



The CoC Board Parking Lot Q&A:

April 3rd, 2024, CoC Board Meeting:

Questions from the Public:

Elizabeth Maupin –

- Severe weather shelters – We have the King County Libraries offering severe weather shelter while they are open which may work well this summer during the heat during the day but it's not working too well in the winter when the cold is the problem, and they are closed during the coldest parts of the day. She is wondering if KCRHA is working on that problem. When we look at severe weather shelter, are we focusing primarily on Seattle, or is there a good span out in the inter-lands? She thinks we will get more support from the inter-lands with severe weather shelter. She realizes that it is more difficult because transportation is scarcer in the inter-lands.
 - KCRHA's Sub-Regional Planning Team and External Affairs Team are engaged in ongoing dialogues with the other municipalities in the county on this question. Part of the result is the North King Cities ILA that led to the funding of St. Dunstan's Church as a severe weather shelter in 2024. Other cities in South King are also in dialogue with KCRHA about making similar plans come to reality. We recognize that the other cities have been doing a lot on their own, setting up networks of independent shelters run by the cities or faith-based organizations, each with their own protocols and unique challenges. We need to find a good way of collaborating and supporting these efforts to harmonize response without losing local relevance or control. That's why we're moving slowly, deliberately and consultatively.
- **Member of the public:** What have you found most helpful when changing the public narrative relating to homelessness that is behind much of public opposition to main human treatment of those who lack housing?
 - It comes down to clear, consistent, and transparent information shared broadly about what is being done related to unsheltered homelessness (good communication on an overall homelessness response is also important.) What neighbors, businesses, and people experiencing unsheltered homelessness want to know is what is being done, when, and where. They



want transparency. When I see leaders at the highest levels speaking often about what actions are being taken to address unsheltered homelessness and what is being done to end the experience of homelessness for people (not just move people around), it makes a tremendous difference in changing negative public narrative. Good examples of this right now are in Denver and LA. Both Mayors are leading on this issue – they are making it clear that it is a priority for their administrations, and they are clearly and regularly sharing their actions and results. Both cities have public facing dashboards on their websites with current data on encampments – who is moving inside, and data on movement to permanent housing. I think that every city in the country should have this type of dashboard. Both cities also have clear goals and targets related to reducing unsheltered homelessness and are running very coordinated efforts to meet those goals. I will point you to San Diego’s dashboard as well that is focused on their entire system (including in-flow numbers into homelessness).

- LA – Inside Safe Initiative [Inside Safe | Mayor Karen Bass \(lacity.gov\)](#)
- Denver – All In Mile High Initiative [All In Mile High Dashboard - City and County of Denver \(denvergov.org\)](#)
- San Diego - [untitled \(rtfhdsd.org\)](#)

The CoC Board Parking Lot Q&A:

March 6th, 2024 CoC Board Meeting:

Questions from the Public:

Elizabeth Maupin

- Notices severe weather is on the agenda. She had a conversation with the Red Cross willing to provide support with cots, but the request needs to come through from the municipalities.
- How does the information about severe weather get to the other municipalities?



- KCRHA's Sub-Regional Planners are the primary contacts for other King County municipality Human Services or Emergency Ops staff. They're in constant contact year-round and send specific messages about severe weather once KCRHA has messages to send out.
- How can agencies partner with KCRHA?
 - Contact the Community Capacity team (or any KCRHA staffer to direct you to the Community Capacity team) either via the info@Kcrha.org email address, OR through our website: KCRHA.org>Resources>Funding opportunities>Minimum Eligibility Requirements>RFSQ Questionnaire
- What percent of unhoused people would Tier 2 serve?
 - ⊖ During a Tier 2 activation, severe weather shelters open temporarily, and existing emergency shelter programs often expand bed capacity, if space is available. Currently, the KCRHA has contracts with the City of Seattle and North King County to activate 53 beds and 70 units for families during Tier 2. We recently opened an RFQ on March 13 to staff up to 144 more beds starting in July, increasing the beds available for Tier 2 and Tier 3 activations.
- How do people get in touch with KCRHA in case of Tier 3?
 - If it's in advance, an email to info@kcrha.org will reach the Severe Weather Response team. If during a Tier 3 event, call the Duty Line at 206-930-8846 to get directed to someone on call.

Michelle Eastman

- How many beds are available for severe weather?
 - City of Seattle -Between year-round emergency shelters and temporary severe weather shelters, there are up to 750 beds and family units within city bounds during severe weather activation. During a Tier 3 activation, the City of Seattle provides access to these city-owned properties, if available, at no cost to KCRHA. Current severe weather activation sites include The Salvation Army's SODO Bay A (capacity 33), Seattle City Hall (capacity 45), Exhibition Hall (capacity 300), and motels for families through YWCA (capacity 70).
 - North King County: The cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville pooled their funding for an agreement with KCRHA to open St. Dunstan's Church in Shoreline, staffed by the Urban League, with a capacity of up to 20 individuals nightly.
 - East King County: KCRHA does not have contracts for severe weather response in East King County but does play a coordinating role with cities and service providers. There are more than 580 beds and family units providing year-round emergency shelter in East King County. In addition, Helen's Place often expands capacity for 10 single adult women, and the Eastside Men's Shelter often expands capacity for 25 single adult men.



- South King County: KCRHA does not have contracts to activate severe weather response in South King County but does play a coordinating role with cities and service providers. There are more than 520 beds and family units in South King County during severe weather activation. Thanks to the cities of Auburn, Burien, Kent, Federal Way and Renton for opening their city-funded severe weather shelters to add more than 200 beds.
- Reach out to the full membership and encourage more participation. If our membership is 150 then we have lots of people for committees.

Jade

- Is there a national CoC listserv?
 - Yes. [Here](#) is the link.
- Is this an opportunity to build a partnership with local mutual aid and other community organizations that provide on the ground emergency services? With the creation of critically needed committees but strain of people power, is this an opportunity for the Board to reach out to the CoC membership to get more active?? My understanding is there's about 150 members, lots of folks to help on committees!
 - Mutual aid groups can contact organizations to build partnerships. This is a bit outside of the scope of the CoC board and while it is an exciting opportunity, it may not be prioritized. If you want KCRHA to send a message to the CoC membership on your organization's behalf, please send it to us, and we will tell you if we have any questions.

Michelle Eastman

- How many beds overall are available overall for severe weather response? I heard something like 30 beds is that accurate?
 - Part of the answer is above (for Seattle and North King, where KCRHA has contracts for severe weather) and in this [full after-action report](#)
 - The bigger picture: During a Tier 3 activation, the City of Seattle provides access to city-owned properties, if available, at no cost to KCRHA. These shelters increase capacity by more than 330 beds within the City of Seattle and helped ensure no one seeking shelter was turned away.
 - North King County: St. Dunstan's Church in Shoreline, staffed by the Urban League, with a capacity of up to 20 individuals nightly.



- East King County KCRHA does not have contracts for severe weather response in East King County, but does play a coordinating role with cities and service providers. There are more than 580 beds and family units providing year-round emergency shelter in East King County. In addition, Helen's Place expanded capacity for 10 single adult women, and the Eastside Men's Shelter expanded capacity for 25 single adult men.
- South King County KCRHA does not have contracts for severe weather response in South King County, but the cities of Auburn, Burien, Kent, Federal Way and Renton open their city-funded severe weather shelters to add more than 200 beds. Each of the South King County city-funded shelters were at or over capacity for the duration of the activation.