

For Immediate Release

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Plymouth Housing Learns and Shares Best Practices for Permanent Supportive Housing in NYC

- Plymouth Housing leadership team advocates joined by staff from DESC, city and country



Photo courtesy of Plymouth Housing

(Seattle, WA, 8/1/19) – A team of Seattle homelessness advocates and members of city and county government are on a fact-finding trip to New York City this week to gain perspective and new ideas on how to provide permanent supportive housing for those experiencing chronic homelessness. The City of New York plans to develop 15,000 more units of supportive housing by 2030. Members of Plymouth Housing leadership team are joined by Noah Fay, the Director of Housing Programs for Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), Sondra Nielson, Director of Facilities & Asset Management for DESC, Erin House, Policy Manager for Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, and Madeline Cavazos, Policy Analyst and Community Liaison for King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci.

“Cities across the country are working to address the interconnected crises of housing and homelessness, and are creating innovative solutions we can draw from one another—and New York has long been a leader in its commitment to permanent supportive housing,” said **Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda** (Position 8, Citywide). “This trip is an opportunity to learn alongside our local partners from organizations working to provide human-centered supportive housing in New York, and to share policy ideas and on-the-ground expertise from Seattle. Each city has its own opportunities and constraints, but together we can elevate this issue as a challenge that defies the boundaries of any given city.”

“Too many of our neighbors are experiencing chronic homelessness in King County, but it’s important to remember that we are not alone in working to solve this crisis,” said **King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci**. “Learning and sharing information from experts in New York City will enable us to make wiser choices to accelerate and create long-term solutions, like permanent supportive housing, here in King County.”

Recognized for its work to provide permanent solutions to chronic homelessness, Plymouth Housing has a 94% success rate with its “Housing First” model. Plymouth has been asked by the NYC-based Community Access, an organizer of the weeklong idea exchange, to share the best practices developed over their 40 years in operation, including specializing in housing chronically homeless single adults.

“With the homelessness crisis affecting large cities across the nation, it’s important for Seattle advocates to share best practices and learn about impactful, successful actions and responses by other agencies and groups,” said **Paul Lambros, CEO of Plymouth Housing**. “We’re not alone in this crisis. There’s inspiration and hope to be shared.”

The Plymouth team includes **Deputy Director Andrea Carnes, Chief Program Officer Kelli Larsen** and **Director of Property Management Trina Thompson**. Carnes, an organizer of the trip, said the group had specific objectives.

“We’re interested in learning how Community Access, one of the oldest and largest providers of supportive housing in New York City, and CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) structure and fund supportive housing in the New York community,” Carnes said. “This is an opportunity to experience lessons that will better practices to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness—both at Plymouth and, more broadly, across our region.”

“Seattle has been a pioneering city in the Housing First movement, making this type of housing available to people with the highest needs. But New York has committed to scaling this evidence-based solution in a way that our community hasn’t. We’re excited to learn about their work and move forward with creating enough housing to meet the needs of our city,” said **Daniel Malone, DESC Executive Director**.

“We are excited to host our third study tour with policy makers, advocates and providers from the West coast,” said **Cal Hedigan, CEO of Community Access**. “It’s important for all of us working to end homelessness to share ideas, vision and best practices. Creating opportunities to share New York’s supportive housing journey and build connections across the country makes us all better at what we do.”

About Plymouth Housing:

Plymouth Housing’s mission is to eliminate homelessness and address its causes by preserving, developing and operating safe, quality, supportive housing and by providing adults experiencing homelessness with opportunities to stabilize and improve their lives. Plymouth follows the

“Housing First” philosophy, operating on the principle that people cannot improve their lives until they have a safe, stable place to live.

www.plymouthhousing.org

About Community Access

Community Access’ mission is to expand opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

www.communityaccess.org

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