



## 2022-2023 NUHSA in Action

NUHSA continues to be a trusted leader in North King County (NKC), convening stakeholders, building trusted relationships and advocating for a collaborative approach in responding to our most pressing human services needs.

When NUHSA was founded in 2009, the prevailing perception was that NKC may not have the same needs and challenges as elsewhere in the county and therefore perhaps didn't have the same need for local or regional funding support. We've come a long way since then, and NUHSA, on behalf of its north-end members and providers, has effectively advocated for the recognition, funding and engagement our north-end communities deserve.

Over the last two years, the community has steadily adjusted to new post-pandemic realities. Emergency state and federal funds have steadily disappeared, but the need for housing stability, adequate food, accessible behavioral health services and more is still an acute need for many of our North King County neighbors.

To address these challenges, NUHSA developed an ambitious strategic plan to prioritize collaboration, education and advocacy to achieve goals addressing issues of affordable housing, shelter, homelessness and human services support. Great strides have been made to establish a human services focus, along with funding support, in our north-end communities. Notably, the region celebrated the hiring of dedicated human services staff in both Kenmore and Bothell, and these two cities, along with Shoreline, are in the midst of conducting human services needs assessments and strategic planning.

Furthermore, NUHSA has expanded its membership; grown the Board of Directors; increased its communication; and engaged with members, partners and governments across NKC in a variety of ways. We have become a key resource for decision makers on the landscape and needs in NKC and are a trusted partner in bringing people together in ways formal and informal that leverage information and resources to best serve the community.

Accomplishments include the following:

### **Advocacy**

*NUHSA has advocated on a wide range of legislative, policy and programmatic issues, both locally and regionally:*

- Endorsed and advocated for the successful passage of the **Crisis Care Levy**, which will create a regional network of five crisis care centers, preserve and restore residential treatment beds, and recruit and retain the behavioral health workforce.

- Endorsed and advocated for the successful renewal of the **Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL)**, which will fund a wide range of programs that connect veterans, military servicemembers and their families, as well as individuals and families in need, with affordable housing, employment and behavioral health support, among other services.
- Successfully advocated to King County and the Regional Policy Committee for **increased geographic equity and funding support in the VSHSL implementation plan.**
- Advocated for **inflation-adjusted city and country contracts** and promoted **wage equity** as a critical measure to retain human services staff, helping to successfully secure cost of living adjustments for service providers in the King County budget.
- Provided ongoing communication with city leadership to promote an increased focus on human services funding. Members attended city council meetings and provided public comments as cities debated proposed budgets and amendments. **All NKC cities committed to sustained or increased human services for 2023-2025 budgets.**
- Supported the newly formed **Regional Crisis Response Agency (RCR)** that will provide a community mobile crisis response service across all of North King County, enhancing public health, safety, and emergency response services, including crisis response awareness, support, and resource referral for community members experiencing behavioral health issues across the five-city region.
- Advocated for NKC priorities, such as a sub-regional coordinator and implementation of a severe weather shelter system, to **King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA)** as they developed their five-year plan to end homelessness.
- Chaired the **Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy Advisory Board** and monitored the distribution of grant funding to serve our most vulnerable populations.
- Served on the **Health through Housing Advisory Board** to advise on current and future initiatives providing supportive housing for those experiencing or at risk for chronic homelessness.
- Participated in **Fircrest Campus Stakeholders Planning Meetings** hosted by Rep. Cindy Ryu to reimagine and redevelop Fircrest to include affordable housing and space for nonprofits.
- Advocated for support of **The Oaks**, the only 24/7 emergency shelter in North King County that provides case management and services for homeless individuals.
- Served on the **Connect2Community Steering Committee** to build a unified information exchange network in King County and partnered with HealthierHere, Unite Us and other community organizations to design shared standards, practices and tools to support care coordination and improve health wellness in our region.
- Partnered with **Housing Development Consortium, WA Low-income Housing Alliance, Tenants Riders Union, Solid Ground, ARCH** and others to advocate for many important priorities related to eviction prevention, tenant support, and affordable housing during the legislative session and throughout the year.

## Housing & Shelter

*NUHSA has advanced a shelter and housing development agenda in NKC and helped facilitate a deeper engagement in affordable housing strategies and related coordinated and coalition-based activities among our five cities:*

- Partnered with the City of Shoreline, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church and Lake City Partners to host the **Shoreline Severe Weather Shelter**. Over four years, NUHSA has helped recruit and train 45 volunteers, purchased supplies and coordinated volunteers during the Nov. 1-March 31 timeframe. Last winter, the Shelter was activated on 26 nights with up to 14 guests each time, serving a total of 168 of our unhoused neighbors. A reception was held in April to recognize volunteers and others who have contributed to the success of the Shelter since its inception.
- Advocated for **diverse housing options** in our north-end cities so residents may live and work in their communities (e.g. middle housing, MFTE, community land trusts, ADUs, cottage housing, workforce housing, etc.).
- Supported innovative and collaborative partnerships for affordable and deeply affordable housing projects, such as **Bothell Urban**, a proposed multi-use affordable housing development in the heart of Bothell, and the **Plymouth project in Kenmore**, providing deeply affordable housing for residents at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI).
- Alongside the **Stay Housed Stay Healthy Coalition**, mobilized advocates to pass meaningful **tenant protections** in Kenmore, with conversation ongoing in Shoreline, Bothell and Woodinville. These protections, including longer rent increase notices and caps on late fees, will help prevent evictions and displacement for the individuals and families most at risk.
- As co-founder of the **NKC Coalition on Homelessness**, helped facilitate a regional approach in developing strategies for our unhoused neighbors, leveraging information and resources across sectors and jurisdictions in support of policies and community-based efforts to provide shelter and/or permanent housing options for those experiencing homelessness.
- Celebrated that all five of our north-end cities are the first outside of Seattle to enter into Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) and successfully released an RFP to establish a **NKC severe weather shelter** for the 2023-24 winter season.
- Championed **Camp United We Stand**, NKC's only authorized encampment, and Bothell United Methodist Church's **Safe Parking** model.
- Provided support and input to **Woodinville's Housing Action Plan**.
- Endorsed and supported various city efforts to implement **Transit Oriented Development and community services levies**, along with proclamations in support of **Suicide Prevention Week** and **Hunger & Homelessness Week**.

## Partnerships

- Our **board and membership have expanded**, bringing significant geographic diversity and perspective to our work. In 2023, all five NKC cities became dues-paying members and both Shoreline and

Woodinville appointed a city council liaison to serve on our Board of Directors. Kenmore and Bothell are currently in discussion to appoint liaisons, and Lake Forest Park has had an unofficial city council representative on the Board of Directors for five years.

- Initiated and convened a regular meeting of **homelessness outreach leads** from all five cities to share and leverage information and resources to better serve unhoused neighbors across the region.
- Served as a key partner for the **King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA)**, elevating NKC priorities and providing connection for supporting our unhoused neighbors.
- Engaged in the **City of Kenmore's** RFP process for both its **Homelessness Response Program** and its **Mental & Behavioral Health Counseling Program**.
- Actively participated in the **Shoreline Community Court** as Court Navigator volunteers and supported the adoption of the community court model in Kenmore and Bothell.
- Served on the scholarship review panel for **Shoreline Community College**.
- Joined **Best Starts for Kids** Community Planning.
- Participated in a **King County Metro Safety Walking Tour/Discussion** with Shoreline community leaders and providers to enhance public safety and better connect individuals to needed services.
- Partnered and collaborated through participation on the **King County Alliance for Human Services; Sub-Regional Human Services Collaboration; Seattle-King County Continuum of Care; Northshore Nourishing Networks; North King County Mobility Coalition; and Bothell Kenmore Chamber of Commerce**.
- NUHSA held informational meetings with, among others, **Dale Turner YMCA, Healthcare for the Homeless Network, Kinderling, Shoreline Community College and New Beginnings** - and welcomed incoming NKC human services leaders and staff in Bothell, Kenmore and Woodinville.

### Speakers/Presentations

*NUHSA hosted monthly speakers and meeting discussions that reflected current issues and member needs. We identified gaps and leveraged resources to better connect and serve our community. Monthly meetings provided:*

- A focus on NKC human services current and emerging needs.
- An opportunity for members and partners to share announcements and updates.
- Multiple opportunities for cities to share priorities and funding priorities. As cities made decisions around utilization of funding, NUHSA advocated for investments in human services organizational capacity and infrastructure.

*Presentations in 2023 included:*

- Chris Verschuyf, King County DCHS  
*Behavioral Health Levy*

- Srijan Chakraborty, Co-Director; Hunger Intervention Program (HIP)  
*Upcoming Hunger Cliff*
- Jason Austin, Seattle Human Services Coalition  
*UW Wage Equity Study – Final Report*
- Dr. Jack Kahn, Shoreline Community College President; Aja Osita, New Beginnings Executive Director; Kelli Nomura, International Community Health Services Executive Director; and Bristol Ellington, Shoreline City Manager.  
*Welcome to Incoming NKC Leadership*
- Representative Davina Duerr, Legislative District 1  
*Legislative Session Debrief & Priorities*
- Jennifer Lehman, VSHSL Renewal Manager & Leon Richardson, Adult Services Division Director; DCHS  
*Renewal of the King County Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy*
- Jessica Jandayan, Shoreline School District Food Services Director; Sara Betnel, Shoreline School Board; Srijan Chakraborty, HIP Director; Suni Tolton, City of Shoreline; Marco Garcia, NSD; Tarra Droney, Northshore Nourishing Networks; and Amy Cast, Northshore School Board  
*Summer Food Access & Resources*
- Brook Buettner, Executive Director; Regional Crisis Response Agency (RCR) & Sarah Lopez, Connections Health Solutions  
*North King County Behavioral Health Systems Support Update*
- Jorji Knickrehm, Best Starts for Kids TA & Capacity Building Program Manager  
*Technical Assistance: Getting Help with Your Proposal*
- Debbie Farrar, Executive Director; Northshore Youth & Family Services
- Alison Carver, Truancy Specialist; Shoreline School District & Ana Foy, McKinney-Vento Dist. Liaison; Northshore School District  
*Truancy Intervention & Connection to Area Services/Resources in Northshore and Shoreline School Districts*
- Anne Masters, Operations Specialist, King County DCHS  
*Overview of VSHSL Grant Process & Upcoming Grants 101 Workshop*
- Sen. Derek Stanford & Andre Stack, Executive Director; Whole Washington
- John Kim, CEO; HealthierHere

*Presentation in 2022 included:*

- Gracious Gamiao, Senior Community Engagement Manager; Unite Us
- Beratta Gomillion, Executive Director; Center for Human Services
- Nancy Long, Executive Director; 501 Commons
- Marcy Miller, Policy Manager; Best Starts for Kids
- Katie Wilson, Stay Housed Stay Healthy Coalition  
*Overview of Renter Protection Efforts in North King County*
- Cassandra Chiles, Lambert House; Tanisha Brandon Felder, Equity & Family Engagement Director, Shoreline School District; Nora Ortiz, Ballinger Homes Youth Program Coordinator, Center for Human Services; Arra Rael, DEIB Manager, Center for Human Services; and Alexandra Leptich, Youth SUD Counselor, Center for Human Services  
*Serving LGBTQ+ Youth in North King County*
- Marco Garcia, Community Partnership & Volunteer Coordinator, Northshore School District and Sara Betnel, School Board Director, Shoreline School District  
*Summer Resources*

- Jason Austin, Seattle Human Services Coalition  
*Raising Wages, Changing Lives Campaign*
- Alexis Rinck, Sub-regional Manager; King County Regional Homelessness Authority
- Colleen Willis, Innovation Officer; Kindering
- Callista Wellbaum, Therapeutic Courts Manager; King County District Court
- Arra Rael, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Manager; Center for Human Services
- Stephanie Lucash, Kenmore Assistant City Manager; Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Shoreline Community Services Manager; Woodinville Councilmember Sarah Arndt; Diana Hart, Woodinville Intergovernmental Affairs Director; Lake Forest Park Councilmember Phillippa Kassoover; and Becky Range, Bothell Assistant City Manager  
*Human Services Funding in City & County Biennium Budgets*
- Ryan Gilbert, COO & Shelby Holden, Center Manager; Seattle Indian Health Board

## Events

2023:

- **Affordable Housing Week (May)**  
Partnered with Housing Development Consortium to advocate for *Affordable Housing Week* and received proclamations supporting increased affordable housing from the cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Woodinville.
- **Community Land Trusts: A permanently affordable middle housing solution (May)**  
Hosted a Lunch & Learn presentation on CLTs as an option for providing affordable housing while also supporting equity and deep investments in environmental sustainability. Over 160 registered for this event.
- In cooperation with King County staff, provided a **Best Starts for Kids Technical Assistance Workshop** and promoted a **VSHSL Grants Workshop 101** to increase the number of successful grant applications from NKC.
- **Community Land Trust Bus Tour (Sept.)**  
In collaboration with Homestead Community Land Trust, offered a bus tour that brought NKC residents, city councilmembers and city staff to three CLT properties throughout the region.
- **North King County Human Services Forum (Sept.)**  
In partnership with King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, convened 45+ north-end providers with key DCHS leadership to engage in meaningful conversation about the King County funding process, strategic goals and opportunities for improvement, with the goal of increasing the number of successful grant applications from NKC. As a result, the VSHSL Implementation Plan includes a more regional and geographically equitable focus through its evaluation process and ongoing outreach.
- **Candidate Forum (Oct.)**  
Co-hosted the only Shoreline School Board candidate forum in partnership with Shoreline PTA Council 6.12 and League of Women Voters.
- **Human Services Awards (Dec.)**  
Honored those who have made a significant contribution to the health and welfare of our community

by advocating for human services and strengthening our community through their initiative and leadership. 2023 recipients included:

- *Human Services Champion of the Year:*  
Bill Bear, Community Advocate  
*Nominees:*  
Brittany Miles, Community Advocate  
Tanya Laskelle, Family Support Dept. Director; Center for Human Services  
Bryan & Christie Streit, Community Advocates  
Sally Yamasaki, Donna Hawkey & Michael Troyer, Community Advocates
- *Outstanding Human Services Program:*  
Nourishing Networks  
*Nominees:*  
Shoreline PTA Council Mental Health Committee  
Center for Human Services Board of Directors
- *Lifetime Achievement Award:*  
Rob Beem

2022:

- **The State of Housing in Bothell (Feb.)**  
In partnership with Bothell for People Oriented Places (BoPop) and Housing Development Consortium (HDC), hosted virtual event (57 registered) that brought together community members, planning commissioners, city staff, council members and the mayor to learn about existing housing demographics and policies, along with city priorities and goals related to affordable housing. Participants were also invited to share personal stories and experiences in small break-out sessions and become more involved with housing advocacy.
- **Affordable Housing Week (May)**  
Coordinated with HDC and city staff to receive proclamations and provide public comment in support of increased affordable housing in the cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Woodinville.
- **North King County State of Affordable Housing (May)**  
Hosted a virtual event (147 registered) where staff and elected officials from Bothell, Kenmore, Shoreline and Lake Forest Park provided a snapshot of the landscape in North King County and shared the work their cities are doing to create more options for affordable housing.
- **Human Services Awards (Dec.)**  
Honored those who have made a significant contribution to the health and welfare of our community by advocating for human services and strengthening our community through their initiative and leadership. 2022 recipients included:
  - *Human Services Champion of the Year:*  
Bill Leon & Rev. Alan Chistensen, Camp United We Stand Board of Directors  
*Nominees:*  
Saba Berhe, Family Support Lead; Canopy Scholars  
Carrie Czarnecki, Outreach Specialist; Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness  
Donna Hawkey, Community Advocate & Navigator; Shoreline Community Court

- Rob Karlinsey, Kenmore City Manager  
Nicolie Simonson, Community Advocate; Shoreline Caring
- *Outstanding Human Services Program:*  
Grounded  
*Nominees:*  
BoPop (Bothellites for People-Oriented Places)  
Bothell Kenmore Chamber  
Bothell Urban Project  
Utsav
  - *Building Bridges Award:*  
Shoreline: Christina Arcidy, Management Analyst & Debbie Tarry, former City Manager  
Lake Forest Park: Phillip Hill, City Administrator  
Kenmore: Stephanie Lucash, Deputy City Manager  
Bothell: Erin Leonhart, former Interim City Manager & Becky Range, Assistant City Manager  
Kirkland: Kurt Triplett, City Manager, Beth Goldbert, Deputy City Manager & Carly Joerger, Management Analyst

***NUHSA is invested in supporting our community and ensuring that all North King County residents have access to a strong and accessible health and human services system.***

***Join us!***