

North Urban Human Services Alliance

Annual Report 2010

The North Urban Human Services Alliance (**NUHSA**) is a membership organization comprised 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 is the North Shore and Shoreline School districts and encompasses the cities of Woodinville, Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park and Shoreline and is one of three sub-regions designated by King County as the North King County Sub-Region

NUHSA achieved an organizational milestone on April 15 by becoming an exempt organization under federal tax code, section 501 (c) 3, retroactive to June 8, 2009, the date of incorporation as a non-profit. Assistance with 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS BY GOAL

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

NUHSA members testified at the city council meetings of the five North King County cities urging council members to retain funding for human services at current levels despite the tough economic times.

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 King County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The Second ***Report to Decision Makers On Human Service Needs In North King County*** was published in May. The report documents trends in economic security, population change and access to basic services such as health care, housing and food.

On June 9th NUHSA presented ***Early Learning: State Policies Hit Home***, an update on the state of early learning in Washington State. Representative Ruth Kagi, Jane Hinton, representing FACES and the Center for Human Services and Laurie Lippold Children’s Home Society, updated attendees on key legislation. Washington State

has been a leader in early childhood education and Representative Kagi's goal is to fully fund the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Act by 2018.

The United Ways of Snohomish and King County and NUHSA sponsored a meeting on ***Mobilizing to Meet the Human Service Needs***. NUSHA presented a panel discussion at the June 18th meeting in Bothell of Community and business leaders giving them a "Report from the Front Lines" of human services.

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.

In 2009, the membership of NUHSA identified the lack of affordable housing to low and very low income residents as a priority problem. To address the issue, NUHSA formed a partnership with the Housing Development Consortium to address the problem. On April 21 a ***North King County Housing Stakeholder Forum*** was held attended by more than 80 people. The Forum defined the problem as encompassing everything from homeless children and families to couples facing eviction from job loss. Successful programs addressing access to housing were featured and the essential role of partnerships was stressed. From this meeting a housing work group was formed consisting of non-profit developers, faith community members, housing advocates, city planners and human service staff and human service agencies providing housing or housing support services. The work group is planning a ***Land Stewardship Workshop*** on November 10th aimed at helping faith communities interested in developing a housing program know what to consider and the steps necessary to start a program.

On September 28, NUHSA and the King County Mobility Coalition and the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative presented a panel presentation on ***Travel Options in North King County***. Transportation is one the critical issues impacting access to human services in North King County. As a result of this interest, NUHSA is partnering with the King County Mobility Coalition to form the North King County Mobility Coalition to develop ways to better utilize and coordinate existing resources. NUHSA has supported efforts to secure funding for the King County Coalition which will provide staff support to the North King Coalition.

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

The Policy Committee actively participates on the King County Alliance for Human Services, which works to ensure stable funding for human service agencies in King County. 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, FACES (Families and Children Early Support) 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.

Human Service Award

Annually, NUHSA recognizes an individual and or program or organization that has made a difference in the support for human services, the delivery of a service or communicating the important contribution human services make to a healthy community. Those nominated and the awardees are recognized at the Annual Meeting.

The 2010 NUHSA Human Service Awardees are Sue Dahlin, founder of Youth Awareness and Disability Assemblies and Express Credit Union, provider of no-cost banking services to low income families.

Funding

During 2010 NUHSA received funding from King County general government, the Cities of Lake Forest Park and Shoreline, the King County Organizing Program, membership dues, United Way and individual memberships. Without the support of the above organizations and individuals, our work would not have been possible. Thank you!