FW: KCRHA Question from KOMO

From: "Baxter, Lori (MOS)" <lori.baxter2@seattle.gov>
To: "Thoreson, Hannah" <hannah.thoreson@seattle.gov>
Cc: "Garrity, Lindsey (MOS)" <lindsey.garrity2@seattle.gov>, "Moore, Cathy" <cathy.moore@seattle.gov>, "Nelson, Sara" <sara.nelson@seattle.gov>, "Washington, Tiffany" <tiffany.washington@seattle.gov>, "Nolte, Dan (MOS)" <dan.nolte@seattle.gov>
Date: Wed, 21 Feb 2024 18:31:22 -0800
Attachments: Notice of Contract Change.pdf (835.02 kB)

Hi Hannah,

At CM Moore's request, I'm sharing the statement we sent earlier to KOMO about KCRHA contract changes. Our office also received an interview request from Chris Daniels at KOMO to talk with the Mayor, which we declined due to his schedule.

Some additional information provided to *Seattle Times* for their story earlier today is also included here:

In April of last year, KCRHA informed the City that due to their focus on Partnership for Zero, the system re-bid, outreach coordination for the state's Right-of-Way Safety Initiative, and implementation of their Five Year Plan, they did not have capacity to fulfill the outreach, coordination, and referral roles outlined in 2023 Seattle City Council Budget Action HSD-035, which transferred outreach from HSD's HOPE Team to KCRHA.

As a result of HSD continuing to hold this leading role in the City's outreach work, the City will be looking at the most appropriate and efficient ways to meet neighborhood outreach needs across the city, in conjunction with the budget exercises currently underway to optimize funding and ensure effective services.

The purpose of neighborhood outreach is to build relationships and consistency in addressing each area's unique needs and is unrelated to the pace of encampment removals. HSD will be working directly with both service providers and KCRHA in the coming months on a transition plan for both outreach and prevention funding, and we will continue to work with providers as we determine and implement future outreach and investment strategies. HSD will be assessing whether current staff can effectively administer outreach contracts and determine if additional supports are needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Lori Baxter
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From: Baxter, Lori (MOS)
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Brian Michael <bmichael@komonews.com>
Cc: Housen, Jamie <Jamie.Housen@seattle.gov>; Barnett Parker <blparker@sbgtv.com>; Jeremy Harris <jeremyharris@komonews.com>; Hightower, Kamaria (HSD) <Kamaria.Hightower@seattle.gov>
Subject: RE: Question from KOMO

Hi Brian,

On Friday, February 16, the Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) communicated to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) upcoming changes in how City investments in homelessness prevention and outreach are managed (letter attached). HSD will work with KCRHA in the coming weeks on transition planning for these investments and well as communicating directly with service providers in both program areas to share details and answer questions about contract impacts.

Oversight of prevention contracts (approximately $4.2 million in annual City funding) will transfer back to HSD beginning in Q3 2024. This shift aligns with HSD's role in leading other upstream housing and community stability efforts, such as utility discount and food access programming, while KCRHA continues leading the emergency homelessness response system. KCRHA currently holds no other prevention funding, as King County maintained its prevention funding within their Department of Community and Human Services.

Homelessness prevention services, which include rental assistance, legal assistance, and case management, are a key component in the Seattle Housing Levy. Funding in this program area last went through a competitive bidding process following passage of the 2016 levy. The recently approved 2023 Housing Levy includes new resources that support upstream prevention and stability efforts to keep people in their homes; an administrative shift for these contracts will allow HSD and OH to work closely in planning for these funds. The two departments will engage with service providers and key stakeholders, including the RHA, to review best and promising practices, assess current needs, and analyze performance data to ensure investments address the greatest areas of need.

Outreach funding (approximately $7.5 million annually) will move back to HSD beginning in Q1 2025, with no impact on current-year contracts. The transfer of outreach funding back to HSD is intended to better align current outreach investments with the evolving needs of the City and ensure funding is optimized to meet desired outcomes. HSD will engage with KCRHA, contracted outreach partners, and key stakeholders in assessing current city and community needs, as

well as outcomes from current contracts as we determine future strategies and investments.

All other City investments for homelessness services will remain at the KCRHA as part of the City's ongoing partnership with the agency to build a strong regional approach to addressing homelessness.

Lori Baxter
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From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Housen, Jamie <Jamie.Housen@seattle.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Question from KOMO

CAUTION: External Email

Hi,

Do you have any information you can share about this:

@seattletimes

NEW: Seattle has told the King County Regional Homelessness Authority it's taking back part of its funding. This move could raise questions about the agency's future.

Thanks,

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