



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 16, 2014

Motion 14275

Proposed No. 2014-0484.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION acknowledging the receipt of a report from the
2 safety of newborn children task force regarding improving
3 awareness in King County of the Safety of Newborn
4 Children law, in response to Motion 14104.

5 WHEREAS, Motion 14104 created the safety of newborn children task force to
6 examine ways to improve the implementation of the Safety of Newborn Children law
7 throughout King County, and

8 WHEREAS, the task force was charged with reporting on: how King County can
9 engage in an ongoing, regionally consistent public information campaign about safe
10 surrender of newborns; how King County can work collaboratively with the state to
11 obtain useful, timely data on instances of safe surrender and newborn abandonment; and
12 whether the safe surrender locations for accepting newborns should be expanded through
13 state legislation, and

14 WHEREAS, in considering its recommendations, the task force met five times
15 starting on June 20, 2014, and consulted with representatives from safe surrender-related
16 organizations, authorities on county demographics and data collection, and media
17 experts, and

18 WHEREAS, the task force submitted a report to the King County council and
19 executive on October 30, 2014 that is responsive to the charges in Motion 14104;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
21 Receipt of the report transmitted by the safety of newborn children task force in
22 response to Motion 14104 is hereby acknowledged.
23

Motion 14275 was introduced on 12/8/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/15/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. Upthegrove

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Safety of Newborn Children Task Force Report and Recommendations to the King County Council and King County Executive 10-30-14



King County

Safety of Newborn Children Task Force

*Report and Recommendations
to the King County Council and King County Executive
October 30, 2014*

Members:

Chris Barringer	King County Sheriff's Office
Helen Chatalas	Emergency Medical Services Division, Public Health
Paul Cowles	Safe Place for Newborns
Elinor Cromwell	King County Department of Public Defense
Ivy Durslag	Children's Administration, WA Dept. of Social and Health Services
Tom Goff	Office of Councilmember Reagan Dunn
Melanie Granfors	Shoreline Fire, King County Fire Chiefs Association
Deb Greenleaf	Community Health Services Division, Public Health
Trang Hahn	King County Women's Advisory Board
Brian Johnston, MD	Pediatric Clinics at Harborview
Steve Larsen	King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
Terry Mark	King County Department of Community and Human Services
Jeff McMorris	Office of Councilmember Kathy Lambert
Kathleen O'Brien	King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Othniel Palomino	King County District Court
Verna Seal	Sound Cities Association
Gail Stone	Office of King County Executive Dow Constantine
Greg Taylor	Renton City Council, At Large

October 30, 2014

King County Council
King County Courthouse
514 Third Ave., Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104

Executive Constantine
King County Chinook Building
401 Fifth Ave., Suite 800
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear King County Council and Executive Constantine:

The King County Safety of Newborn Children Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to convey its report and recommendations in response to its charge in Motion 14104 on improving awareness in King County of the Safety of Newborn Children law.

The Task Force met five times starting on June 20, 2014. It consulted with representatives from Safe Haven-related organizations, authorities on county demographics and data collection, and media experts. In developing its recommendations, the Task Force considered the extent of the problem, tactics for reaching different audiences, and implementing an ongoing campaign with limited funding.

The Task Force endorses a prevention-oriented approach that relies on public, private and community resources and partnerships to educate the public about the law. It recommends that a funded program manager administer safe surrender projects and work with other organizations to leverage existing models, approaches and resources. It proposes that materials be “youth-centered” yet still culturally appropriate for the region’s diverse population, and be available through service providers, sex-ed curricula offered at schools, and other youth-preferred settings and venues. The Task Force also identified opportunities to expand options and protection for those implementing the law by extending Good Samaritan liability protection and granting 9-1-1 callers greater anonymity from the public records act.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the task force. We would be pleased to answer questions or to provide further information as you consider our recommendations.

Respectfully,

Members of the Safety of Newborn Children Task Force

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Section 1: Executive Summary

The Safety of Newborn Children law was enacted to offer parents a safe place to leave a newborn child, confidentially and without fear of punishment. Under RCW 13.34.360, a parent within seventy-two hours of a child's birth can transfer the baby to a qualified person at a hospital, fire station or federally designated rural health clinic, and do so anonymously without fear of criminal prosecution for abandoning, or failing to support, the child.

On February 12, 2014, the body of a newborn girl was found near the side of a road in North Bend wrapped in a blanket. Although the details of the situation are not public information, the newborn was less than half a mile away from Snoqualmie Valley Hospital, a location where infants can be safely and anonymously surrendered under the state's Safety of Newborn Children law. There was very little mention of the state law in the media reports, indicating that there exists a need to educate the public, including parents and would-be parents, about the law and the locations where infants may be safely surrendered.

The Safety of Newborn Children Task Force (Task Force) was created to examine ways to improve the implementation of the Safety of Newborn Children law throughout King County. The Task Force met five times between June 2014 and October 2014 to discuss an ongoing public education strategy, improved data sharing, and possible legislative changes to strengthen the law. Smaller working groups twice convened for more comprehensive analysis of the issue.

On October 15, 2014, the Task Force endorsed the following recommendations:

- Appointing funded staff to oversee safe surrender project responsibilities;
- Building upon the efforts of local, state and national organizations and using existing resources and partnerships for educating the public about this law;
- Developing standardized training and brochures for educating providers, staff, families served by their agencies and people of influence about the Safety of Newborn Children law;
- Developing youth-centered public education messaging and marketing that uses popular culture and current technology, yet is also appropriate for culturally diverse audiences throughout King County;
- Incorporating Safe Haven information into the current sexual educational curriculum offered at public schools, colleges and universities, technical and trade schools, and the juvenile justice system;
- Developing protocols with the Washington State Department of Social & Health Service for annually reviewing Children's Protective Services Intake data on newborns relinquished under the Safety of Newborns Act; and
- Expanding options and protection for birth parents and those implementing Washington State's Safe Surrender law via legislative changes to the Good Samaritan Law and 9-1-1

confidentiality statutes, and authorizing additional safe surrender locations.

In developing its recommendations, the Task Force consulted with representatives from four Safe Haven-related organizations about populations served, public education tactics, obstacles experienced and advice for proceeding with its campaign. County media professionals with credits in electronic and print media were also consulted for ideas about public education outreach, as were authorities on County demographics and data collection. The Task Force also relied on the expertise of its members not only within their subject matter, but for their varied backgrounds in public relations/outreach and the legislative process.

Section 2: Background

Safety of Newborn Children Law

On February 12, 2014, the body of a newborn girl was found near the side of a road in North Bend. Wrapped in a blanket, the newborn was less than half a mile away from Snoqualmie Valley Hospital, a location where infants can be safely and anonymously surrendered under Washington State’s Safety of Newborn Children law.

“Baby Safe Haven” laws (or infant abandonment laws) were created to remove the potential for prosecution so long as children were given unharmed to proper authorities. In Washington State, per RCW 13.34.360, a parent, within seventy-two hours of a child's birth, can transfer the newborn to a qualified person at a hospital, fire station or federally designated rural health clinic, anonymously and without fear of criminal prosecution for abandoning, or failing to support, the baby.

Safe Haven laws have been enacted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Although each state’s law is different, they all ensure the safety of newborn infants and the protection of parents who decide to properly relinquish their child. Every state has reported lives saved through the existence of these laws, although the exact number is uncertain due to less-than-perfect reporting methods. Regardless, it is believed that in the past decade, these laws have saved well over 1,000 infants¹.

While the full story of how and why this baby girl—who was named Kimball after the Kimball Creek Bridge where she was found—may never come to light, this tragedy sadly highlighted the need to bring greater awareness of options available for parents to legally and safely give up a newborn. It is important that these laws are widely promoted and that women in need are informed that they are not alone.

Safety of Newborn Children Advisory Task Force

In an effort to ultimately save lives and provide options to young parents who don’t know where to turn for help, the King County Council passed Motion 14104, which created an advisory task force to bring greater awareness of the Safety of Newborn Children law to the residents of King County.

The Task Force consists of representatives from the Executive and Council, cities, health care institutions, public health, the criminal justice system, human service agencies, a non-profit organization, and first responders. It is charged with reporting to the King County Council and Executive by October 30, 2014, on

- 1) how King County can engage in an ongoing, regionally consistent public information campaign about safe surrender of newborns;
- 2) how King County can work collaboratively with the state for better data gathering; and
- 3) exploring the potential expansion of safe surrender locations in state law.

¹ Baby Safe Haven – Abandoner Infant Protection Laws; National Safe Haven Alliance; <http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/law.php> accessed October 17, 2014.

Section 3: Issues identified by the Task Force:

1. The magnitude of the problem

To better understand the frequency of, and conditions behind, illegally abandoning newborns, the Task Force sought data on safe surrenders, both statewide and nationally. They learned that throughout the nation, data collection regarding newborn safe surrender has been challenging. The lack of data not only complicates efforts to design more effective approaches to implement the law and target those mostly likely to benefit from knowing of the law, it also hinders assessing the law's effectiveness, or the effectiveness of any public outreach campaign.

In Washington State, per the requirements of RCW 13.34.360, persons receiving infants under the statute are to contact Washington State Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) Children's Administration intake specialists within 24 hours. The Task Force engaged a Children's Administration staff member to facilitate the initial data collection from 2009 to present. It was determined that in King County, only four newborns were identified as being surrendered under this statute.

2. The need for educating the public

It was because of the small number of Safe Surrender newborns that the Task Force focused considerably on the need for public education about the law and its provisions. In King County, it is difficult to find information about the safety of newborn children law. While DSHS maintains a website with resources about the law and policies for surrender sites, public information outside this webpage is limited. Within King County government itself, agencies that regularly interact with pregnant mothers or families who may be at risk of abandoning their newborn lack information about the law.

Although there are state and national resources and associations that address the issue, for a family at risk for abandoning a newborn, the information needs to be readily available and local. The Task Force recognized that as a local government with many intersections with the general public, King County is a logical entity to show leadership on public education of the state law and examine ways to improve both the law and its implementation throughout the region.

The experiences shared by public education campaigns in several states convinced the Task Force to focus public education in such a way as to reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the county, and the ages of women and girls who might make use of the law. Without sensitivity, the information won't reach the population who might choose to make use of the Safe Surrender law.

3. The diversity of audiences

Having gained more than 400,000 new residents since 1990, King County's total population now exceeds two million. Over half of the population growth has been due to immigration, with people coming from all over the world. More than 20% of King County's population is foreign-born, up from 9 % in 1990.

Communities throughout the region are becoming more racially, ethnically and culturally diverse. Half a million King County residents speak a language other than English at home, and of these, approximately 11% do not speak English fluently. More than 170 languages are spoken

in the public schools of King County. There now is a greater demand for culturally relevant information, public education and interpretative services for these residents. Residents coming from diverse communities often may not have received information about the Safe Haven statutes. They may not understand the provisions of the Safe Haven law, or understand where a “safe” drop off location may be. There may be societal barriers to relinquishing a newborn. Therefore, it is important Community members from various ethnic/culture/religious groups assist with the development of health messaging or health education campaigns that reflect the needs of our diverse residents and encourages residents to take advantage of our Safe Haven law.

4. Expanding options

The Task Force also came to recognize that safely surrendering a newborn could become a more viable option for women in crisis if the legal “drop-off” sites were expanded from hospital and fire stations to other locations. Calling 9-1-1 and using Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to receive a child could also provide a safe option, if confidentiality could be assured. Similarly, by expanding Good Samaritan immunity to persons receiving infants under this statute, additional community support might be engendered, by which Safe Surrender relinquishment sites might be expanded.

5. Limited funding

The Task Force recognized the difficulties associated with implementing an ongoing education effort with limited funds.

Section 4: Recommendations

The following recommendations were formulated by Task Force members during meetings and communications that occurred from June through October 2014. These recommendations are grouped by the three major tasks that were set forth by King County Council Motion 14104.

The Task Force recognizes that there are funding limitations associated with implementing its recommendations, and has listed its recommendations in order of priority as resources become available.

Task One:

How can King County government engage in an ongoing, regionally consistent public information campaign, utilizing county service intersection points such as public health, school clinics and the criminal justice system to educate service providers and the public about safe surrender of newborns? The report should include recommendations on messaging strategies, web-based information, brochures, or educational materials designed for general use as well as for responding in the event of a newborn abandonment incident.

Newborn Safety Project Oversight, Coordination, and Sustainability

1. The Task Force recommends that a funded project administrator located within the appropriate King County agency be designated to oversee safe surrender project activities.

Planning, implementing and maintaining a visible and successful project that includes a public education campaign, data collection, policy development and project funding, requires that an ongoing entity and staff be assigned to oversee and implement it.

Project coordination includes creating private and government partnerships, creating and implementing educational campaigns, managing community outreach and involvement, monitoring data trends, and instituting policy development.

2. The Task Force recommends that King County explore appropriate alternative funding opportunities to support project activities and education efforts.

Limited county resources exist for implementing project activities and public information campaign. Linking with existing efforts and leveraging resources through external partnerships (non-profit and corporate) should be pursued. Identify and begin with actions that can be undertaken with existing resources. Identified resource opportunities include:

- a) In-kind contributions;

- b) Private and public funding partnerships;
- c) Private donations;
- d) Local private foundations and other non-profits.
- e) Government appropriations;
- f) National non-profit organizations
- g) Religious organizations;
- h) Grants;
- i) Ethnic and Civic groups;
- j) Pharmaceutical companies;
- k) Private companies;
- l) Health Care Plans; and,
- m) Adult and Children's Hospitals

3. The Task Force recommends that existing community resources and partnerships be used for public education campaigns and project activities.

King County and its extensive web of partnerships have the most opportunities to interact with the target audience under differing circumstances, and should be a principal vehicle for educating the public about safe surrender. New partners and venues within and outside of the health and human services sector should also be identified and approached to participate in the regional education effort.

Public Education Recommendations:

4. The Task Force recommends that King County build upon public education efforts already underway by regional and national partners, the state, and other entities.

With Safe Haven laws enacted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, numerous public and private organizations are dedicated to promoting the law and increasing public awareness. King County should work with these entities to leverage existing models, approaches, and resources. Tying into existing messaging and materials will help create cohesion between King County's regional campaign and other ongoing programs.

In addition, the Task Force recommends that the Safe Haven designated county staff consult with other King County agencies regarding public education and behavior change campaigns that different departments have conducted. Examples include Public Health's Anti Human-Trafficking campaign, whose partnerships with ClearChannel provided a strong media presence, and Solid Waste Division, which was recently honored for its innovative web-based tools and materials.

5. The Task Force recommends that standardized training and brochures be developed by working with existing efforts to educate all King County employees and community providers about the Safe Surrender law.

Providers that directly associate with pregnant and/or recently postpartum women who would benefit from the law will be an integral piece of the outreach efforts. The Task Force recommends that County and community providers and staff be educated on the provisions of the safe surrender of newborns law, and that they incorporate standardized educational information (brochures or cards) into all programs serving women of child-bearing age and their families.

A standard education/training module should be developed that includes information on Safe Haven drop-off sites, support programs, health and legal details of the law, and techniques for assisting women who may be concealing or denying their pregnancies.

This curriculum should be used to educate people of influence who may have the opportunity to counsel and support pregnant or recently postpartum women, such as peer mentors, teachers, school counselors, medical providers and drug treatment providers, relatives and clergy. By educating these people of influence, it exponentially increases the number of people who can support at-risk mothers and inform them of their options. It should also be used to enhance existing parenting class curricula, adult/teen support groups, and early intervention/prevention programs.

Information presented to staff and clients should be folded into the overall goal of having healthy births. It should be written in a supportive and non-judgmental way, culturally and linguistically effective, and stress:

- The importance of prenatal care and post-delivery care;
- Counseling opportunities, and alternative options to parenting; and
- Anonymity and protection from prosecution.

Such training and educational information should be developed in conjunction with existing efforts and be available via the King County website.

6. The Task Force recommends that the County work with ethnically and racially diverse groups to develop public education messaging that is cultural, religious, and linguistically appropriate.

As communities throughout King County have increasingly become more diverse, it is imperative that all images and messages be accessible and understandable for the major cultural groups that reside within the county. To achieve this goal, community members of the most represented racial/cultural/ethnic groups should be including in the development of all educational messages and products.

7. The Task Force recommends that King County consider using a youth-centered messaging approach in printed materials, all audio/visual and electronic media, and in health education curricula for its outreach efforts.

Both Baby Safe Haven New England and the National Safe Haven Alliance attributed the success of their education efforts to targeting 12-30 year olds, and delivering a campaign that speaks to today's youth in their own language and through their preferred settings and venues. The Task Force supports this strategy and recommends infusing the campaign with youth-based

marketing that uses current technology and popular culture to deliver the message. The message should be designed by and delivered by youth. Materials for this audience include printed visual media (signs, posters, stickers, billboards on areas with high frequency of teen travel), audiovisual media (TV, radio, internet videos/music), and electronic media (social networking sites, cell phone apps, text messaging, and other evolving electronic media). *(See Appendix A for more detailed strategies to reach these different audiences.)*

The Task Force recommends that a focus group consisting of a cross-section of the region's youth be convened to guide the media development process. Youth would help identify what methods and types of messaging would resonate with youth across varying populations and cultures.

8. The Task Force recommends that the County work with the Superintendent of Public Instruction on how to include information on unplanned births and the safe surrender of newborn infants in school sexual education curricula to all middle and high school students. The County should also work to have information available to students attending area community colleges, technical and trade schools, universities and within the juvenile justice system.

School education about options available to women who have unplanned pregnancies, including safe surrenders, is a critical step in the multi-faceted strategy to reach as great an audience as possible. Students should receive information within their existing health education curricula about youth/women who have unplanned pregnancies, and the options that are available to them.

Task Two:

How King County can work collaboratively with the state to obtain useful, timely data on instances of safe surrender and newborn abandonment?

Data-related Recommendations:

1. The Task Force recommends that the County approach the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to develop a protocol for annually reviewing and reporting Children’s Protective Services Intake data on newborns relinquished under the Safety of Newborns Act.

Although the Task Force was interested in assigning data tracking to a King County Department, it has learned that data is not collected by the County, and that the County has limited ability to do so. On the other hand, RCW 13.34.360 requires persons receiving infants under the statute to contact DSHS Children’s Protective Services within 24 hours. Due to the statute, DSHS already collects this information as part of its intake process.

2. The Task Force recommends that King County approach DSHS, Children’s Administration, Region Two South and request that it identify a data sharing liaison.

The Children’s Administration (CA) data liaison would provide information to King County’s Safe Surrender project staff for developing annual reports and for monitoring data trends. This information would be aggregated from CA Intake data received during mandatory reporting of Safe Surrender newborns under RCW 13.34.360 and from other related incidents. The recommendation is that King County staff request from CA a) clarification about which types of demographic information can be shared the with county, and b) pursuant to (a), demographic information including race, ethnicity, and age of surrendering parent and/or newborn if known.

Task Three:

Should safe surrender locations for accepting newborns should be expanded through state legislation to include public health or community clinics or other entities?

Legislative and Policy Recommendations:

1. The Task Force recommends that the County submit a request to the Washington State Legislature for an amendment to the Safe Haven statute, which would expand options and protection for birth parents and those implementing the law. The Task Force recommends that the following statute changes be a priority for King County’s Legislative Agenda:

a) Expand coverage of the Good Samaritan Law (RCW 4.24.300).

Fear of identification and litigation may discourage individuals from helping birth parents to safely surrender their newborns. The safe surrender statute should be modified to extend protections against liability for those who provide assistance during a safe surrender. This could encourage birth parents to reach out to those who are supportive of them and help with the safe surrender process.

b) Ensure confidentiality when contacting 9-1-1 for purposes of Safe Haven relinquishment (RCW 42.56.230).

The Safe Haven law is premised on confidentiality and freedom from prosecution when a newborn is safely surrendered. Although federal and state laws protect EMS/pre-hospital records from public disclosure, they do not protect the identity of a person who makes a call to 9-1-1. The Task Force identified that EMS could be used more significantly in the safe surrender of newborns, particularly in circumstances where the parent lacks transportation to reach a safe surrender location. Currently, the identity of the 9-1-1-caller is not protected, which creates a barrier in using 9-1-1 in a moment of crisis. 9-1-1 caller’s identifying information associated with the safe surrender of newborns under the state statute should be exempted from public disclosure requirements.

c) Expand “Safe Surrender locations”.

Birth parents who find themselves in immediate crisis often have difficulty accessing hospitals, health clinics, and fire departments due to poor transportation and fear of interacting with these systems. The Task Force recommends that RCW 13.34.360 be amended to authorize other entities be included as safe surrender locations, through the development of a voluntary-based public/private safe surrender partnership. The Task Force particularly considered retail establishments-such as neighborhood “mini-marts”, grocery or drug stores since they are readily accessible and conveniently located in communities throughout King County, after learning from the National Safe Haven Alliance that a similarly-implemented program experienced some success. Regulations should be added to the state safe surrender statute that would allow for the establishment and governance of such public-private partnerships.

Minority Report

Minority Report

Safe Place for New Borns of Washington

At our Board meeting in September, we reviewed the minutes of the task force. In regards to the expansion of drop off sites to include the business sector of the community, Safe Place for New Borns of Washington does not support this position.

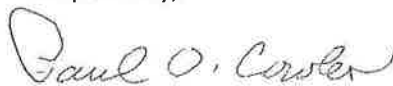
It is our position that this expansion is not warranted at this time because:

1. Lack of data from DSHS which would support this expansion. Our organization's information that there have been approximately 44 children surrendered over the past decade for the entire state. Our information for 2013 was that the hotline received 168 calls and 10 children were surrendered.
2. The current law establishing hospitals, rural health districts and manned fire stations as drop off sites, they have one common characteristic – the public looks to them as having medical expertise and a history of helping people with medical issues. The business sector of the community does not have that reputation or history.

It is Safe Place for New Borns of Washington's position that there continues to be a lack of public knowledge of the law. Public awareness continues to be job one.

We respectfully request that this minority report be included in the findings of the task force.

Respectfully,



Paul O. Cowles

President Safe Place for new Borns of Washington

Section 5: Safe Haven Resources consulted

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/sfAbandon.asp?1>

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) was tasked with recommending methods of implementing the Act, including how private or public funding may be obtained to support a public education program. Completed in 2002, the report recommended using existing crisis lines and agencies as primary vehicles for educating the public about the law. It proposed that a state agency manage the public outreach efforts and ongoing administration. DSHS maintains a web site with resources about the law and policies for surrender sites, and collects data on surrendered babies.

Baby Safe - Los Angeles County

<http://babysafela.org/>

Los Angeles County convened a safe haven task force that developed recommendations addressing legislative improvements, potential safe haven site expansions, a public information campaign, and standardized training modules and materials for providers to improve awareness and usage of California's safely surrendered baby law. The public education campaign used a multi-media approach, and capitalized on the resources of community agencies and service providers, faith-based organizations, public health and human services agencies, schools, colleges, and so forth. As of April 5, 2013, 105 infants have been safely surrendered in Los Angeles County since the law went into effect in 2001.

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) runs the program for the state, and works in conjunction with a number of organizations, including LA County Supervisors, California Department of Social Services, County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, and First4LA to coordinate and manage the program. LA County Supervisor Don Knabe champions the Safe Surrender Program, which he also developed, and uses his webpage to encourage the public to be program ambassadors and distribute material.

Baby Safe Haven New England

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Baby-Safe-Haven-of-New-England/186709304684058>

Baby Safe Haven New England promotes information to help women in a time of crisis by using young spokespeople to deliver safe haven information. Its messaging is written to resonate with 12-30 year olds, and delivered by public figures in youth- preferred settings and venues (its first public service announcement was a rap video). The organization uses a combination of inanimate (signs, posters, billboards) and animate (preferred methods to receive information, like the internet and radio stations) media/modes.

Communicating Safe Haven information early and often will hopefully instill in the younger generation that options and help are available should anybody face this sort of crisis. An audience of particular interest is college freshmen through juniors in college because they are away from home for the first time, and able to conceal a pregnancy.

The organizations primary goal is NOT saving babies, but rather obtaining and maintaining 0% failure rate for the longest period of time possible. Baby Safe Haven New England reports only one failure in 7 ½ years.

National Safe Haven Alliance

<http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

The National Safe Haven Alliance works with states to publicize safe havens laws so at-risk women know that alternatives exist for them and their newborns. Methods that the Alliance uses include celebrity-endorsed public-service announcements; a crisis counseling hotline; customizable brochures, posters, and educational materials; a speakers' bureau; expert training on building safe-haven programs; an up-to-date compilation of safe-haven statistics, state laws, and safe-haven organizations and programs; media outreach; websites for state organizations to promoting infant abandonment laws. It is currently installing signs at hospitals across the United States that identify them as "Safe Haven Locations" where babies can be safely relinquished. It has also worked to develop a small fund to assist mothers in need who may utilize the Safe Haven program, and is in the process of helping set up state organizations in areas with no local Safe Haven offices.

Safe Place for Newborns of Washington

<http://www.safeplacefornewbornswa.org/>

The founding purpose, and continuing mission, of Safe Place for Newborns is to save the lives of newborns in danger of abandonment, and to help preserve the health and future of their mothers. Its brochures and posters have been translated into a number of languages and public education efforts include Metro bus advertisements and billboards primarily in the eastern part of the State. Its crisis line, offered via Safe Haven Alliance of Illinois, is dedicated only to talking about "safe surrenders", as opposed to being comingled with other messages like other hotlines.

Section 6: Task Force Information

1. Decision Making: A Consensus Approach

The Task Force process was guided by principles of **transparency**, **respect** for different perspectives, and **commitment** to meeting the task force's charge.

Task Force members agreed to Protocols (please see Appendix D) defining the decision-making approach of the group, and agreed to operate by consensus. The goal was to reach unanimous consensus – meaning that all members can support or live with the recommendations that emerge from the group's work. If unanimous consensus could not be reached, differences of opinion were to be noted and included as part of the final recommendations.

As part of the transparent public process, all meetings were open to the public. Comments or questions were allowed by the public at the discretion of the Chair at each meeting.

2. Task Force Composition

Paul Cowles (Chair) is a graduate of Snohomish High School and the University of Washington. He had a 35 year career in banking as a commercial loan officer and branch manager. He has 30 years appointive and elected office experience at the local government level. He has served on numerous boards and commissions in two cities. He was elected twice as a Councilmember for the City of Bothell and elected twice by the City Council to serve as Mayor. He is a 35 year member of the Kiwanis Club of Northshore, past President of the Northshore Jaycees and the Bothell 4th of July Committee. He is a past Chair of both the Bothell Planning Commission and Woodinville Parks and Recreation Commission. He served on the Translake traffic study (SR 520) and the original I-405 Corridor traffic study. He currently is the President of Safe Place for Newborns of Washington, a non-profit.

Verna Seal (Vice Chair) has served as a Tukwila City Councilmember since she was elected in 2006. She also served as City Council President January 2007 – January 2008 and again from January 2012 – January 2013. In addition, she is a Tukwila Metropolitan Park District Commissioner and served as Board President from January 2012 through December 2013. Verna is the President of the Tukwila Children's Foundation, sits on the National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education and Families, is the Sound Cities Association representative to King County Disability Board LEOFF 1, Vice-Chair of the King County Safety of Newborn Children Task Force, as well as a Service Unit Manager for Girl Scouts of Western Washington, Co-Leader Girl Scout Troop 50470 and a Past President and member of the Tukwila Rotary Club. Verna has worked for the law firm Garvey Schubert Barer as the Senior Immigration Paralegal for the last 20 years.

Chris Barringer serves as the Chief of Staff in the King County Sheriff's Office. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office in 2012, Chris worked as a deputy prosecutor in the Bellevue City Attorney's Office. Before and during law school, Chris served the residents of South King County as a policy staffer and liaison at the King County Council. He spent his final semester of law school working at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, The Netherlands, where he served as a judicial extern on the case of Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

As Chief of Staff, Chris advises Sheriff Urquhart on all matters, including budget, policy, and discipline. He represents the Sheriff in meetings with other elected officials, and provides testimony at King County Council and Washington State Legislature hearings. Chris serves on the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Advisory Task Force, and is on the steering committee for the Regional Law Safety Justice Committee. Chris and his wife, Samantha, reside in Covington.

Helen Chatalas is a policy analyst and strategic planner for the King County Division of Emergency Medical Services. In this role, she has led the region through the development and approval processes of the past two Medic One levies. She has 25 years of experience in developing initial concepts of public policy, working alongside stakeholders with competing interests to develop and finalize proposals, and addressing the political landscape to assure policymaker support. She holds a MPA from the University of Washington Evans School, and is an affiliate instructor at the UW School of Public Health.

Elinor Cromwell graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1989. She currently serves as the Juvenile Offender and Dependency unit manager at the King County Department of Public Defense, SCRAP Division, having practiced in King County Juvenile Court for nine years. Before that, she worked in the felony, misdemeanor and dependency practice areas. She has served on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, as an advisory board member for the ROYAL Project serving minority youth, and as a member of the Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission's juvenile justice committee. Elinor has assisted in developing several programs in King County, including Juvenile Justice 101, King County's juvenile court warrant prevention pilot, and the King County Juvenile Justice Resource Booklet. She has participated in juvenile defender leadership on a local, regional and national level. She has served on a number of committees and workgroups relating to juvenile justice, including King County Juvenile Court's Disproportionate Minority Contact workgroup and groups addressing commercially sexually exploited youth.

Ivy Durslag is a social work supervisor with the Washington State Children's Administration, where she has worked for the past 32 years. She has a BA in Political Theory from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MA in Political Science and MSW from the University of Washington. She has supervised the Child Health and Education Tracking Program for nine years, supervised two other CA programs prior to that, was a child welfare practicum instructor for two years through the University of Washington School of Social Work, and carried a child welfare services caseload for 16 years. She recently returned from

a three-month leave of absence to teach English in Vietnam, and is a volunteer teacher of English as a Second Language in Seattle, as a hobby.

Melanie Granfors is the Community Services Officer, PIO, and Education Officer for the Shoreline Fire Department. Her pertinent experience, in addition to 15 years in Fire & EMS, is in television news, journalism, public relations and marketing, social media and crisis communications. She serves on the SNCTF as a representative of the King County Fire Chiefs, and brings the perspective of fire department public information officers who will be communicating the new initiatives created by the Task Force.

Deborah Greenleaf has worked throughout King County in public health nursing services for over 24 years. She serves as the *Early Intervention Program* lead and trainer for families referred to public health nurses by child protection/welfare services, and has participated in infant/child death review teams, task forces, and community education, parent coaching programs, and other activities to improve the health and well-being of maltreated children. Deborah is the project coordinator for the *King County Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Project* which seeks to improve communication, collaboration, and coordination among the courts, criminal justice system and community providers for families experiencing domestic violence. She also is the program lead for the *Community Services Offices Public Health Nursing Program* which provides health and reproductive health services and community linkages for families served by the welfare offices. Deborah received her BSN from Kent State University and her MN from the University of Washington.

Trang Hahn earned her B.A. in History with concentrations in Education and Asian American Studies from UCLA and has 15 years of experience working in the Human Resources and Payroll Accounting field. She moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1999 and has worked for local companies such as Adaptis and Big Fish Games. She is currently a stay at home mother to two toddlers.

With her lifelong passion for women and children's issues, Trang has volunteered with many organizations in the Seattle area. She currently serves on the King County Women's Advisory Board. Trang also serves as Secretary and volunteers with Helping and Loving Orphans (HALO) a local charity founded by Betty Tisdale, a Jefferson Award winner. Additionally, Trang tutored children with the Seattle Youth Tutoring Program for over 6 years and has volunteered in the Bellevue school system and Operation Nightwatch.

Steve Larsen is the Chief of Administration for the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD). Steve is a graduate of Gonzaga School of Law and began his legal career representing DSHS in dependency cases as an Assistant Attorney General. He spent nearly ten years in the Attorney General's Office practicing both family and consumer protection law and was a member of the Attorney General's leadership and policy teams. Steve joined the Washington State Bar Association where he was Deputy Executive Director and led departments with portfolios of communications, justice and diversity initiatives, legislation and policy, and board and member relations.

Terry Mark is the deputy director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and has over twenty years of experience working in state and county government. The department provides a broad array of services including housing and

homeless assistance, mental health and substance abuse treatment, vocational and job placement services for adults and dislocated workers, work training programs for at-risk youth, developmental disabilities services (including early intervention services for birth to age three), domestic violence and sexual assault victims' services, aging, and veterans' services. Ms. Mark is responsible for the DCHS state and federal legislative agendas tracking human services issues. She is the lead agency liaison on legislative issues working with stakeholders to develop the department legislative agenda, strategic planning and advocacy work. DCHS administers a budget of over \$370 million and includes a staff of about 300 employees.

Kathleen O'Brien is a 1988 graduate of the University of Puget Sound School of Law. In 1989 after completing a brief clerk ship she began her career with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Family Support Division. Kathleen worked for as senior deputy prosecutor for eleven years before being promoted to Chief Deputy of the Family Support Division by the late Honorable Norm K. Maleng. She is presently active in a number of workgroups including the Judicial Case Processing Task Force and the Family Law Information Center. When not practicing law Kathleen enjoys watching her three children play sports; soccer and basketball tournaments dominate the home front.

Othniel Palomino comes to the King County District Court as its Chief Administrative Officer with over 20 years of experience in the area of technology, marketing, strategic partnerships and organizational leadership. He has an extensive background in creating and implementing mission vision and strategic plans, along with the ability to lead large change management initiatives and policy implementation.

In addition, as an executive in the technology industry, he has been an agent of change for a number of organizations including Industry Source Networks, Jookster Networks and Microsoft. Most notably he was the Executive Vice President of Network Commerce growing the business from start-up to over \$40 million in annual revenues, though effective management of the day-to-day operations of sales, marketing, product development and customer service.

Mr. Palomino received his Bachelors of Science in Engineering from Princeton University and his MBA from Stanford University.

Gail Stone is Law and Justice Policy Advisor to King County Executive Dow Constantine. She began her legal career in private practice focusing on family law. She moved into policy work with the WA State House of Representatives, where she provided policy analysis on law, justice and public safety issues. Gail then joined the staff of the Washington State Bar Association, where she served for several years as the WSBA's Legislative Director and then as Director of Justice & Diversity Initiatives.

Greg Taylor is known locally and regionally as a passionate and energetic civic leader, community enrichment strategist and social justice advocate. He has more than 15 years of experience as a skilled servant leader with extensive experience in community outreach, organizing, facilitating, and successfully engaging ethnically diverse populations. Greg has researched and participated in numerous study circles and workshops that have assisted him

in developing awareness, knowledge and skills in working effectively to address the issues related to equity and social justice from multicultural perspectives. Greg is founder and owner of Community Connection Consulting.

In 2007, Greg was elected to the Renton City Council to provide visionary and collaborative leadership in a community facing mounting challenges and opportunities. He was re-elected to a second term in 2011 to continue his efforts to work and collaborate with city officials, stakeholders, community leaders, residents, and regional partners to find solutions that will continue to transform the challenges Renton faces today, into outcomes that produce a vibrant community with equal access and opportunity for all residents.

Greg is Chairman for the Community Services Committee, Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee, member of the Transportation Committee, and has served on the Utilities, Planning and Development, Finance Committee and Vice Chair for the Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters board (LEOFF1) as well. Regionally, Greg also represents Renton as the Suburban Cities Association's (SCA) Representative for The Committee to End Homelessness Governing Board (CEH) and as an Association of Washington Cities Healthy & Safe Communities Legislative Subcommittee member.

Councilmember Taylor believes in Renton's bright future. "I will continue to support visionary and collaborative leadership efforts that result in robust civic engagement and community outreach that connects all of our residents with opportunities to experience a high standard quality of life, and to promote Renton as an inclusive, diverse economic corridor in the region and a great place to live!"

Section 7: Appendices

- A. Strategies for educating the public**
- B. Task Force meeting structure and process**
- C. Motion 14104 creating Task Force**
- D. Task Force Protocols**

Appendix A: Strategies for educating the public

Methods of educating public:

- Television and Radio
 - Public service announcements
 - Paid advertising
 - News coverage
 - Talk shows
 - Interviews
- Peer to Peer discussions – using teenaged spokesperson
- Focus Groups
- Using a public figure (pop star, a well-respected athlete, somebody personally connected to the subject, or a well-liked young adult) to draw greater attention to the issue and reach larger and more diverse audiences.
- Bus advertising
 - In/on bus
 - At bus stops and bus shelters
- Brochures/inserts
- Stickers, posters, placards, signs
- Webpage and newsletter content
- Apps
- “People of Influence”, or those to whom pregnant women may turn to for support, such as teachers, clergy, counselors, relatives
- Newsletters/school newspapers
- Public health sex education
- State materials (Child Profile)
- State hotlines (Teenlink)
- Fire certification processes
- Media packet with current info about law for PIOs;

Possible media:

- King County TV/other government channels
- College radio
- Alternative radio, country, sports talk radio, hip hop, Top 40
- Spanish speaking radio
- Spanish speaking TV
- Social media/tweeting
- Instagram
- Clear Channel

Distribution locations:

Government agencies, bus signs, agency newsletters, public health clinics, homeless shelters, mental health clinics, police/fire stations, settlement agencies, juvenile justice system,

Schools, alternative schools, colleges/universities, trade schools; juvenile justice system

Care provider offices, clinics, hospitals

- OB/GYN offices could add to the office questionnaire “Are you aware of Washington State’s Safe Surrender Law?”

Public places, public restrooms, public swimming pools, libraries, parks

Businesses, bars, grocery and drug stores, grocery store associations, fast food outlets, mini-marts, music stores, mall kiosks, coffee shops, skateboard parks, race tracks, casinos, department stores, Marijuana dispensaries, Methadone clinics,

Event-based, fairs, outdoor events

Community centers, temp agencies/labor halls, churches, teen centers, food banks

Shared media opportunities – distribute current info about the law to Public Information Officers.

Appendix B: Task Force meeting structure and process

June 20, 2014 Task Force meeting

The Task Force discussed the scope of its charge, selected Chair and Vice Chair, reviewed background materials, established meeting protocols, and created subcommittees for comprehensive review and analysis of the issues. The Task Force identified possible audiences, barriers and opportunities for an ongoing public education campaign.

July 10, 2014 Public Information Subcommittee meeting

Subcommittee members reviewed materials, audiences, and public education efforts currently underway by Safe Place for Newborns of Washington. James Apa, the Public Information Officer at Public Health – Seattle & King County, spoke with the Subcommittee about messaging methods through electronic/social and passive media, and potential shared media opportunities.

July 17, 2014 Task Force meeting

The Task Force was briefed on resources for public education efforts and ongoing efforts in other cities/states, including LA County and Baby Safe Haven New England programs. The Task Force had presentations and discussions from four guest speakers, including:

- Annette Holland (Interpretation/Refugee Screening, Public Health – Seattle & King County)
- Cathy Walsh (LA County Baby Safe Program Administrator, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, ican4kids.org)
- Kimberly Hill (Reporter/Producer, King County Television), and
- Mike Morrisey (Baby Safe Haven New England)

There was a large amount of interest from the group on Morrisey's youth-centered approach, and LA County gave permission to use and modify its materials.

August 21, 2014 Task Force meeting

Guest speaker Tim Jaccard (founder of the first Baby Moses law) presented information, via phone, about the National Safe Haven Alliance's ongoing public outreach campaign. The Task Force reviewed intake center data from Washington state DSHS and stated its review and edit of draft public education campaign recommendations.

September 16, 2014 Legislative Subcommittee meeting:

Members of the Legislative Subcommittee identified potential opportunities for amending state law in order to increase the opportunity for relinquishing babies. Areas identified for possible changes include enhancing protection under the Good Samaritan and public disclosure laws, and expanding sites authorized to receive safely surrendered newborns.

September 18, 2014 Task Force meeting

Task Force vetted draft Legislative Subcommittee recommendations, and identified possible data recommendations.

October 15, 2014 Task Force meeting

Task Force edited and endorsed draft recommendations.

October 30, 2014

Report submitted to the King County Executive and the King County Council.

Appendix C: Motion 14104 creating the Task Force



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 1, 2014

Motion 14104

Proposed No. 2014-0125.2

Sponsors Dunn and Lambert

1 A MOTION to create a safety of newborn children task
2 force for King County.
3 WHEREAS, all newborn children deserve the opportunity to live and thrive as
4 human beings, and
5 WHEREAS, a newborn child is most vulnerable within the first few hours of its
6 life, and
7 WHEREAS, RCW 13.34.360 allows a parent within seventy-two hours of a
8 child's birth to transfer his or her newborn to a qualified person at a hospital, fire station
9 or federally designated rural health clinic and do so anonymously without fear of criminal
10 prosecution for abandoning, or failing to support, the newborn, and
11 WHEREAS, the safety of newborn children law has been in effect in Washington
12 state since 2002, and
13 WHEREAS, it is clear that the need exists to educate the public, including parents
14 and would-be parents, on the existence of this law and identify locations where infants
15 may be safely surrendered, and
16 WHEREAS, on February 12, 2014, the body of an infant was found near the side
17 of a road in North Bend wrapped in a blanket with its umbilical cord attached, and
18 WHEREAS, a hospital where newborns can be safely surrendered was less than
19 half a mile from where the baby was found, and

20 WHEREAS, the Washington state Department of Social and Health Services
21 collects information concerning newborns transferred under the safety of newborn
22 children law; however, data on newborns transferred in King County is not routinely
23 provided to the county, and

24 WHEREAS, King County, as a deliverer of public services to pregnant mothers
25 and parents of newborn children, has the ability to be a leader in effectuating better
26 awareness and utilization of the safety of newborn children law, and

27 WHEREAS, Los Angeles county convened a safe haven task force that developed
28 recommendations including suggestions for legislation improvements, potential safe
29 haven site expansions, a public information campaign, standardized training modules and
30 materials for providers to improve awareness and usage of California's safely surrendered
31 baby law, serving as a model for other jurisdictions;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

33 A. The executive is requested to convene a safety of newborn children task force
34 for King County by April 30, 2014.

35 B. The purpose of the task force is to provide a report with recommendations to
36 the King County council and executive on at least the following:

37 1. How King County can engage in an ongoing, regionally consistent public
38 information campaign, utilizing county service intersection points such as public health,
39 school clinics and the criminal justice system to educate service providers and the public
40 about safe surrender of newborns. The report should include recommendations on
41 messaging strategies, web-based information, brochures, or educational materials

42 designed for general use as well as for responding in the event of a newborn
43 abandonment incident;

44 2. How King County can work collaboratively with the state to obtain useful,
45 timely data on instances of safe surrender and newborn abandonment; and

46 3. Whether the safe surrender locations for accepting newborns should be
47 expanded through state legislation to include public health or community clinics or other
48 entities.

49 C. The report and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report shall be filed
50 with the clerk of the council by October 30, 2014, who shall forward an electronic copy
51 to all councilmembers, the executive and the lead staff of the law justice health and
52 human services committee.

53 D. The task force that the executive is requested to convene should include
54 representatives from the following:

- 55 1. The executive;
- 56 2. The council;
- 57 3. Public health - Seattle & King County emergency medical services division;
- 58 4. Public health - Seattle & King County community health services division;
- 59 5. The department of community and human services;
- 60 6. The department of adult and juvenile detention;
- 61 7. The department of public defense;
- 62 8. The prosecuting attorney's office;
- 63 9. District court;
- 64 10. Superior court; and

- 65 11. The sheriff's office.
- 66 E. The executive should also invite representatives from the following entities to
- 67 participate in the task force:
- 68 1. The board of health;
- 69 2. The Sound Cities Association;
- 70 3. The city of Seattle;
- 71 4. The King County Fire Chiefs Association;
- 72 5. The King County Women's Advisory Board;
- 73 6. A nongovernmental entity with expertise related to safe surrender, such as the
- 74 nonprofit Safe Place for Newborns of Washington;
- 75 7. The Community Health Council;
- 76 8. UW Medicine;
- 77 9. Harborview Medical Center;
- 78 10. The Washington State Hospital Association; and
- 79 11. The state of Washington Department of Social and Health Services.
- 80 F. The executive, in consultation with the council, may add additional members
- 81 to the task force as appropriate.
- 82 G. The task force is an advisory body and has no policy or rulemaking authority.

Motion 14104

83 Any hearings held or public comment taken will be at the option of the task force but in
84 no event be viewed to be on behalf of the council.
85

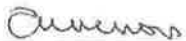
Motion 14104 was introduced on 3/24/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/31/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.
Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


TOP: Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Appendix D: Task Force Protocols

King County Safety of Newborn Children Task Force (SNCTF)

Protocols (6/25/14)

Principles that will Guide Our Work

- **Transparency** in sharing information and creating a thorough and open process
- **Respect** for one another's perspectives
- **Commitment** to working toward a report that meets the criteria identified in King County Council Motion 14104

General Participation

1. The Safety of Newborn Children Task Force is comprised of people with a variety of perspectives and interests. Differences of opinion are to be expected and will be respected by the SNCTF members. Members will work to understand the different points of view and perspectives of one another. Questions to better understand each member's interests are encouraged.
2. The SNCTF members are encouraged to draw upon their individual areas of expertise for the issues the group has been asked to address and to think creatively about how the entities they represent can serve King County residents on this issue.
3. The SNCTF will operate by consensus. The goal will be to reach unanimous consensus – meaning that all members can support (thumbs up), or live with (thumbs sideways), the recommendations that emerge from the group's work. If unanimous consensus cannot be reached, differences of opinion will be noted and included as part of the final recommendations.
4. The SNCTF is advisory to the County Executive and County Council. It is not a decision-making body.

Meetings

5. All meetings will be open to the public.
6. Meeting materials will be sent via email to members in advance, whenever possible. Any handouts at meetings will be emailed, or mailed, to members who were not present.
7. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in every meeting to achieve continuity in discussions from one meeting to the next. Members who cannot participate in person may participate by phone. Members may designate an alternate to participate on their behalf.
8. If a member cannot attend a meeting it is his/her responsibility to be informed about the topics discussed by the next meeting; staff will work with the member to keep them informed.
9. An absent member may provide input in writing to the King County staff assigned to the SNCTF, or meet separately with SNCTF staff to provide input, before or after a meeting. Staff shall share all out-of-meeting communications with the SNCTF, if applicable. The absent member's input will be provided to the full group when the issue is being considered at the meeting.

10. Meeting summaries identifying decisions and actions will be prepared and distributed via email or mail to all members in a timely manner. If SNCTF members have had an opportunity to review and comment on draft summaries, and after any revisions are made, the summaries will be finalized and distributed to SNCTF members.

11. Meetings will start and end on time.

Communications

12. SNCTF shall select a Chair and Vice-Chair, with duties as described in this document.

13. Staff will be responsive to the information requests from the SNCTF members. Please direct any information requests outside of the SNCTF meetings to the King County staff members supporting the SNCTF, with a copy of the request to all SNCTF members.

14. The SNCTF will accept comments or questions from the public at the discretion of the Chair. It may also schedule opportunities and process for specific input it wishes to solicit from specific stakeholders.

15. Any SNCTF member may speak to the media or other groups or audiences regarding issues discussed by the group, provided she/he speaks only for her or himself. Inquiries from the media or others can also be directed to the chair. Members are asked to let the process reach its conclusion before describing potential strategies or ideas under discussion as SNCTF recommendations. Members agree to bring issues or concerns to the SNCTF before raising them with others in a public fashion.

16. Subcommittee protocols will be at the discretion of the subcommittee.

Role of King County Staff

- ✓ Work with the SNCTF Chair to set the agendas for meetings and distribute meeting materials
- ✓ Work to resolve issues regarding process or schedule
- ✓ Manage the flow of the discussions at meetings
- ✓ Facilitate participation of all SNCTF members in discussions
- ✓ Prepare draft report and recommendations based on SNCTF discussions
- ✓ Coordinate guest speakers and stakeholders as directed by SNCTF members

Task Force Chair:

- ✓ Provide direction and guidance to King County staff in the development of a work plan, agendas, and meeting materials that will allow the task force to effectively and efficiently discharge its responsibilities.
- ✓ Lead task force meetings.
- ✓ Establish subgroups as necessary to facilitate the work of the task force.
- ✓ Where appropriate, guide the task force in proposing actions that will further the goals and objectives.
- ✓ In the event that consensus cannot be reached on issues, serve as a deciding vote. Note that this does not apply to the contents of the final report which shall be by consensus with all perspectives represented.

Task Force Vice-Chair:

- ✓ Perform Chair duties when the Chair is unavailable.