

**PUBLIC HEALTH -
SEATTLE & KING COUNTY**

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELL-BEING PLAN

PHASE 1
ZERO YOUTH DETENTION

Public Health
Seattle & King County



CALL-TO-ACTION

"The disease of violence is infectious and it knows no boundaries; crossing the lines of families, individuals and jurisdictions. Today, we want to talk about the opportunity to spread the vaccine faster than the disease."

~ Derrick Wheeler-Smith

In June 2020, King County Executive, Dow Constantine, declared Racism is a Public Health Crisis. In addition, King County, acknowledged gun violence is a public health emergency. King County directed Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), Zero Youth Detention (ZYD) to develop and implement a regional strategic plan to reduce firearm-related homicide and violence.

By taking a regional approach to community safety and well-being, ZYD is able to align services and coordinate efforts that support and provide resources for communities impacted most by violence and racial disparities in King County.

Together, we can create a new shore, with a clear vision and path forward as we build a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan that works for everyone regardless of race or location.





March 16, 2021

RE: King County Executive/ Public Health – Seattle & King County Director, Joint Statement

Residents of King County,

Like COVID-19, youth and young adult gun violence is a fatal epidemic. Gun violence in our neighborhoods, cities, and county impacts public health and public safety. It deserves to be addressed through a robust public health approach that enlists multi-sector supports, broad investments, and lasting commitment. We must do the work necessary to understand and address the root causes. Then, it must be treated to guarantee long-term community well-being and safety.

In King County, the staggering need for a comprehensive and coordinated regional approach is clear. We have coordinated across 20+ city and county departments to convene key King County stakeholders to develop and implement an authentically co-created Community Safety and Well-Being Plan that works for all. Government agencies and officials cannot solve this problem alone. We will need everyone to rally together to make King County one of the safest regions in the country.

We want to work together with you and look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions, and solutions.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine, Executive
King County

Patty Hayes, Director
Public Health – Seattle & King County



Seattle Police Department
Adrian Diaz, Chief of Police

March 16, 2021

RE: King County Regional Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan Partnership

Director Wheeler-Smith,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the work Public Health - Seattle & King County, Zero Youth Detention is doing to coordinate efforts and convene key stakeholders across this region to effectively address the fatal gun violence epidemic impacting communities in Seattle and King County.

In late 2019 I, along with former chief, Carmen Best, requested the assistance of Public Health - Seattle & King County to deal with the spike in gun violence the Seattle Police Department was experiencing. Through years of working in the community and with young people, I recognize the need for a strategically coordinated and collaborative response. These needs cannot be met if constrained by government-created jurisdictional boundaries. I know that even aligned with other justice partners, policing alone will not solve the issues.

I am impressed with the immediate efforts of this team as you have worked to intervene over the past year and identified needed resources available in this region and across the country. By taking a Public Health Approach to address violence, highlighting gaps in our service system, and working to align the efforts of county, city, and community leaders we have been able to start creating new systems, practices, and policies that provide comprehensive wrap-around supports for youth, young adults, and families impacted by violence.

Thank you for all that you are doing. I look forward to continuing this work with you and the team, and I can fully commit the SPD to ongoing participation and full cooperation.

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz, Chief
Seattle Police Department



A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Successful violence prevention strategies are informed by a public health approach and use common language, practices, protocols, and co-created accountability measures. Community violence intervention, prevention, and restoration (IPR) efforts that specifically serve young people are most effective when they provide wrap-around services and coordinated care.

The programs that best serve young people create an integrated web of support and a cross-cutting service delivery model to ensure that services remain available to impacted youth and geography/location does not become a barrier to access.

These strategies provide comprehensive care and support for at-risk youth, young adults, and their families.

Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC) has been building the momentum needed for a co-created, comprehensive regional approach to community safety. The information included here reflects the outcomes of the first phase of a multi-phase strategy to ensure that the youth and communities of King County are healthy, safe, and thriving.





CAPACITY BUILDING: PARTNERSHIP WITH CITIES UNITED

“OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE YOUTH GUN VIOLENCE BY ENSURING SUSTAINABLE CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE HEALTHY, HOPEFUL, SAFE, AND THRIVING.”

Public Health - Seattle & King County, Zero Youth Detention (ZYP) team convened internal staff, content experts and skilled facilitators to form a Core Team. This team serves as the backbone of the work, in service of the development and implementation of a county-wide, co-created community safety and gun violence prevention plan.

ZYP recruited technical assistance support from Cities United (CU), a national network of mayors committed to eradicating gun violence. CU works with 130+ partner cities and has developed a blueprint for cities to use as they develop a comprehensive public safety plan tailored to the needs and realities of the local and regional context, called the Roadmap to Safe, Healthy, and Hopeful Communities.

Through the partnership with CU, the ZYP team has begun to work through a regionally tailored version of the CU Six Milestones Framework:

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- Identifying Regional Historical Data
 - Engaging Key Stakeholders
 - Collaboratively Developing Key Directions
 - Identifying Oversight & Accountability Measures
 - Identify & Secure Resources
 - Edit, Review & Disseminate Plan
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PHASE 1:

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELL-BEING PLAN

To begin the first phase of this work, Public Health Seattle and King County convened leaders across 19 King County and City of Seattle departments to align systems in preparation for an inclusive 12 to 18-month process to develop a Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan.

Below are the intergovernmental partners convened to provide historical data and identify community partners:

- Public Health - Seattle & King County
 - King County Executive Office
 - Dept of Community and Human Services
 - King County Dept of Adult & Juvenile Detention
 - King County Superior Court
 - King County Prosecuting Attorney
 - King County Dept of Public Defense
 - King County Sheriff Office
 - City of Seattle Mayor's Office
 - City of Seattle Dept of Education and Early Learning
 - City of Seattle Dept of Human Service
 - City of Seattle Dept of Neighborhoods
 - City of Seattle Office of Civil of Rights
 - City of Seattle Police Dept
 - City of Seattle Dept city of Parks and Recreation
 - City of Tukwila Dept of Parks and Recreation
 - City of Tukwila Police Dept
 - City of Kent Mayor's Office
 - City of Kent Police Dept
 - City of Burien Mayor's Office
 - City of Burien Police Dept
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Milestone 1: King County Data Walk and Key Findings

To fully understand the regional data around community safety in Seattle and King County, the ZYD core team and leaders of the 19 departments began a thorough and rigorous gathering and review of regional-based historical data. The goal of the data walk was to have a fuller understanding of local community violence, to map out community assets, and to identify local risk and protective factors.

The Seattle and King County Public Health's Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation (APDE) team compiled comprehensive data from Public Health's social determinants dashboard that provided a snapshot in time of the well-being of the different communities living in King County. The data shows alarming disparities by Race/ Ethnicity and geographic location across King County.

The data shows that:

- Shooting deaths are up 58% over the three-year average, with 59 firearm homicides reported through the end of September 2020; which is an increase above the yearly total of 49 in 2019.
 - According to the 2019 Public Health Report on Gun Violence Among Youth and Young Adults, firearms are the leading cause of suicide and homicide deaths among youth and young adults in King County.
 - Of the 68 homicides in King County during 2020, 23 victims were young people ages 16 to 25 who were killed by gunfire.
 - Harborview Medical Center (HMC) reports treating 108 gunshot patients between May and July 2020; and 19% of those treated were under the age of 19, with another 30% between the ages of 20 and 29.
 - Countywide data showed that victims who went to hospitals other than HMC or did not go to a hospital at all, increased totals to 256 shooting victims, a combination of 59 fatalities, and 197 non-fatal shootings through the end of September 2020. 41% of these victims are under the age of 25.
 - Roughly 40% of reported firearm violence has been concentrated mainly within South King County.
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It is clear from the countywide data that King County has been experiencing a significant increase in youth and community-based gun violence and homicide for the past several years. Like COVID-19, youth gun violence is a fatal epidemic that more dramatically affects marginalized communities and requires addressing racial inequities within our systems. With community violence, the most impacted segment of the population is Black/African American boys and young men. These occurrences are leading to contact with the legal system in disproportionate numbers.

Mounting evidence validates the traumatic impact on young people growing up in communities racked by violence, proving that it leads to life-long consequences and contributes to inter-generational trauma and legacy disenfranchisement. These lived experiences adversely affect social and emotional health. It also shows the educational and economic outcomes of young people directly involved in violence and how it has a ripple effect on the broader community.

Data Walk Key Findings:



- Seattle & King County should commit to a long-term regional plan to prevent and eliminate youth gun violence, to ensure sustainable conditions that allow young people to be healthy, hopeful, safe, and thriving.
- There is an immediate need for a responsive “Go First” strategy to address current increased gun violence. In response to this need, eight organizations will collaborate on a pilot “go-first” strategy, delivering a suite of services for those youth and families most directly impacted.



Milestone 2: Key Stakeholder Engagement

To make sure the process of building a Regional Community Safety & Well-being Plan and our immediate strategy, the Regional Peacekeepers Collective are regional and community-led, we have reached out key leaders from multiple sectors to lead the processes. With support from King County Executive, Dow Constantine and Seattle Police Chief, Adrian Diaz, core team members worked with local leaders to establish monthly meetings with individual municipalities across King County to support capacity building and to present the Cities United Roadmap and milestone process.

Work Groups:

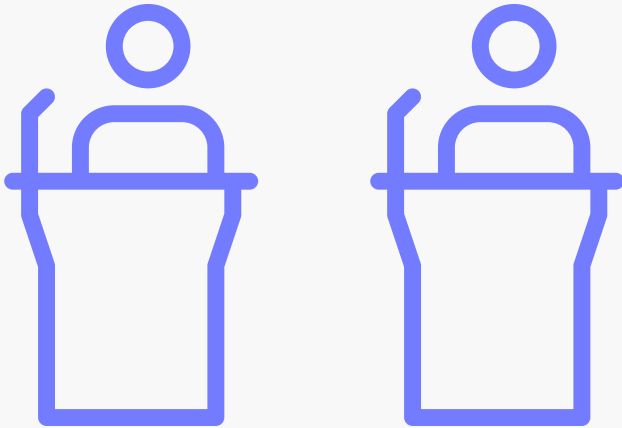
Effectively partnering with the community to address systemic and structural issues requires working across systems, to co-create sustainable solutions with impacted communities, from the development through the implementation of equitable, effective, and sustainable solutions. All regional municipalities have been asked to engage with stakeholders to participate in multi-disciplinary work groups including representatives from the community, young/directly impacted residents, service providers, schools, courts, faith groups, parks and recreation, mayors, police chiefs, and city council.

The work groups will identify and provide a set of recommendations for King County's Regional Community Safety & Well-being Plan through the development of a mission, vision, goals, and core activities in the following domains:

- Education
- Workforce Development
- Juvenile Justice
- Community-Led Public Safety
- Health and Human Services

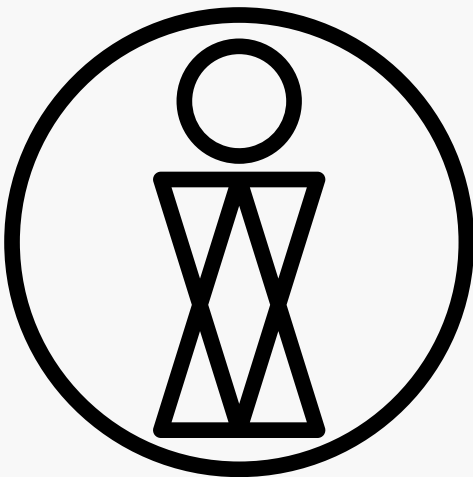
Work groups serve as part of the organizational structure to help develop and implement a Regional Community Safety & Well-being Plan. In keeping with the best practices for community restoration, community co-facilitators and participants will be compensated for their time and input.

Work groups will meet for 6-8 months, starting at the beginning of May. Each work group will be comprised of 2 facilitators and 15 participants from both community and systems/government.



- **Co-facilitators are responsible for** planning and leading the work with participants in the space to effectively identify and develop a set of recommendations, with sustainable solutions from their specific focus area.

- **Participants are responsible for** attending each meeting and actively participating in the space to help effectively identify and provide a set of recommendations and sustainable solutions for King County's Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.



- **A ZYD Core Team member will** support each work group.



Phase 2: Our Next Steps as a Community

Through the partnership with Cities United, we are navigating our way through the first phase of the tailored roadmap, for milestones 1 and 2. As we continue the work needed to successfully complete milestones 1 and 2, we are also looking ahead to the 4 regional milestones listed below.

Milestones:



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- **Milestone 3: Oversight & Accountability** - In this milestone, our work groups will help us to identify appropriate oversight & accountability measures for the residents of Seattle and King County to evaluate our work in the coming years.



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- **Milestone 4: Align, Identify, & Secure Resources** - In this milestone, we'll continue to build political will, work with private and philanthropic communities, and build strategic partnerships in order to make sure that our regional approach aligns programs, capital, and assets along a continuum of care.



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- **Milestone 5: Edit, Review & Disseminate Plan** - We expect to reach milestone 5 in early 2022, and then move toward implementation of the Regional Community Safety & Well-being plan together.



MILESTONE

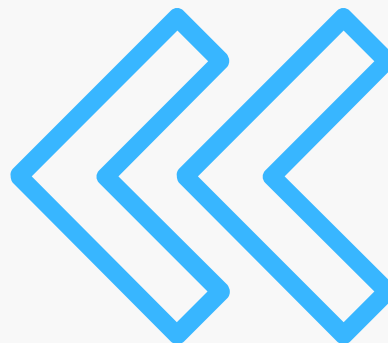
Implementation of “Regional Peacekeepers Collective”

As the county undergoes the collaborative development of a large-scale public safety plan over the next twelve months, the issues of community violence continue to be urgent. The King County Data Walk indicated, there is an immediate need for the implementation of a responsive "Go-First" strategy that addresses the current increase in regional gun violence.

In response to this need, 8 organizations will collaborate to deliver a suite of services for impacted youth, young adults, and families.

These 8 organizations include:

- **Alive & Free**
- **Black Women's Coalition**
- **Choose 180**
- **Community Passageways**
- **Freedom Project**
- **Progress Pushers**
- **Renegades for Life Youth Outreach**
- **Harborview Medical Center**



Under the unique banner of **intervention, prevention, and restoration** (IPR), the Go-First Strategy will address the urgent needs of youth and families directly impacted by gun violence, increase the capacity and skills of those doing the daily work and strengthen connections across the service provider community to ensure a sustainable and lasting impact.

“Regional Peacekeepers Collective”: Capacity Building

In order to ensure supports for those most at risk, partners will increase dedicated staffing and complete a comprehensive series of capacity building activities in the areas listed below:

- Youth-Led Advocacy
 - Critical Incident Response Management and Community-Led Public Safety
 - Hospital Intervention- Engaging Survivors of Gun Violence and Supporting Family in Crisis
 - Trauma-Informed and Healing Centered Engagement
 - Hospital Call-in Strategy
 - Wrap-around Care
 - Procedural Justice
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Service Delivery:

The group will use a multi-partner approach with shared methods, protocols, cross-referrals, and common metrics and focus on the following:

- Develop and implement a Critical Incident Response System.
- Provide high-intensity engagement and support for youth and families identified as high-risk for gun violence involvement by hospitals, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and other community-based referrals.
- Provide service linkage and resources for youth and families directly impacted by gun violence, including access to counselors, therapy, employment, food, housing, and other social services determined by individual's needs; particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Help to decrease negative contact with law enforcement.
- Increase community support for public health solutions to violence intervention, through public awareness campaigns that increase awareness, access, and support.

Community Engagement:

As a collective, the partners will work to ensure meaningful community engagement to increase support for public health solutions to violence and participate in public awareness campaigns allowing to increase understanding, access, and support.

- Town Hall and Community Conversations
 - Pop-up events and presence building activities (i.e. community BBQ's, resource fairs, pro-social recreation as appropriate)
 - Co-created community healing projects
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