

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 25, 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.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Stout said she attended the Children's Campaign Fund event on May 23. She said it was interesting to see the broad base of people who showed up, and the interest in seeing candidates with a bent toward children's issues have enough money to run for office.

Commissioner Hoople said he attended the King County Council meeting at which the National Guard and Army Reserves were honored.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly reported that she and intern Cynthia Sessoms visited the office of Refugee Women's Alliance earlier in the day. She said they learned that the outreach worker spends one day per week at the Crossroads Community Center and one day at Hopelink evening food bank. It was also learned

that the agency was not aware of the Cultural Navigator program; the recommendation was made that they make a connection with that program.

5. Preliminary Review of Goal #4 and #5 Human Services Funding Applications

63. Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Asian Pacific American Mental Health Project

Commissioner Hoople said the mental health program focuses on multilingual and multicultural clients, primarily Asian and Pacific Islanders. The outcomes indicate that 85 percent of the clients demonstrate recovery.

Commissioner Hoople said the application indicates the program has no funding to serve new or some existing clients without Medicaid or other funding sources, making funding from Bellevue key to continuing services. The program does have some excellent collaborations.

Commissioner Bruels added that the program gets a lot of funding from King County, which cannot be relied on. He asked why the program does not apply for funding from other cities. Commissioner Plaskon said the application is focused specifically on Bellevue clients.

It was agreed the agency should be asked if there are plans to apply for funding from other cities.

64. Bridge Disability Ministries – Certified Professional Guardianship Program

Commissioner Plaskon said the program provides case management for adults with developmental disabilities. The program includes transportation to and from doctor and other appointments. He said the case management hours are quite inexpensive. The program does not, however, meet any need outlined in the Needs Update.

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted the agency has a Bellevue address but said she was confused about where the clients actually come from. Ms. O'Reilly said she has communicated with the agency representative about why there are not currently any clients from Bellevue; the reply was that clients from Bellevue will be served when funding from Bellevue is received.

65. Crisis Clinic – 24 Hour Crisis Line

Commissioner Yantis said the Crisis Line Program is operated by trained volunteers and has been funded by Bellevue for many years. Sixteen percent of the calls are from East King County, and Bellevue currently funds half of the Bellevue clients served.

Commissioner Plaskon noted the program averages 280 calls per day overall, which is an impressive volume. Commissioner Plaskon said he was bothered by the statement in the application that Bellevue funding would be used to support staff raises.

66. Eastern European Counseling Center – Immigrant Integration Project

Commissioner Hoople said the program provides mental health services to low-income refugees and immigrants from eastern Europe. The program includes diagnostic interviews, treatment planning, group counseling, assessment and case management.

Commissioner Yantis said the program has not been in business very long. The total revenues for last year was \$24,000 and the application seeks a great deal more. Commissioner Hoople pointed out that it appears Bellevue is expected to be the primary funding source.

Commissioner Bruels asked if the agency has plans to apply to the state for a mental health center license. Ms. O'Reilly said she met with an agency representative but nothing was said about the agency becoming eligible for Medicaid clients. Commissioner Bruels said getting such a license would put the program in a much better funding position.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Stout, Ms. O'Reilly said the agency representative told her that the agency is collaborating with Therapeutic Health Services and has provided some support to Refugee Women's Alliance. Ultimately, the agency would like to have the go-to mental health program for clients from eastern European countries.

The Commissioners expressed concerns about funding a program that does not have much of a track record. It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

67. Elder and Adult Day Services – Adult Day Health

Commissioner Plaskon said the agency provides services for elderly clients, including day services, hygiene and nutrition education, nursing services, physical exercise, and cognitive stimulation. The program serves quite a few Bellevue residents. The program has been supported by Bellevue for a number of years.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

68. Healthpoint – Dental Program

Commissioner Yantis said the agency, previously known as Community Health Centers, operates four clinics in Auburn, Federal Way, Kent and Redmond. The program staff speak multiple languages and serves low-income clients. The increase

in funding sought by the application is needed to sustain the same level of services offered.

69. Healthpoint – Healthcare for the Homeless

Commissioner Plaskon said the program provides nursing and social work for homeless persons. The clients are met in the shelters and directed toward the help they need. The cost per unit stated in the application seems quite high, though the services offered are comprehensive.

Commissioner Yantis said the question to have answered is whether the cost per unit is high because of the non-medical services that are provided in addition to the medical care.

Commissioner Hoople said the mobile medical van operating in south King County has been very successful. That program is supported by the Veterans and Human Services Levy.

70. Healthpoint – Medical Program

Commissioner Beighle said the Family Practice Program uses a healthcare home model that has proven to be successful. The patients receive services by registered nurses, social workers and pharmacists, as well as case management. The program specializes in serving the elderly, minorities and the homeless. In 2009 the program doubled the number of homeless persons served, and 60 percent of the clients were racial or ethnic minorities.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the application seeks a 36 percent increase over what the city has previously allocated to the program. Chair Huenefeld Gese said that is coupled with the fact that the program serves fewer Bellevue residents than residents from other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Beighle commented that the staff wages were frozen and probably faced a large cut in Medicaid funding. The materials are translated in over a hundred languages.

Mr. Adriano reminded the Commissioners that the city is currently funding the agency's Natural Medicine Program separately. Part of the reason for the funding increase is that that program has been folded into the Medical Program application.

The Commissioners had no specific questions about the application.

71. HERO House – HERO House

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program seeks to develop and strengthen the talents of the club members. The club members are trained to do the work and then actually

do the work, thus assisting them in returning to work. Evening, weekend and holiday social and recreational programming is offered. The application seeks more funding as a way to increase the agency's stabilization.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

72. Jubilee REACH Center – Adult Dental Care

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides urgent and routine dental services for adult low-income clients who are uninsured and otherwise unable to pay for the services. The clinic operates once per month and collaborates with Medical Teams International; it is run by volunteers. The program does not offer crowns, bridges or dentures.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Beighle, Ms. O'Reilly said the agency has funding sufficient to only operate for six months during 2010.

Commissioner Hoople said it appeared the program is relying completely on Bellevue funding.

Commissioner Beighle said she would like to know if the program would go forward if Bellevue funded only a portion of what has been requested.

The program cost primarily is for the van and driver and for the program coordinator. Ms. O'Reilly agreed to ask the agency to break out the specific costs.

73. NAMI Eastside – Education, Support and Advocacy

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program sponsors eleven support groups for family members and consumers on the Eastside. The mostly low-income clients have mental health issues. The program includes a speakers bureau and training for law enforcement personnel on the Eastside.

Commissioner Beighle said she was happy to see the agency intends to seek grant funding and conduct fundraising efforts. She voiced concern over the fact that Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond are being asked to pay more per unit than other cities.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested that some clarification of the relationship between the Eastside and south King County NAMI programs is needed.

74. Overlake Hospital Medical Center – Senior Care

Commissioner Beighle said the program is new to Bellevue funding. The program focuses on the physical and psychological needs of seniors and offers case management, information and referral, and a walking program. The program has

been operating since 1987 and serves anyone regardless of income; the classes are offered at a nominal charge, and the nurse practitioner visits are charged to Medicare. Clients receive an initial visit at the hospital and a home visit within three days of being discharged; three or four follow-up phone calls are made after that.

Commissioner Plaskon expressed concern about opening the door to funding a hospital program.

Chair Huenefeld Gese observed that there was nothing in the application about fundraising activities.

Commissioner Stout commented that the needs of seniors in the community are growing. However, at best the Human Service Fund is facing a frozen budget. Some extremely difficult decisions lie ahead, and while the senior program applications that have been submitted are wonderful programs, collectively they could represent a bottomless pit for the city.

Ms. O'Reilly said the program does not seem to be connected in any way to the Senior Services Assistance and Referral Line.

Commissioner Plaskon pointed out that the application does not say the program needs funding from Bellevue; it only says that there is the potential that the recession will affect the hospital, which in turn will affect the program.

It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

75. Pediatric Interim Care Center, Inc. – Interim Care of Drug Exposed Infants

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program works with newborns just out of the hospital. Over time they decrease their morphine levels to help infants better tolerate the withdrawals. They offer therapeutic handling in a controlled environment that allows them to sleep and eat. The program has not previously been funded by the city, and is seeking funding from a number of jurisdictions.

It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

76. Providence Marianwood Foundation – Senior Access to Long-term Healthcare

Commissioner Stout said the program is focused on providing seniors with access to long-term healthcare. She said the program certainly addresses the growing needs of seniors in the community, but does not address anything from the Needs Update.

The program is operated out of Issaquah but does have a number of Bellevue clients. The program has not previously been funded by Bellevue.

It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

77. Sea Mar Community Health Center – Sea Mar Community Health Centers Bellevue Medical

Commissioner Stout said the program offers primary medical care for non-English speaking low-income, uninsured or publicly insured clients. The program meets one of the Commission's funding focuses.

Commissioner Bruels said it appeared from the application that while the program serves clients from other cities, Bellevue is the only jurisdiction being asked for funding.

Commissioner Stout said in her role with United Way she has seen the agency's care and the quality of its management improve over time. She said there is a clear need for the services offered. Commissioner Bruels added that the cost per unit is quite reasonable.

78. Senior Services – Volunteer Transportation

Commissioner Bruels said the program involves volunteers using their own vehicles to provide transport and escort services for seniors in King County going to medical appointments. The program has been funded for many years by the city and is seeking a moderate increase.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

79. Sound Mental Health – Children's Community Services

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides case management, counseling and mental health services for children. It provides individualized care in-home and also in schools. The program is not in line with the recession impacts focus but it is significant in terms of preserving human services infrastructure. The program is seeking a moderate funding increase.

Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the program was previously called the Wraparound Program.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the outcomes data in the application is from 2007 and 2008 and asked if the agency had any more recent data. Ms. O'Reilly said she would clarify that issue.

80. Sound Mental Health – Low-Income Counseling Services

Commissioner Bruels said the Mental Health and Counseling Program is for individual adults, families and children. The services are primarily offered to clients who do not qualify for Medicaid.

Commissioner Bruels said he was curious about why the application outlines the process used for measuring outcomes without giving the results. Ms. O'Reilly said the results will be shown in the staff review for ongoing programs. She agreed that the wording used in the application could be tweaked.

81. Therapeutic Health Services – Low-Income Adult CD and Mental Health Treatment

Commissioner Stout said the program assists individuals in overcoming dependencies to alcohol, prescription medications and other illicit drugs. The intensive program previously was known as Eastside Recovery Center. The program has been going in the community for a long time and enjoys a number of active partnerships with other agencies and programs. A moderate increase in funding is sought.

Commissioner Stout said she would like to see the agency explain its unit cost calculations; it is unclear what a unit is, an actual treatment or a plan.

82. Alliance for People with disAbilities – Youth Transition Program

Commissioner Plaskon said the program provides education support and job skills to persons with disabilities. The program is supported primarily by the city of Kenmore and supports school-aged kids with developmental disabilities. The outcomes are improved social skills. The clients choose their own goals, yet only 53 percent are reported to be achieving those goals.

Commissioner Stout observed that there are a number of organizations that provide similar services.

Commissioner Hoople suggested the agency has not done the groundwork necessary to develop collaborations with other agencies and programs.

It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

83. Asia Pacific Language School – Multicultural and Multilingual Early Learning

Commissioner Plaskon said the school has been around for some 15 years in King County. The school teaches English speakers foreign languages.

Commissioner Stout noted that there are several similar language schools, none of which has been funded previously by the city. By funding one, the door will be open to funding many more.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that two years ago the school became a licensed childcare center.

It was agreed not to consider funding the application.

84. AtWork! – Community Liaison

Commissioner Hoople said the liaison works to develop jobs in the community for persons with disabilities. The program has stepped up its game since it was known they would have to get rid of the sheltered workshops.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

85. AtWork! – School-to-Work Partnership

Commissioner Yantis said the program has not previously been funded by the city. It assists students with higher support needs transition from school to work and provides education and information about adult services.

Commissioner Stout noted that the Bellevue School District has been moving away from its emphasis on school-to-work programs over the past few years. The focus is on youths aged 18 and up, which is a group that needs a lot of handholding to get them to the place where they can become employed.

Ms. O'Reilly noted the application does not say anything about working with the Bellevue School District.

86. AtWork! – Transitional Employment Consultant

Commissioner Plaskon said the program focuses on the same population and provides support for those switching their jobs or seeking other employment opportunities. The program was previously funded by the city.

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

87. Bellevue College – Bellevue College Women's Center / Center for Career Connections

Commissioner Yantis said the program works with minority and low-income women and assists them in becoming ready for employment.

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

88. Bellevue College – Early Learning Center / Head Start

Commissioner Beighle said the program is for the children of parents enrolled at Bellevue College. Student teachers are used and the program has strict income requirements.

The Commissioners had no questions concerning the application.

89. Bellevue College – Preparing for Work

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the ESL program is focused on providing the language and other skills needed to prepare for employment. The program has been funded for many years by the city.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

90. Bellevue School District – Early Learning and After School Programs

Commissioner Beighle said the program offers scholarships for families that cannot afford childcare. The program has been funded before by the city and the application seeks a funding increase.

Ms. O'Reilly referred to page six of the application and noted that the service unit figure for 2011 was incorrect. The cost per unit is actually \$17.68.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

91. Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue – Project Learn

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program targets improvements in school performance and seeks to prevent or reduce risky behaviors in youth by teaching social competency and decreasing their unsupervised time. The program has been previously funded by the city and the application seeks a substantial increase based on a projected increased need.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

92. Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue – Summer Camp

Commissioner Beighle said the scholarships are for Bellevue youths between the ages of six and 15. The program will be offering specialty camps, including technology, basketball, football, art, and science. The camps are also run at three public housing sites.

Commissioner Beighle commented that funding is conducted for the program even though it is not shown in the application.

Ms. Leslie added that Bellevue dollars are used to subsidize the scholarships offered by the agency.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

93. Child Care Resources – Child Care Financial Assistance

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the Bellevue dollars being sought will pay for a portion of the childcare costs of eligible families. Childcare is offered for children aged one month to 12 years from families that fall below 80 percent of area median income. The resource specialist screens applications and approves or denies them. The average tenure of the scholarship program is 15 months. A slight increase in funding is being sought.

Chair Huenefeld Gese asked how the program reaches out to the lower income clients. Ms. O'Reilly said low-income families qualify for Working Connections. The city's scholarships are geared toward those who fall in the crack between making enough money to support themselves but not enough to pay for childcare.

94. Child Care Resources – Child Care Information and Referral

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides information and referral to childcare providers and educates parents. The program has been around for 20 years and is the only agency in King County that comprehensively serves the childcare community. She noted that the unit costs have increased steadily over the years due to salary and benefits increases.

Chair Huenefeld Gese said she would like to know exactly what constitutes a unit. Commissioner Stout said there is a lot of indirect administration and overhead that is not necessarily charged out individually in the unit costs.

95. Child Care Resources – Homeless Child Care

Chair Huenefeld Gese said the program provides comprehensive childcare services to homeless children, including case management and assistance with finding appropriate care. The program is seeking a moderate funding increase. The agency provides training and individual technical assistance to providers wanting to work supportively with children and families who are homeless. The services are offered in a culturally relevant manner.

Commissioner Yantis observed that the cost per unit appeared to be quite reasonable.

There were no questions asked about the application.

96. Hopelink – Hopelink Adult Education Program

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides adult basic education, ESL instruction, and GED prep classes. The application seeks a small funding increase over the previous funding level.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the unit cost difference between the GED prep classes and the ESL classes is significant. Ms. Leslie said the application indicates a significant shift in the service delivery model for the GED classes.

Commissioner Bruels said he was curious why the ESL cost per unit was one and a half times higher than the Jewish Family Services ESL classes. Ms. Leslie said staff would be providing a summary of all the ESL programs in the staff review.

97. Jewish Family Services – Refugee and Immigrant Service Centers

Mr. Adriano pointed out that the actual award to the agency for 2010 should be shown in the application as \$149,797. He noted that the program was partially funded with CDBG dollars.

Commissioner Stout said the program provides assessment and case management, pre-employment and employment services, job readiness training, individual job counseling, English language training, and some special programs. The comprehensive program is focused on refugees and immigrants.

The Commissioners did not have any questions concerning the application.

98. Jubilee REACH Center – Storytime / ESL

Commissioner Stout said the storytime program is offered to children of parents who are attending ESL classes.

Commissioner Stout observed that some of the parents have been so satisfied that they have stayed with the program so long their children have aged out of the storytime. She asked what the program is doing by way of active outreach efforts to bring more children into the storytime program.

Commissioner Stout also pointed out that the salaries total shown in the application appears to be quite low and said she would like to know how many FTEs the agency has. Ms. O'Reilly explained that the ESL classes are taught primarily by volunteers, and volunteers provide other services as well. The storytime person is paid.

Commissioner Stout said she would be curious to know why the writer of the application did not indicate the program falls under the early learning plan. She said

she would like to see better coordination with other programs and a focus on long-term stabilization.

99. Kindering Center – Early Childhood Consultation Program

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides consultation for families and caregivers and training information needed to provide high-quality care and education for young children in east King County. The target range is children ages zero to six. There is a focus on children with developmental disabilities and fragile medical conditions.

There were no questions about the application.

100. Kindering Center – Outreach Program

Commissioner Bruels said the Outreach Program utilizes trained professionals in reaching out to at-risk target populations where they are, both in homes and in various community settings. The program has not previously been funded by the city.

Ms. O'Reilly said the agency has been conducting screening workshops at community centers and other places. They are working with at-risk families whose children are more likely to fall through the cracks in terms of birth to three developmental screening. The screenings have found a fairly high percentage of children in need of moving on to a full-blown evaluation.

Commissioner Stout noted that Bellevue appears to be the only Eastside city being asked for funding.

101. Lake Washington Technical College – Student Support Program

Commissioner Stout said the program provides scholarships for special needs students and/or for adults seeking to retrain. She suggested the program falls into a fairly large category that could prove very thirsty for funding. She added that the application had not been particularly well written.

There was agreement not to consider funding the application.

102. YMCA of Greater Seattle – Eastside Childcare Programs

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides childcare for children aged six weeks to 12 years. The requested funding will provide scholarships to families who qualify for financial assistance.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the program has been restructured and has all new staff, which is a very good thing.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the cost per unit is very low.

103. YWCA of Seattle King Snohomish – Eastside Employment Services

Commissioner Stout said the Employment Program focuses on persons who are hard to employ. Many of the clients are residents of the YWCA shelter in Redmond. She said she was a bit surprised to see the program is not seeking funding from Redmond.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Huenefeld Gese reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting would begin at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Leslie noted that the staff reviews for Goals 1 and 2 will be mailed out on June 2.

The Commission took a few moments to discuss the process for the second round of application reviews.

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Huenefeld Gese adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Secretary of the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date