

North Urban Human Services Alliance

Annual Report 2009

The North Urban Human Services Alliance (**NUHSA**) is a membership organization of non-profit social and health service agencies, staffs from King County, North King County cities, United Way, the faith community, and interested citizens and organizations which support the mission of NUHSA which is:

“to build the community’s capacity to respond to human service needs.”

The geographic area served comprises the North Shore and Shoreline School districts and encompasses the cities of Woodinville, Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park and Shoreline.

NUHSA achieved an organizational milestone on June 8th by becoming incorporated as a non-profit corporation. An application for IRS Tax Exemption under section 501 (c) 3 is in progress. Assistance with incorporation and filing for tax exemption was provided by pro-bono legal assistance from Perkins Coie LLP and facilitated by the Washington Association of Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations. To become more financially sustainable, NUSHA also initiated annual membership dues for individuals, organizations and local governments in January of this year.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS BY GOAL

Goal 1: Provide a strong voice and leadership role in local and regional human service decisions.

The Board took a position in opposition to Initiative 1033. If it had passed, the Initiative would have severely restricted funding to essential educational, rehabilitative and human services, vital to our local communities.

New in 2009 is the annual Human Service Award. This award seeks to recognize an individual, agency or program that has made a significant difference in the field of human services. The first award went to Geoffrey Ethelston, pastor at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Kenmore. Ethelston was recognized for his involvement in the Religious Leaders Task Force, the King County Alliance for Human Services, the Eastside Forum, the United Way North Community Council and for his service on the board of the North Urban Human Services Alliance.

Goal 2: Identify and communicate emerging community human service needs.

NUHSA endorsed the One Night Count of the Homeless in North King County and several members participated in the January count. Several members also participate on various work groups of the Committee to End Homelessness, charged with implementing the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. On July 23rd Alison Eisinger, the Executive Director of the Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness,

presented the North King County count findings from the 2009 One Night Count at a public meeting at Lake Forest Park's Town Center.

The Program Committee planned and executed two Forums this year. The first "*To Serve and Protect*" held June 4th in Shoreline focused on ways human service agencies and police departments can better understand one another and better serve vulnerable children and adults and those with behavioral and mental health problems. The Second Forum, "*The Tools You Need to Take Action in Tough Economic Times*" was held September 23rd in Kenmore and was directed to local elected officials, other decision makers and human service providers. The Forum provided information on the current economy, cuts in human services funding from the state and county budgets, and ways that local governments can help their constituents, including web-based tools and contacts for effective programs for helping individuals and families in our communities.

An intern was hired during the summer to draft the tool kit and update the 2007 Human Service Needs in North King County: A Report to Decision Makers. The updated report is scheduled to be available in January 2010.

Goal 3: Support cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among providers, funders, and the community to enhance resources and the ability to respond to needs in the community.

The principal effort to implement this goal was the "To Serve and Protect" Forum bringing together human service providers and local police to look at ways services can be better coordinated and delivered. One of the sessions at the Forum covered how to respond to behavioral incidents occurring at public schools. Several helpful hints were developed from the Forum for law enforcement to use when responding to schools for juvenile problems.

Goal 4: Advocate for a continuum of care that increases access to services.

The Policy Committee actively participated on the King County Alliance for Human Services which focused on reducing cuts to human services in the King County Budget. NUHSA members were also active on key North King County groups including: the Northshore/Shoreline Community Network, Community Resource Team, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness and the Northshore Consortium.

The Policy Committee thanks all NUHSA members who took time to write letters, send emails, attend hearings, testify at meetings and otherwise assist in our advocacy efforts.

Funding

During 2009 NUHSA received funding from King County general government, the Cities of Lake Forest Park and Shoreline, the King County Organizing Program, membership dues and United Way. Without the support of the above organizations and individuals, our work would not have been possible. Thank you!