So you want to start a local initiative?

Sheila Capestany
Megan McJennett
Kristin Pace
King County Best Starts for Kids Staff
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Check-in: What brings you here today?

Best Starts for Kids Overview
- How did it start?
- How did it shift?

What are we funding?

How do we know what we are doing is working?

How are we changing government?
What is Best Starts?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgumVM
DqvFs#action=share
Vision

*Happy, healthy, safe, & thriving*

We want to see babies born healthy, kids thrive, and young people grow up to be happy, healthy adults.
How do we do it?

Promotion  Prevention  Early Intervention  Policy & Systems Change
Values

» Relational
» Equitable
» Transparent
Underlying Principles

» Equity
» Community
» Resilience, Protective Factors, Social and Emotional Wellbeing
» Multigenerational Approach
» Transparency and Accountability
Equity is an ardent journey toward well-being as defined by the affected.

- CYAB Equity Statement
Best Starts’ structure

- **Investing Early**
  - 50% of levy investments

- **Sustaining the Gain**
  - 35% of levy investments

- **Data & Evaluation**
  - 5% of levy investments

- **Healthy Communities**
  - 10% of levy investments
Levy Details

- Passed by voters November 2015
  - 14¢/$1000 assessed value
  - ~$65 million annually
  - 6 year levy (Jan 2016 - Dec 2021)

- Implementation Plan and budget approved late fall 2016
Our first two years

- Children and Youth Advisory Board
- Hiring staff
- Community conversations, outreach and listening sessions
- Funding opportunities released
- Evaluation Plan approved
Our first two years

- Children and Youth Advisory Board established
- Community conversations, outreach and listening sessions ongoing
- Staff hired
- Funding opportunities released
- Evaluation Plan approved
- Aligning RFP and contracting processes across departments and with BSK values
Basic Needs Resource Brokering
Basic Needs Resource Brokering provides opportunities for community-based agencies to connect families with essential resources such as diapers, car seats, cribs, and healthy food.
Expansion of Play and Learn
Groups that reach families and children not enrolled in formal early learning programs with a focus on engaging families furthest from opportunity.

General Parenting Supports
Community-based parenting supports provide families access to vital information on factors influencing their young children’s healthy development.
Developmental Promotion

Early Intervention Services
King County’s Early Support for Infants and Toddlers provides early intervention services to children birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Developmental Screening Landscape Analysis
While we know that developmental screenings are occurring in different settings throughout the county, we lack a comprehensive, accurate overview of where and when they occur. The Landscape Analysis will answer these questions.
More Developmental Promotion

Infant Mental Health Landscape Analysis

While we know that there are some resources in place to training and resources to support strong relationships between infants and caregivers, we lack a comprehensive, accurate overview of where and when they occur. The Landscape Analysis will answer these questions to build a comprehensive system to support promotion, prevention and intervention.
Parent-Child Home Program
Best Starts partnered with the City of Seattle, United Way of King County, and Thrive Washington to sustain existing levels of service and to expand to new families and communities.

Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Services
Funding regular, sustained, relationship-based, standardized home visiting models that have a substantive research base demonstrating evidence of effectiveness.
Community-Defined Models
Community-defined evidence refers to practices that communities have determined yield positive results, as determined by community consensus over time. Practice-based evidence refers to evidence collected from individual client histories to learn what is happening in community practice. We will fund organizations to build models valued by community, embedded in culture, and considered effective and supportive by communities served.
Child Care Health Consultation

Multidisciplinary teams that support child care providers to promote health development and safety of children in their care. Teams provide coaching on healthy growth and development, classroom observations with developmental screenings and support child care providers in planning for children’s nutrition and physical activities.
Building a King County System of Help Me Grow
Sustaining the Gain
School Partnerships

Trauma-Informed & Restorative Practices
Ninety six schools, school districts, and community-based organizations received awards to better address the impacts of trauma and promote resilience.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Services (SBIRT)
Best Starts is currently piloting the Reclaiming Futures SBIRT models in 21 middle schools in 12 King County school districts. Best Starts for Kids awarded $534,945 to 56 middle schools in 13 districts for planning grants to implement SBIRT.
Out of School Time
A total of 19 grants were awarded, 7 Place-Based Partnership grants representing 26 organizations and 12 People of Color Led grants.

School-Based Health Centers
In 2017, three new Best Starts-funded school-based health centers served nearly 1,000 additional King County children and youth.
Youth Development

This strategy includes:
• Mentoring
• Youth leadership & engagement
• Positive identity development
• Healthy and safe relationships

32 youth-serving organizations successfully competed for Best Starts funds to provide youth development services. Best Starts for Kids prioritized funding community-led and youth-led programs that incorporate youth voices and leadership in program design and implementation.
Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Community Supports

Fourteen agencies successfully competed for funding to outreach services and link youth and young adults to education, job training, mentoring, and other crucial resources and opportunities.

T3AMS Pilot Project

The Theft 3 and Mall Safety (T3AMS) project is a pilot project designed to lower the number of youth theft cases and charges in Tukwila at the Westfield Southcenter Mall.
Healthy & Safe Environments

This strategy focuses on creating structural level changes that promote lifelong health and well-being for individuals and communities.

Plus: Adolescent Immunizations
The aim is to increase the number of adolescents who receive all recommended vaccinations by age 18.
Preventing Homelessness
Communities of Opportunity
Communities of Opportunity

Place-Based Partnerships
In 2017, COO continued to support the work of the three original place-based partnerships in Ranier Valley, SeaTac/Tukwila, and White Center.

Systems & Policy Change
Twenty-seven non-profits will bring together fifty different organizations to strengthen community connections, economic opportunity, health outcomes and housing for low-income and communities of color in King County.

Learning Communities
The Learning Community vision is to share valuable tools and learnings between partners and with other aligned initiatives, and to provide structural support that will broadly benefit grantees and partners. The Learning Community will launch in 2018.
Measuring Results
Performance Measurement
• How much did we do?
• How well did we do it?
• Is anyone better off?

Evaluation
• Evaluation partnerships

Best Starts Health Survey and Data Dives

Headline Indicators
Prenatal to Age 5

- **Healthy Birth Outcomes**
  
  Source: Birth Certificates, Death Certificates
  
  - Infant mortality
  - Pre-term birth

- **Reduction Child Abuse and Neglect**
  
  Source: Children’s Administration, DSHS

- **Flourishing & Resilient**
  
  Source: NEW Child Health Survey question based on HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s National Survey of Children’s Health

- **Kindergarten Ready**
  
  Source: WA KIDS, OSPI

5 to 24 Years

- **3rd graders meet reading standard level**
  
  Source: OSPI

- **4th graders meet math standard**
  
  Source: OSPI

- **On-time high school graduation**
  
  Source: Roadmap, Eastside Pathways, OSPI

- **Youth & young adults in school or working**
  
  Source: American Community Survey

- **Excellent/very good health**
  
  Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and NEW Health Survey

- **Reduction in Youth substance use**
  
  Source: Healthy Youth Survey

- **Flourishing & Resilient**
  
  Source: NEW Child Health Survey question based on HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s National Survey of Children’s Health

- **Career or College Credential**
  
  Source: ERDC
What Works Tool Kit Overview
King County’s contracting and community engagement has made Best Starts for Kids bolder and better than we ever imagined.

Sona and Kimilo, two middle-school students in BSK partner Inspirational Workshops’ Trailblazers program present on implicit bias, in the first ever student-led professional development workshop in the Seattle School District.
Capacity Building
3-part System of Support

- Strategy Specific Learning Circles
- Capacity Building Team to provide comprehensive capacity building services (this RFQ)
- Mini grants (separate funding process in Q4 2019)

Stronger System of Resilient Community Based Organizations
Capacity Building

Creating a strong system of nonprofits

- Awarded 9 contracts to Capacity Building individuals and organizations to support organizations’ infrastructure
  - Finance
  - Board Development
  - Legal
  - Human Resources
  - Social Justice and Racial Equity
  - IT
  - Marketing/Communications/Branding
  - Organizational development (including leadership development, coaching, strategic planning etc)
Next Steps

• Create system of triage and referral

• Create or adopt a capacity assessment tool and process

• Capacity Builders and Program Managers work together to identify organizations

• Deploy CB to assess organizations

• Create a menu of workshops, clinics, one on one coaching etc.
Challenges

Massive paradigm shift for 2 large government departments

- Deliverable-based contracts
- Much more relational
- Imbedded capacity building
- Unanticipated staffing needs to meet new expectations
- Building trust takes time

Telling Our Story

- How do we compellingly tell about our successes and failures?
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