkland, and has held several service roles in her faith community.

Tasnim was first introduced to Connections at the [announcement event](#) in Kirkland last year and has since helped educate community members on the center.

Please help us welcome Tasnim. We are so glad she is a part of the Connections team!

WE ARE HIRING

New senior care team positions open

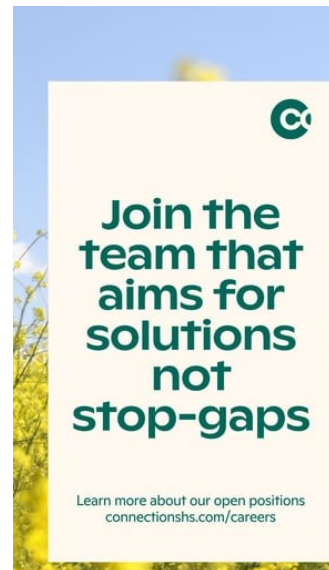
Connections is on the grow and we are excited to have posted several new care team positions for our Kirkland center.

Newly added positions include several senior leader and manager-level positions:

- [Senior director, clinical services](#)
- [Senior director, floor operations](#)
- [Manager, administrative services](#)
- [Manager, behavioral health specialist](#)
- [Manager, recovery support specialist](#)
- [Manager, social services](#)

If you, or someone you know, are passionate about doing behavioral health crisis care differently, we want to meet you!

[View open positions](#)



Dr. Margie Balfour publishes study on impact of behavioral health crisis systems

Connections' chief of quality and clinical innovation, Dr. Margie Balfour, and a team that included researchers from Arizona State University Center for Health Information and Research published a new research study showcasing how access to a comprehensive behavioral health crisis response system can lessen demand for more restrictive and costly emergency department and inpatient services.

The study examined how people flow through the crisis system in Arizona, which over the past several decades has built a comprehensive infrastructure that heavily influenced the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) national vision for crisis care.

The analysis revealed:

- The majority of individuals (57.4%) entered the crisis system through mobile crisis or crisis facilities versus the emergency department, indicating the crucial role these services play in crisis response.
- Of the subset of individuals receiving care at the Connections Health Solutions Tucson Crisis Response Center, most (63.3%) did not reutilize any additional crisis or emergency services within 30 days.
- Of individuals who did reutilize services, the majority (73.0%) utilized mobile or facility-based crisis services rather than emergency department or inpatient services, affirming the significance of crisis systems in preventing hospital utilization.

The study concluded that lessening the demand for more restrictive and costly emergency department and inpatient services can ultimately lead to a more accountable and patient-centered behavioral health system.

To read the complete study: <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.20230232>

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