

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

**Briefing No. 2002-B0104**

**Regional Policy Committee Meeting  
June 5, 2002**



# South King County Human Services Forum

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Administrative  
Support provided by  
the City of Kent.

Human Services  
220 4<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Kent, WA 98032

If you have  
questions please  
contact:  
(253) 856-5070

## Mission Statement:

The South King County Human Services Forum's mission is to advocate for and promote the effective delivery of human services by:

- identifying needs and procuring resources;
- developing and promoting collaboration;
- educating residents, providers and government; and
- facilitating essential communication.

**Vision:** An effective system for delivery of human services in South King County.



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In June 2001 the Forum and the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation sponsored a meeting with local area foundations that support Health and Human Services. Over 10 foundations attended and learned information specific to South King County demographics and the needs facing the human service delivery system. The Business Plan for South King County Human Services and adopted by the Forum was presented as a means for these Foundations, and others, to become more involved in solutions to critical needs.

The following is an update to those critical issues discussed and the achievements that have occurred since that time. There are also additional opportunities for future involvement. The RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 1 – 3 PM and you are welcome to join us!

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### **UPDATE TO CRITICAL ISSUES**

#### **FOOD BANK CAPACITY**

Thank you Boeing Employees Community Fund for funding the purchase of a truck and United Way of King County for funding a driver.

#### **CRITICAL ISSUES:**

- There is a gap in food bank capacity in South King County area food banks.
- Data has shown that there has been an increasing use of food banks despite the “strong” economy of the past several years and services to meet this demand are not present.
- Food bank service delivery is inconsistent and spotty in much of South King County, especially for the homeless.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- The 14 food banks in South King County adopted standards for food bags, so that families receive the same amount and type of food at all the food banks. Approximately ½ the food banks already meet the standards. 13,061 pounds of food was collected at South King County grocery stores for the Mayor's Day of Concern in 2001. September 28, 2002 is the date of the food drive this year. Multi-Service Center, acting as lead agency, has secured funds from the Boeing Employees Community Fund and Emergency Food Assistance Program to purchase a truck to pick up and deliver food to serve the needs of the five food banks located in Auburn, Highline, White Center, Kent and Federal Way.
- MSC also received initial funding through United Way South Community Council to pay for hiring a part-time driver.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- The next step is to purchase scales for the food banks that do not have them, since measuring the weight of food is how food banks know how much food they have on hand. The cost is
- Ongoing support for maintenance and operation of the truck to expand to other food banks in SKC.
- The Mayor's Day of Concern for the hungry is September 28, 2002. Businesses can assist in recruiting employees to collect food at grocery stores during the event and to assist food banks and emergency feeding programs in receiving the food donated.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Thank you City of Kent, King County and United Way for funding a part-time person to work on domestic violence.

#### CRITICAL ISSUES:

- Lack of confidential, emergency domestic violence shelter space. More than 3000 women and children were turned away from shelter in South King County last year.
- Limited availability of domestic violence crisis line and fragmentation of services.
- Lack of a consistent sub-regional response to domestic violence survivors (including children).
- Services are not geographically or culturally accessible for many domestic violence survivors.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- Meg Crager was hired as the DV planner to coordinate services for South King County.
- The SKC Network targeted funding for Domestic Violence services that focused on children that witness violence.
- Providers have been convened to address the shelter issues.
- The South King County Domestic Violence task forces have agreed to hold four sub regional meetings a year, where the focus is on issues that cross jurisdictional lines. The first meeting focused on issues in police departments. The second one will focus on issues in the prosecution of cases. A South King County mailing list of all the

#### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- South King County agencies have been a partner in the *Strengthening Early Learning in King County Communities project*. The project involves three countywide strategies and one that focuses specifically on South King County. The South King County pilot project is a partnership between Children's Home Society of Washington, the Kent School District, and Home, Safe. "Parent Mentors" is providing trained volunteers who are giving parents information about children's early development and activities they can do with their children to help early learning. "Family Circles" is working with the Latino and African American communities in the Kent area to connect them with local resources and promoting culturally appropriate early learning and successful transitions into school.
- Project Lift Off Opportunity Fund grants are being distributed to the following organizations in South King County:
  - Child Care Resources
  - Children's Home Society of Washington
  - Federal Way Youth and Family ServicesThese funds will help provide greater support to the relatives, friends and neighbors to whom parents often turn for childcare.

#### OPPORTUNITIES:

Funding support needed beginning September 2002 to continue working with the Latino and African American communities on early learning, and add East African communities. Opportunity exists to also fund exciting ideas developed by these communities.

Opportunity to expand the availability of early brain development information and how to enhance children's early learning into a variety of settings: childcare, parent education classes and workshops, in workplaces, and in individual settings with families (home visits, counseling, etc).