

## **8-19-15 Streets Initiative Update**

The following summarizes some recent developments related to the Streets Initiative.

### **Embedded Social Worker.**

The Everett Police Department and the Snohomish County Department of Human Services have partnered to hire Lauren Rainbow, a mental health community support specialist, to serve as the Police Department embedded social worker, implementing Streets Initiative Strategy 1.2, recommendation 11. Lauren started work on August 10. She will work with the Department to better respond to a variety of street-level social issues, including chronically homeless individuals and individuals with mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system. She will also have a range of other responsibilities including coordinating social service outreach and serving as liaison to the social service community.

### **Streets Initiative Coordinator.**

United Way of Snohomish County and the City of Everett are advertising for applicants for a Streets Initiative Coordinator, a new position to be funded by United and housed at City Hall. The coordinator will be responsible for coordinating Streets Initiative activities, tracking the many projects moving forward as part of the Streets Initiative, keeping the public informed on progress of the Streets Initiative, and working with stakeholders on a variety of Streets Initiative-related issues. The coordinator will report to the newly-formed Steering Committee (see below). A full job description is attached.

### **Steering Committee.**

As part of the continuing evolution of the Streets Initiative, a Streets Initiative Steering Committee has been formed. By way of background, the Streets Initiative Task Force initially was convened to develop the final report and recommendations. In the course of that work, the Task Force asked to be reconvened approximately every six months to be updated on progress. Following issuance of the final report, ad hoc committees and a “core team” were formed to develop a framework for implementing the recommendations. The purpose of the new Steering Committee is to provide a continuing governance structure and a vehicle for ongoing stakeholder engagement now that the Task Force and the ad hoc planning committees have largely fulfilled their responsibilities. The Task Force will of course be reconvened approximately each six months for status updates, and the planning committees may be asked to do follow-up work as needed, but ongoing oversight and advisory functions will be performed by the Steering Committee. Among other responsibilities, the Steering Committee will oversee the work of the new Streets Initiative Coordinator.

### **County-wide Encampment Conference.**

Mayor Stephanson and County Executive Lovick hosted a meeting on February 26 for Snohomish County mayors and city managers to discuss the Everett Community Streets Initiative, to learn about street-level social issues facing each of the Snohomish county

communities, and to begin a continuing discussion of how these issues can be addressed collaboratively on a County-wide basis. Attendees confirmed that the issues being experienced in Everett are present in every community and expressed a strong desire to continue meeting. Accordingly, another county-wide meeting is being scheduled for October 15. The meeting will focus on encampments – what issues are cities experiencing related to encampments, how are they responding to those issues, and are there more effective ways to work collaboratively and take advantage of county-wide resources to address those issues. Individuals and agencies with experience responding to encampments, including the Snohomish County Human Services Department, Volunteers of America, local law enforcement, and the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force, will participate.

Alcohol Impact Area: Police will continue to gather data to determine the effect of retailers' voluntary compliance with the Alcohol Impact Area established by the Everett City Council several months ago. EPD will report their findings to Council in November so that Council can decide whether the City should petition the Liquor Control Board to make compliance mandatory or whether satisfactory improvement has been achieved with voluntary measures.

Collective Impact Summit.

United Way of Snohomish County is hosting a "Collective Impact Summit" on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Xfinity Event Center in Everett. The collective impact model provides an approach to addressing community-wide issues that brings all potential stakeholders together, identifies a common agenda around areas where their efforts overlap, establishes a "backbone organization," establishes common methodology for all organizations to measure impact, emphasizes continuous communications, all with the goal of leveraging the resources of many groups to make meaningful progress on important issues. The United Way board has adopted "breaking the cycle of poverty" as its theme for the next several years, and this will be the focus of the collective impact summit. The "poverty" umbrella covers many subjects, with considerable overlap with the issues addressed in the Streets Initiative. The Streets Initiative Steering Committee will be discussing how we can leverage our efforts by dovetailing with United Way's collective impact efforts focused on poverty.

## **Everett Community Streets Initiative Coordinator Position**

United Way of Snohomish County is partnering with the City of Everett to support an Everett Community Streets Initiative Coordinator. The Coordinator would perform work necessary to oversee implementation of the Streets Initiative, as further described below.

### **Background: Everett Community Streets Initiative**

The Everett Community Streets Initiative Task Force is composed of 23 members representing a broad cross section of the City, including business leaders, residents, the faith community, and leaders of nonprofit service agencies. The mission of the Task Force is to foster a vibrant and healthy community by better understanding the street-level social issues in Everett's commercial core areas and identifying potential short- and long-term actions for the community to address those issues. The street-level social issues that Everett is experiencing are common to other urban centers throughout the state and the nation and are in large part a symptom of poverty, homelessness, mental illness and addiction. These problems are complex and are addressed by many different public and nongovernmental agencies, including the criminal justice system, emergency medical services and hospitals, human services and housing agencies. A successful response to the street level social issues in Everett requires a coordinated response from all these parties, as well as the support and engagement of residents and the business community. The Task Force issued its final report in November 2014. The report identifies sixteen separate strategies and over sixty supporting recommended action items. The recommendations range from specific public safety measures, to expanding outreach to the street population, to enhancing services and treatment available to street populations, to increasing the supply of shelter and permanent housing. In addition, the Task Force sees better public understanding, improved inter-agency coordination and communication, and selective advocacy as keys to success.

### **Coordinator Position**

The Streets Initiative Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the Task Force recommendations, coordinate work among the many Streets Initiative stakeholders within and outside of Everett, monitor and report progress on projects and programs related to the Streets Initiative, and keep the community informed and engaged. The CSI Coordinator will work closely with Streets Initiative stakeholders and report to a steering committee that includes representatives from United Way, the City of Everett, and other community organizations.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Coordination
  - Liaison: ensure communication and coordination among agencies working to implement each recommendation; coordinate work of groups working on similar or interrelated initiatives to look for synergies and avoid conflicts
  - Regularly convene Implementation Committee to evaluate progress, check and adjust efforts
  - Coordinate efforts with United Way's Collective Impact framework

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- Project management
  - Monitor: track progress on implementation efforts for each recommendation in progress; work with the lead agency for each recommendation to focus on meeting milestones and adjust schedules as appropriate
  - Facilitate and Troubleshoot: work with participating organizations to identify and overcome obstacles to progress. Anticipate potential challenges in available resources and people because of scale of implementation plan. Create mechanism to determine priorities.
- Communication
  - Keep Everett Mayor and key city staff apprised of important developments; provide regular updates, and periodically update co-chairs and implementation team leaders.
  - Brief City and County elected officials on matters that require legislative policy decisions, major operational changes, or resource commitments
  - Inform and educate the public on progress, successes, Streets Initiative-related issues and developments, for example through media contact, public presentations, and postings on City web site; coordinate with City Communications Director
  - Reconvene Task Force at least semi-annually to provide update
- Evaluation
  - Work with agency personnel to develop metrics and evaluation plans to determine effectiveness of Streets Initiative programs
  - Provide quarterly written update reports to city, and co-chairs
  - Perform data collection, analysis and reporting

The coordinator would also work with the steering committee, City, and United Way to establish benchmarks or other performance measures to be used to determine whether the position should be funded for an additional year or years following completion of year one.