

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

May 18, 2010  
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Huenefeld Gese, Commissioners Beighle, Bruels, Hoople, Plaskon, Stout, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Cynthia Sessoms, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Huenefeld Gese who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Yantis who arrived at 6:33 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 20, 2010

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Stout. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Stout informed the Commission that prior to the meeting she received an email from the mother of the Human Services Commission, Nan Campbell, complementing Chair Huenefeld Gese on her presentation before the City Council on May 17.

Commissioner Stout said she had the chance to represent the Commission by recording a video with Robin Haaseth for the Eastside Human Services Forum on the topic of investing in the community. She said she stressed the importance of human services.

Commissioner Hoople reported that he attended the meeting of the King County Mobility Coalition along with Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly. The group's 27 members represent different populations of what the federal government calls transportation disadvantaged individuals. The group is gearing up for the federal funding cycle which will occur in late August or early September, and the focus is on getting the right people at the table to do the grant writing.

Commissioner Bruels reported he and Human Services Manager Emily Leslie attended the King County Alliance of Human Services meeting earlier in the day. He said updates on the county's budget problems were provided. It was noted that the King County Council has not been able to come to an agreement about putting a sales tax increase on the August ballot. The next step will be to keep the discussion and negotiations going so the initiative can be placed on the November ballot.

Commissioner Bruels said there was also a presentation on the King County Strategic Plan which is being drafted and is slated to be finalized in June. The document is available online along with the opportunity to submit feedback.

Ms. O'Reilly said Healthy Start manager Carol Maurer has been told that the Children and Family Commission will be dissolved and its funding will go away if extra dollars are not found. That Commission is a major funder of Healthy Start. A hearing is scheduled for May 24 by the King County Council.

Ms. Leslie indicated that if the two-tenths of a percent sales tax increase is approved by the voters, Bellevue would receive about \$2.4 million.

Ms. Leslie said the Park Board and the Human Services Commission are invited to attend the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards ceremony on May 26. At 5:00 p.m. there will be an alumni reception honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Youth Link, to which the Commissioners are also invited.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### A. Preliminary Review of Goal #2 Human Services Funding Applications

#### 34. Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Youth Prevention and Mental Health Project

Commissioner Bruels said the program offers case management and support groups for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The program operates out of Interlake and Sammamish high schools. The Commission has funded the program in

the past, though the application seeks a substantial increase.

Commissioner Bruels said his only question was whether or not the agency intends to apply to other cities for funding.

Commissioner Stout said she wanted to know what, if anything, the school district plans to put on the table for the program.

Ms. O'Reilly said the program has two prongs, EHAP and mental health counseling that is delivered as part of the Wraparound Services Project. The increased funding request is intended to provide more units of mental health counseling at additional schools. The program is for Bellevue children only, which is why only Bellevue funding is requested.

Commissioner Hoople observed that the application indicates there will be no fundraising income for the program. Bellevue represents 47 percent of the total funding, but their program costs are shown to be increasing by only three percent.

It was agreed the agency should be asked to indicate what other sources of funding are being contemplated for the program, and why fundraising for the program is to be eliminated.

#### 35. Assistance League of the Eastside – Operation School Bell

Commissioner Yantis said the agency is seeking only a minor increase to its existing Bellevue funding allocation. The program provides new school clothing to over 2300 Eastside school children each year via Fred Meyer gift cards valued at \$110.

Commissioner Yantis said he would like to know what Fred Meyer brings to the program, if anything. He suggested that if the purchases are made at retail values, the program might be able to find a better alliance.

Commissioner Hoople said he was encouraged to see the program planning to increase its fundraising efforts.

#### 36. Athletes for Kids – Athletes for Kids Youth Mentorship Program

Commissioner Plaskon said the new program started in Sammamish and Issaquah and pairs up grade school-aged special needs kids with high school students from Eastlake High School, Eastside Catholic High School, and Issaquah High School. Once a month for six hours the high school kids work with the special needs kids on athletic-oriented events. The program has been operational for eight years but has not previously been funded by Bellevue. A third of the kids served are from Bellevue.

Commissioner Hoople noted that the program does not rank high relative to the Needs Assessment. Commissioner Plaskon agreed and pointed out that it scores very low in terms of recession impact and human services infrastructure preservation.

There was agreement not to consider funding for the application.

37. Bellevue School District – Human Services Specialists

Commissioner Hoople said the Commission has a history of supporting the program which operates in several schools in the Bellevue School District. The specialists collect information about help available from various agencies, then assist in coordinating the task of getting kids the help they need.

Commissioner Yantis noted that the program grew out of a Bellevue initiative that involved a partnership between the city and the school district.

38. Bellevue School District – VIBES: Volunteers in Bellevue's Education System

Commissioner Yantis said the program is focused around coordinating volunteers to work one-on-one with students who need academic assistance. The volunteers meet with the students in the classrooms or library during school hours. The application request includes only a minor funding increase.

Commissioner Hoople announced that he serves as a VIBES volunteer and works with more than one student.

Commissioner Stout said the program grew out of the PTA parent community, but there is no possibility of receiving any funding for the program from that group. She pointed out that Bellevue dollars support the equivalent of 86 students out of the 531 served by the program.

39. Catholic Community Services of Western Washington – Volunteer Chore Services

Commissioner Plaskon said the application for the program seeks the same allocation from the previous funding cycle. The program utilizes volunteers to help older adults with chores such as minor home repairs, yard work, transportation, laundry and shopping. The program receives funding from a variety of sources, including DSHS.

Commissioner Stout commented that the program director, Eileen Rasnack, also serves on the Bellevue Network on Aging.

#### 40. Changes Parent Support Network – Parent Support Group Network

Commissioner Hoople said the program provides weekly support groups and seminars in the community for parents of acting out teens and adolescents and young adults. He observed that the unit costs shown in the application are all over the place, with Bellevue close to the highest.

Commissioner Stout suggested not considering the application for funding. She said if the program were to get their full funding request from each of the cities from which funds have been requested, the one person running the program would be able to comply with all of the required reporting.

Commissioner Plaskon added that the program clearly falls outside the Commission's focus areas.

#### 41. Chinese Information and Service Center – International Family Center Eastside

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program assists people to access appropriate resources. The program claims to be a one-stop model in the way it provides immediate support for families in need, cultural language and support to community organizations, educational and workshops. In addition, the program offers some cultural awareness training for organizations in the mainstream.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that the application reports a 600 percent increase in service delivery since its inception. She said she likes the holistic approach of the program, and said she was surprised to see the large number of unduplicated clients who completed the survey.

Commissioner Hoople noted that the application is seeking an increase of 52 percent. Commissioner Beighle commented that the program received some one-time funding from the Seattle Foundation to help address impacts from the recession; the money was used to add a 0.9 FTE, and the funding request is intended to keep that position.

#### 42. Crisis Clinic – 2-1-1 Community Information Line

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides information about community resources to King County residents. The staffers are all paid information referral specialists, all of whom are well trained in making assessment and problem solving. The program is facing the total loss of state funding and conducts fundraising efforts only biennially.

Commissioner Hoople said the agency applied for funding from the Veterans Levy but their request was not granted. The agency expressed a hesitancy to provide an 800 number for veterans and to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

43. Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Eastside Legal Assistance Program

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program offers legal advice at eleven different sites on the Eastside. All of the attorneys volunteer their time. The program has been around for a very long time and enjoys a very good reputation.

44. Elder Health Northwest – Elder Friends Volunteer Companionship

Commissioner Beighle said the program seeks to increase social support for the elderly. The program has been operated since 1997 but has not previously been funded by the city. The visits by volunteers occur at least twice per month at no charge to the participants. There is a waiting list of 30 clients waiting to be matched with a visitor. Volunteers are recruited, screened and trained before being matched with elders.

Commissioner Beighle expressed concern over the high unit costs. Commissioner Stout said she was bothered by not being able to identify a linkage to any other Eastside organization.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the agency appears to have a wide funding base even without funding from the city or the county. Commissioner Stout allowed that the agency itself is quite large but has traditionally had a service focus of Seattle.

There was agreement not to consider funding the application.

45. Friends of Youth – Healthy Start

Commissioner Stout disclosed that she serves on the Healthy Start advisory board.

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the home-based support and education program works with young, low-income, first-time parents. The program offers home visits, developmental screening, play groups, and general support. The program is very well run.

Commissioner Bruels commented that the program has a wide funding base and a number of excellent partners.

Commissioner Beighle spoke favorably of the educational component the program offers for the dads.

46. Hopelink – Family Development Program

Commissioner Beighle said the long-term case management program serves low-income families, many of whom are at-risk for homelessness. The clients are found through referrals from other agencies and programs. Clients and case managers

work together to create goals with specific courses of actions. Case managers meet with their clients twice a week or as needed for up to two years. The program enjoys a very high success rate based on the United Way outcomes. A five percent funding increase is being sought to offset increased operations costs.

The Commissioners offered no comments or questions.

47. Institute for Family Development – PACT: Parents and Children Together

Commissioner Bruels said the case management program has not previously been funded by Bellevue. The counselors make home visits to support parents of children who are having trouble and provide skill-building education. The program claims to be strength-based and the application documents a very large jump in services to clients in Bellevue.

Commissioner Bruels commented that the program does not seem to fit an existing service gap and does not have much of an impact on recession response or infrastructure preservation.

Commissioner Plaskon said the unit cost appears to be quite reasonable.

Ms. O'Reilly observed that the clients are offered services for only 60 days. Following that period, referrals are made to other agencies, some of which are generally underfunded.

Commissioner Stout said she had questions about the agency's cultural competency.

There was agreement not to consider funding the application.

48. King County Bar Foundation – Community Legal Services

Commissioner Bruels said the program focuses on the civil legal needs of low-income clients. They cover everything from housing law to family law. Volunteer attorneys are recruited to provide the pro bono services. The program has not previously been funded by the city. Based in Seattle, the program does provide services in Bellevue to Bellevue residents.

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the Commission has in the past highlighted the fact that more legal services are needed.

49. Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center – Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center

Commissioner Bruels explained that the program teaches equestrian skills to handicapped children. There is a certain rhythm generated when a horse canters and the repetitive motion is claimed to be therapeutic for children suffering from a

variety of problems. The program focuses primarily on low-income kids who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience equestrian activities. The program has not previously sought funding from Bellevue. The program does rank quite low on the scale in terms of the Commission's focus areas.

Commissioner Stout questioned why the program was not included with other medical programs given its therapeutic nature. She also noted that the program had been recommended to her during the period of time in which she was recovering from a stroke. The program has been shown to be very effective for people who are recovering from strokes or who are developing brain synapses and muscle redevelopment.

50. Youth Eastside Services – Early Intervention for At-Risk Youth

Commissioner Bruels said the comprehensive program is designed to increase community access to mental health services, substance abuse treatment, social services, and skill building for youth and families. The program is seeking a small increase in funding.

Chair Huenefeld Gese questioned why no funding was being sought from Bothell, Issaquah and Kent given the number of clients from those jurisdictions.

51. Youth Eastside Services – Response to Youth

Commissioner Bruels explained that the counseling, prevention and intervention services program is offered at the Boys and Girls Club in Bellevue. The focus is on increasing youth access to resources and support services. The program is seeking a moderate increase in funding. The program ranks high on the list in terms of the Commission's priorities.

The Commissioners had no questions or comments.

52. Youth Eastside Services – SUCCESS Mentoring Program

Commissioner Bruels said the community-based mentoring program for at-risk youth seeks to maximize their social competencies, help them stay in school and achieve their full potential. The program is seeking a modest increase in funding and ranked high in terms of the Commission's priorities.

The Commissioners had no questions or comments.

B. Preliminary Review of Goal #3 Human Services Funding Applications

53. Center for Children and Youth Justice – Safe Havens Visitation Center

Commissioner Yantis said the program provides supervised visitation and safe exchange services for families involved in domestic violence. Most of the clients are mandated to the program by the King County Superior Court. The program has not previously sought funding from Bellevue.

Ms. Leslie said the City of Kent has largely funded the program from its human services budget for the last three years, but they are no longer able to commit the same level of funding. Funding from King County has been trimmed as well. The program has remained operational because it was able to obtain some bridge funding, but it is in need of a wider funding base. The program serves as a model nationwide.

Commissioner Bruels said the program's cultural competency statement is excellent.

54. Children's Response Center Harborview – Children's Response Center Harborview

Commissioner Plaskon said the program is conducted from the Overlake campus but is managed by social workers with Harborview Medical Center. The city has traditionally funded the program which provides counseling for children who have experienced traumatic episodes.

Commissioner Yantis questioned why the detail of service units showed a decrease from \$490 to \$300. It was agreed the agency should be asked to explain.

55. Consejo Counseling and Referral Service – Consejo Domestic Violence Program

Commissioner Hoople said the program provides individual legal advocacy, peer-to-peer women's support groups, transitional housing, and other services for victims of domestic violence. The program's Latino target population is usually unwilling to admit incidents of domestic violence.

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

56. Crisis Clinic – Teen Link

Commissioner Plaskon said the program is a crisis line for teen suicide prevention. The application seeks only a small increase in funding.

Commissioner Yantis questioned why the fundraising would be reduced from \$30,000 to nothing. Chair Huenefeld Gese pointed out that the Crisis Center conducts fundraising every other year.

Commissioner Stout said she always gets suspicious when applications project the same output numbers. Mr. Adriano said Crisis Clinic is the only agency that has a different reporting format. As such, they do not fill out the same demographic reports as other agencies. Furthermore, they have no idea how many calls they will be receiving in a given year. Ms. Leslie pointed out that the application indicates an anticipated increase in Bothell, Kent and Woodinville, and that probably has to do with the youth suicide prevention presentations they are doing in the schools in those communities.

57. Eastside Domestic Violence Program – The Community Advocacy Program

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides immediate crisis intervention and online support for people who have been impacted by domestic violence. It also offers legal advocacy, information and referral, helps clients navigate the criminal and legal system, and offers education and support groups. The program is well connected in the community.

Chair Huenefeld Gese suggested the program offers Bellevue a very good bang for the buck.

58. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center – Comprehensive Sexual Assault Services

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program provides a comprehensive array of sexual assault services, including advocacy, crisis intervention and education. The application seeks funding consistent with past year allocations. The resource is well received in the community and has a huge funding base.

Chair Huenefeld Gese said she would be interested in knowing why the output is projected to increase from 70 in 2010 to 173 in 2011.

Ms. Leslie clarified that the program serves mostly adults on the Eastside given that the Children's Response Center program covers children on the Eastside.

59. Refugee Women's Alliance – ReWA Domestic Violence Program Advocacy Services

Commissioner Beighle said the domestic violence program provides victims advocacy, case management, advocacy for family law and immigration issues, offer information and referral, counseling, and other services. The program does have ties

to other agencies and programs and is seeing an increasing number of Eastern European clients.

Commissioner Beighle questioned why the agency does not conduct any fundraising, and why the application seeks comparatively more from Bellevue than from other cities.

60. Refugee Women's Alliance – ReWA Domestic Violence Program Support Groups

Commissioner Bruels said the program focuses on Eastern European survivors of domestic violence through language-specific and culturally competent support groups. The city funded the program in the last funding cycle and the application is seeking a modest increase.

Commissioner Bruels noted that the application outcomes talk quite a lot about participation in the groups and surveys of the participants but does not fully address the bottom line purpose of victim support groups, which is safety. He said he would like to know more about how the program promotes and evaluates client safety.

Commissioner Stout observed that in several places the application talks about what the program will do but is not specific about what it has done in terms of service numbers and accomplishments.

Intern Cynthia Sessoms said the program has a limited presence at the Baha'i Center and spends some time at the Crossroads Community Center. The agency plans to enter into a partnership with the King County Housing Authority to increase their presence.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the support groups are offered at an undisclosed Eastside location. The agency has been working with the housing authority and Boys & Girls Club in Federal Way and would like to replicate the collaboration in a similar manner in Bellevue.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the application lists only two funders, with Bellevue accounting for a third of the total. No fundraising or other sources of money are indicated.

Commissioner Stout observed that in the program description it is stated that Eastern European survivors of domestic violence attend monthly language-specific and culturally competent support groups, yet further on in the application the support group is talked about in terms of every other Friday.

Commissioner Bruels reiterated his concern regarding the safety of clients.

## 61. Sound Mental Health – Behavioral Responsibility Program

Commissioner Bruels said the program addresses perpetrators of domestic violence. Such programs are few and far between, and there are even fewer programs that especially tailored for clients with pre-existing mental illnesses. As such, the program fills a niche.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that there is no information in the application about recidivism rates by offenders and suggested the Commission may want to consider that element before deciding if the program should be funded.

Ms. Leslie said the national average completion rate is ten percent, where the agency's rate is 60 to 70 percent. She agreed, however, that completing the program is not a measure of recidivism.

Commissioner Plaskon said whatever the recidivism rate is, it will decrease among the clients who complete the program.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the city's Probation Division relies heavily on the program. Most of the clients are court ordered to attend.

Ms. Leslie commented that some weeks back staff received an email from a resident who had participated in a treatment program. He highlighted a number of issues, not with Sound Mental Health but rather with national studies showing such programs to be ineffective. A second email was received from the same client who had a complaint about a specific private therapist doing the same work.

Commissioner Hoople suggested it would be helpful to hear from King County and the city's Probation Division regarding the effectiveness of the program.

## 62. YWCA of Seattle, Snohomish & King County – Domestic Violence Services

Commissioner Bruels said the program offers case management for domestic violence survivors. The program is based in Renton and has not been previously funded by Bellevue.

Commissioner Bruels noted that the number of Bellevue residents served by the program is quite small. Ms. Leslie allowed that the bulk of the clients come from South King County.

Commissioner Stout commented that the agency is very competent and is doing some fine work with women facing difficult situations.

**\*\*BREAK\*\***

The Commissioners addressed next the Community Development Block Grant applications. Ms. Leslie explained that staff looked at the numbers while trying to estimate the funding that would be available. Because no increased funding was anticipated, applications for capital projects were not sought. The focus is on funding the core programs the city has funded for many years. The issue is that even at the same level of funding, the requests are greater than the amount of money it is anticipated the city will have to allocate.

#### 104. ARCH – Housing Trust Fund

Ms. Leslie said ARCH is a regional coalition that uses both CDBG funding and the city's Housing Trust Fund dollars, along with money contributed by other Eastside jurisdictions, and uses it to construct projects that serve the Eastside. Since 2006, the CDBG funds contributed by Bellevue to ARCH have been held aside and are about to be distributed to the St. Andrews Totem Lake housing project.

#### 105. City of Bellevue – 2011 CDBG Administration

Ms. Leslie explained that the city is allowed to use a percentage of its CDBG allocation to reimburse the city for the amount of staff time needed to administer the CDBG program.

#### 106. City of Bellevue – 2011 CDBG Planning

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that every other year an increase in the allocation is needed in order to cover the phone survey for the Needs Update. The survey is slated to be done in 2011, and the initial estimate shows the cost of the survey work will increase to about \$32,000, in part because of a need to be creative in moving beyond using just land line phone numbers.

Ms. Leslie said the planning dollars are also used to reimburse the city for the planning work and to pay for graduate student interns.

#### 107. City of Bellevue – Home Repair Program

Ms. O'Reilly said each year it has been necessary to decrease the number of requests accepted, in part because of increased staff costs to administer the program, and in part due to decreases in loan paybacks. The number of requests, however, is up. On average, the program serves between 35 and 40 households annually.

#### 108. Senior Services – Minor Home Repair Program

Mr. Adriano said the program is run by Senior Services. The jobs taken on are much smaller and accordingly far more of them can be done every year. The funding being requested is consistent with what has been allocated for the past few years.

109. Hopelink – Employment Program

Mr. Adriano said in years past the application has been included as a part of Goal 5, but since it is CDBG funded it is technically not in the public service category. The only change the program is expected to undergo is a staffing change.

Mr. Adriano said during the most recent monitoring visit staff pointed out the need to screen for income. A new income screening process was set up in January and has been implemented.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the funds requested section of the application does not match the budget figures, which indicates a higher figure from Bellevue than the actual ask. Mr. Adriano explained that the budget refers to the Family Development Program as another source of funding for the program.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Adriano provided the Commissioners with an updated copy of application 32, the one where all the budget numbers were zeros.

8. NEW BUSINESS – None

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Huenefeld Gese adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

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Secretary to the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date