



***Department of Community and Human Services***

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*October 30, 2024*

*STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT*

**Determination of NonSignificance**

November 8, 2024

**Lead agency:** King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

**Agency Contact:**

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King County Department of Community and Human Services  
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**Description of the Proposal:**

King County DCHS has published an RFP to procure qualified BHAs to create and operate a regional network of five CCCs across King County. The CCC Service Delivery Model will include four centers that will be geographically distributed across King County and one Youth Crisis Care Center located anywhere in the county. The four regional centers are depicted in item #12, Figure 1, and can be further described as:

- North Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;
- East Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;
- South Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;
- Central Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center.

The Youth CCC can be located anywhere in King County.

The awarded CCC operators will lead CCC capital facility development in coordination with DCHS, the applicable jurisdiction(s), and regional partners. Once any facility is complete, operators will implement start-up and ongoing operations and participate in oversight and quality improvement activities in coordination with DCHS to successfully deliver high-quality behavioral health crisis services to anyone in need using a “No Wrong Door” approach, which is welcoming people with all types and severity of mental health and/or substance use crises, who may also have a wide range of other health and human services conditions and needs.

The need for CCCs is rooted in longstanding unmet behavioral health needs in King County. Federal and state investments in public behavioral health systems have been inadequate for decades, yet the needs of people living with mental health and substance use conditions, collectively referred to as behavioral health conditions, have grown. Suicides and opioid overdose deaths continue to rise year after year. Youth are especially impacted. Importantly, the gap between need and available resources is not evenly experienced across King County’s population; there are significant inequities in service access and utilization among historically and currently underserved communities.

With so many people unable to access treatment when they need it, CCCs and similar facilities can help. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA’s) National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care call for the creation of crisis facilities, referred to as “somewhere safe to go,” for people in crisis to seek help. SAMHSA’s guidelines envision crisis facilities as part of a robust behavioral health crisis system that also includes the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, referred to as “someone to call,” mobile crisis teams, described as “someone to respond,” and Post-Crisis Follow-Up services for people receiving crisis services. In a comprehensive behavioral health crisis system, all these components work collaboratively with each other, and with other regional partners, such as first responders, hospitals, and other behavioral health and social service providers, to collectively meet the growing needs for crisis response for the population.

As a core element of King County’s expanding behavioral health crisis care services, CCCs will help people by:

- Providing in-person behavioral health services tailored to the needs of people in behavioral health crisis twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week (24/7);
- Reducing reliance on hospital emergency departments, hospitals, and jails as places that people go when in behavioral health crisis;
- Creating dedicated places for people in crisis to receive effective care from specialized behavioral health providers using Trauma-Informed, Recovery-Oriented, Person-Centered, integrated and co-occurring capable, and cultural humility best practices; and
- Serving as a destination for first responders, including law enforcement, to bring people who need behavioral health crisis care.

The priorities for the CCC Operations for both adults and youth are as follows:

1. Increase equitable access to behavioral health crisis care;
2. Operate a continuum of clinical services in each crisis care center, including:

- a. 24/7 Behavioral Health Urgent Care (walk-in) clinic for all ages
- b. 23-hour crisis observation unit
- c. Crisis Stabilization Unit services;
3. Implement clinical best practices;
4. Hear directly from communities to tailor CCC services to local needs;
5. Engage crisis system partners to support care transitions;
6. Recruit and retain a representative, diverse, qualified and multidisciplinary crisis workforce; and
7. Maintain strong clinical and administrative leadership.

The three main components of the CCC operations are described in priority #2 above. The Youth CCC Program will be developed as a specialized clinical setting and will be available for youth ages 17 and below who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

The CCCs are intended to be more than just a set of three distinct components of care. Instead, the CCCs will function as a continuum of care that facilitates flow between the components, as well as with other referral partners countywide. While the CCC must serve a wide range of clinical and psychosocial needs as a “No Wrong Door” entry point, these settings are also intended to facilitate timely access to care and must therefore be effective at providing efficient assessment, short-term stabilization, and triage to subsequent services and supports, ensuring that each person is able to access the appropriate level of care both within the CCC and for follow-up care once the CCC intervention is completed.

See description in Section A.6 above for more information regarding applicable implementing activities for the proposal.

### **Description of the Proposal:**

This proposal is a nonproject action and does not yet include determined sites. To fully serve a population and geography as large and diverse as King County’s, CCCs will need to operate as a regional network. Centers will be geographically distributed across five Crisis Response Zones and will be required to work with each other as well as local community partners. The selected BHAs will need to collaborate closely with a range of partners throughout implementation to operate CCCs that meet both regional and countywide needs.

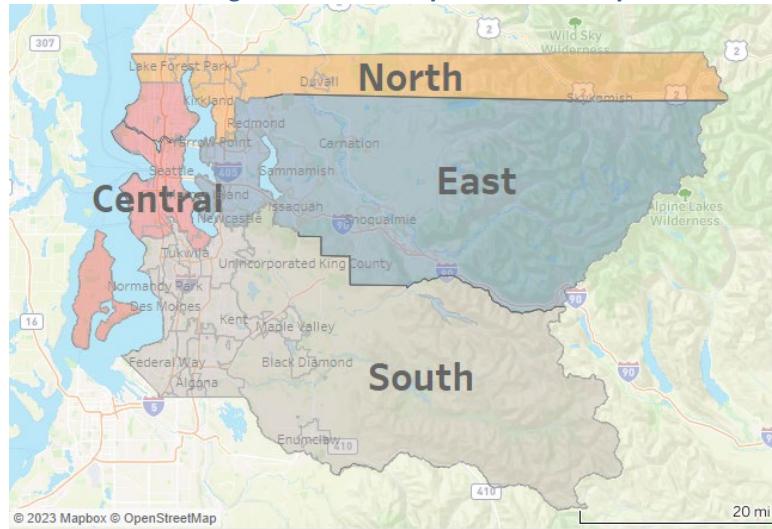
The boundaries of the Crisis Care Zones were established through King County Ordinance 19572, passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on January 31, 2023, and were created for the purpose of promoting access by geographically distributing the CCC’s across King County’s jurisdictions and districts. The creation of zones provides a locus for regional partnerships between the CCC operator and local resources and providers to promote access and continuity of care for communities within that zone. Crisis Response Zones do not, however, restrict who can access CCCs. A person seeking services can access a CCC in any zone.

The Youth CCC can be located anywhere in the county. The four regional centers are described as follows, and are depicted in Figure 1 below:

- North Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;
- East Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;

- South Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center;
- Central Crisis Response Zone Crisis Care Center.

**Figure 1 Crisis Response Zone Map**



King County has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 based on review of the attached Environmental Checklist. This information is available at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/crisis-care-centers>.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment period will end on November 22, 2024. Comments may be submitted to:

Kelly Rider, Responsible SEPA Official  
401 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400  
Seattle, WA 98104  
ccclevy@kingcounty.gov

Signature *Kelly Rider*  
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date Nov 8, 2024

**Appeal process:**

Any interested person may submit written comments or may appeal the above determination(s) according to KCC Title 20. Written comments may be made at anytime and should be addressed to:

Kelly Rider, Responsible SEPA Official  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
ccclevy@kingcounty.gov