

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Heavey, Team Soapbox

Phone: (206) 437-5507

Email: [Anne@TeamSoapbox.com](mailto:Anne@TeamSoapbox.com)



## **Regional Leaders Unite for Healthcare Access on April 7**

*Access to Healthcare Day: A Movement Advocating for Improved Healthcare Access  
Seattle Mayor Harrell and King County Executive Braddock to Speak at Press Conference*

SEATTLE, WA (April 2, 2025) – On April 7 (World Health Day), local leaders will come together for [Access to Healthcare Day](#)—an advocacy event led by the community behind Seattle/King County Clinic —aimed at raising awareness of the escalating healthcare crisis.

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and King County Executive Shannon Braddock will provide brief remarks at a press conference in the Seattle Center Armory at 10:00 a.m. Additional speakers at the press conference will include Marshall Foster, Seattle Center Director; Julia Colson, Founder & Project Executive of Seattle/King County Clinic; Theresa Tamura a Clinic partner and healthcare strategist; and Stone Gossard, a community advocate and founding member of Pearl Jam. A King County proclamation will be issued declaring April 7, 2025 as “Access to Healthcare Day”.

Confirmed attendees at the press conference include Seattle City Councilmembers Moore and Rinck, King County Councilmember Baron, Former State Representative Gael Tarleton, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Chao, representatives from Clinic partners including Kaiser Permanente, Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Organization, Project Access Northwest, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Washington Dental Hygienists’ Association, as well as members of the Clinic’s volunteer leadership team.

In Washington, nearly half a million people are uninsured, and many more are underinsured, causing them to forgo essential healthcare. Entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year, Seattle/King County Clinic has helped to fill gaps for the underserved, providing free dental, vision, and medical services that have saved 30,000 patients over \$26 million in out-of-pocket costs. A community-driven project led by Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, the Clinic brings together thousands of volunteers and hundreds of partner organizations to produce the largest free health clinic of its kind in the United States.

Seattle Center employee Julia Colson, the Founder & Project Executive of Seattle/King County Clinic, emphasized, “The healthcare gap is steadily widening as costs rise, insurance becomes more complicated, and services grow less accessible. Everyday people are being left behind. It’s time we do better.” Former legislator and nurse Eileen Cody added, “As a former nurse, I have

firsthand knowledge of the challenges people face in accessing healthcare. As a legislator, I worked tirelessly to address issues related to healthcare affordability and insurance coverage; while progress was made, there is more work to be done.”

On April 7, local landmarks and buildings will be lit green in solidarity with this cause. Participants include the Space Needle, Seattle Great Wheel, Pacific Science Center Arches, Seattle Convention Center, Seattle Center Armory, Seattle Center International Fountain, Seattle Center Mural Amphitheatre, Columbia Center, Courtyard Seattle Downtown/Lake Union, Rainier Square, and Rainier Tower.

Following Access to Healthcare Day, Seattle/King County Clinic will hold its annual four-day free health clinic from April 24 – 27. To learn more about Seattle/King County Clinic, visit [seattlecenter.org/skcclinic](http://seattlecenter.org/skcclinic).

###

### ***About Seattle/King County Clinic***

Seattle/King County Clinic, a project led by Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, is the largest community-driven health clinic of its kind in the United States. The four-day clinic unites healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and thousands of volunteers to deliver free dental, vision, medical, and social services to individuals who face barriers accessing and affording essential health services.

### ***About Clinic Partners***

Several organizations collaborate to produce Seattle/King County Clinic and contribute needed resources and expertise, including:

141 Eyewear · Amazon · AMN Healthcare · APTA Washington · Arcora Foundation · Auston James Photography · Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation · Burkhart Dental Supply · CISC · Cisco Systems · Climate Pledge Arena · Cornish College of the Arts · DCG ONE · Delta Dental of WA · DentistLink · Dentsply Sirona · FastSigns · Foothills Dental Services · Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center · Grousemont Foundation · Gull Industries · Heidelberg Engineering · Henry Schein, Inc. · HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response · Humana · International Community Health Services · Kaiser Permanente · King County 211 · King County Medical Society · King County Metro · King County Nurses Association · KLS Martin LP · Labcorp · Link to Care WA · Lucky Seven Foundation · Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Organization · Mediterranean Inn · Microsoft · Nashi Immigrants Health Board · National Association of Social Workers · The Norcliffe Foundation · Oak View Group Hospitality · OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation · Opticians Association of WA · Optometric Physicians of WA · Optum Care Washington · Pacific Office Automation · Patterson Dental · Patterson Foundation · Peer Seattle · PhenoPath · Philips Healthcare · Project Access Northwest · Public Health – Seattle & King County · Sea Mar Community Health Centers · Seattle Center · Seattle Center Foundation · Seattle Department of Neighborhoods · Seattle Fire Department · Seattle Housing Authority · Seattle Information Technology · Seattle-King County Dental Society &

Foundation · Seattle Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs · Seattle Police Department · Seattle Roots Community Health · Snohomish County Dental Society & Foundation · Solventum · T-Mobile · Tokuyama Dental America · Ultradent · Underwood Gartland Development · UW Medicine / UW School of Medicine · UW School of Dentistry · Virginia Mason Franciscan Health · Vitalogy Foundation · VOSH Northwest · WA Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons · WA Acupuncture & Eastern Medicine Association · WA Association of Naturopathic Physicians · WA Dental Hygienists' Association · WA Emergency Nurses Association · WA Healthcare Access Alliance · WA State Dental Association · WA State Dental Laboratory Association · WA State Department of Health · WA State Medical Association · WA State Nurses Association · WA State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons · Zeiss

For more information, see [Seattle/King County Clinic Partners](#).