

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 19, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Warren Leyh, Terry Smith, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUESTS: Lynn Fleshman, Redmond Human Services Advisory Committee; Nicholas Peder, Kirkland Human Services Advisory Committee; JoAnn Geer, Kirkland Human Services Advisory Committee; Sharon Anderson, City of Kirkland; Anihita Nakhijri, Kirkland Human Services Advisory Committee; Maggie Baker, Issaquah Human Services Commission; Joseph Podorsek, Issaquah Human Services Commission; Paul Winterstein, Issaquah Human Services Commission; Rowan Hinds, Issaquah Human Services Commission; Karen Turner, Kirkland Human Services Advisory Committee; Klaas Nijhuis, ARCH; Alison Eisinger, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness; Meghan Altimore, Coalition to End Homelessness; Sheri Kilty, YWCA; Jan Dickerman, Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing (KITH); Steve Roberts, Congregations for the Homeless; Helen Leuzzi, Sophia Way; Bill Block, Committee to End Homelessness; Colleen Kelly, City of Redmond; Gerard Philpotts, Issaquah Human Services Commission

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Stout who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Leslie Able with the Bellevue Boy's and Girl's Club thanked the Commission for its support over the years. She said the organization is currently partnering with wrap around services at Lake Hills Elementary and is enjoying huge successes. Due to a collaboration between United Way, the Bellevue School District and the city, the Club is able to offer a very enriching program to a population that would normally not get those services. In addition, a summer camp is going to be offered at Lake Hills Elementary; it will provide great opportunities and experiences for those who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Kids will be taken on field trips to the beach and other special events. The Lake Hills Elementary site was chosen in order to augment the summer school that will be in operation there. The summer camp program will be for K-6 kids and will run from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in order to provide support for working parents. The needs in the Lake Hills community are increasing, and the Club has seen a marked increase in the number of scholarship applications. It will take a number of partnerships to make it all work, including the support of the city.

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Hoople said on May 11 and 12 he attended a military training program focused on the trauma that military youth experience.

Commissioner Beighle said she attended the recent Kinderling Center luncheon and enjoyed it very much.

Chair Stout said she participated in a VIBES community conversation and attended the Healthy Start lunch.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie said she also attended the Healthy Start lunch.

A. Recognition of Berta Seltzer's Service on the Commission

Ms. Leslie noted that Commissioner Seltzer's service on the Commission spanned nine years. She served as vice-chair for two years and chair for one year. She said Commissioner Seltzer has been an invaluable member of the Commission in that she has been very thoughtful in her deliberations and analysis, as well as her support of staff.

Chair Stout said she had enjoyed very much serving with Commissioner Seltzer.

5. DISCUSSION

A. Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R)

Chair Stout praised staff for working long and hard in pulling together in a short time the data needed to make an informed decision.

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano said the guidelines for how the CDBG-R funds can be used were released on May 5. He said staff consulted with staff from neighboring jurisdictions in developing a fair process. A request for statements of interest was released the week of May 5; the request essentially sought project ideas. HUD is requiring that all of the normal steps that must be taken to amend the CDBG action plan be accomplished by June 5. That includes deliberations by the Commission and action by the Council.

Mr. Adriano said eleven written responses were received. Four additional project ideas were submitted in writing after the statement of interest deadline passed. The City is reserving the right to consider project ideas for which no statement of interest was submitted. After reviewing the HUD CDBG-R guidelines, staff narrowed the proposals down to a short list of those that most clearly meet the criteria, which are focused on job creation and rapid economic stimulus.

Commissioner Hoople asked if each proposal is an all-or-nothing proposition, or if some of the projects could move forward with allocations less than outlined. Mr. Adriano said most of the projects on the short list are capital projects. The only ones that could be considered scalable are the Home Repair Program and the YES project, which has two components.

Mr. Adriano said staff considered the Home Repair Program to be a good fit for CDBG-R because it results in rapid job preservation for construction workers. The ask was for \$141,000, but of course not all ten projects on the list would have to be taken on.

The project to replace the roof on the Elder and Adult Day Services building is above and beyond the current CDBG project under way for the facility.

The King County Housing Authority project includes two sites for which rehabilitation dollars are needed. In February it was learned that the King County Housing Authority would receive around \$8 million directly from HUD to be used in improving their properties. They have received those funds and have put some of it into the two sites highlighted on the short list, but our understanding is that neither of those projects will be fully funded with the direct HUD allocation.

Commissioner Plaskon noted that the King County Housing Authority project is not set to begin until January and asked if that fits within the CDBG-R guidelines. Mr. Adriano said it technically does. He explained that the guidelines require the funds to

be obligated in a short period of time. Of course, there is the sense that the federal government would prefer to focus on projects that will preserve or create jobs pretty quickly. Projects that may not start until 2010 could be a concern from a public perception point of view.

Mr. Adriano said staff sought clarification for how an allocation of \$1,700 to the Senior Services Minor Home Repair Program could preserve a 7.0 FTE. He said the answer received was that the crew that conducts the minor home repairs would have assignments to go to.

Mr. Adriano said staff followed up with regard to the Youth Eastside Services soundproofing project, specifically to determine why the desired level of soundproofing was not completed along with construction of the new facility that opened in the summer of 2008. The organization responded by explaining that the level of soundproofing that was included in the project did not meet the standards necessary to meet the agency's confidentiality standards, as well as those set by HIPAA.

The DASH roof project is one of the ideas that came in after the deadline. Both ARCH and the King County Housing Authority recommended the project.

Mr. Adriano said staff in reviewing the public service project ideas submitted were for the most part eligible for other pots of recovery act dollars. The one that stood out as appropriate for CDBG-R was the Eastside Legal Assistance Program credit clearing idea. As described, the project would affect those who have been most impacted by the recession.

Mr. Adriano said the two line items for planning and administration represented an amount that could be used for those functions, though not the maximum ten percent. Ms. Leslie pointed out that the department had already incurred some costs in addition to the inordinate amount of staff time put into reviewing the CDBG-R guidelines and the submitted project ideas. She explained that the city and the department is going through another round of budget cuts; she said she has cut everything she possibly can from the human services division budget, and bringing revenue to the table could obviate the need for additional cuts.

Commissioner Hoople asked staff to comment on why they were not recommending funding the Cultural Navigator project. Mr. Adriano said the project as proposed can be expected to continue into the future. The CDBG-R projects are specifically intended to have a finite run time. Additionally, the public service-type project would be subject to the cap of around \$25,000, well below the requested \$70,000.

Commissioner Yantis noted for the record that he donates time to Youth Eastside Services and will continue to do so if they need additional follow-up work. He said that does not constitute a conflict of interest. The problem the agency is facing is that its counseling room is not adequately soundproofed. When clients realize they can

be heard by persons not in the room with them, they are less likely to completely open up. The issue needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Seltzer said she worked with Youth Eastside Services for 15 years but has not been with them for the last four years. She noted that the soundproofing issue was evident 20 years ago in the original building, which was torn down and replaced by the existing building. She said she does not believe the board, the architect, the counseling staff and everyone else involved could not come up with the proper materials to bring the building up to the legal standard required by HIPAA.

Commissioner Yantis allowed that while that might be the case, had the work been done properly during the design and construction of the building, it would have cost money. The requested funding will serve to fix the oversight. It cannot be viewed as rewarding incompetence.

Chair Stout noted that the proposal relative to the Home Repair Program included ten projects and asked what the cost would be if only eight projects were tackled. Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said there are some administration costs paid by the city to the King County Housing Authority. She said there is a waiting list triggered in part by the delay in getting the regular CDBG dollars and because there is an outpouring of people who have become eligible for the program. The more dollars put into the program, the greater the number of folks who will be served.

Commissioner Hoople said it would be wise to support the planning and administrative functions as proposed by staff. He noted his support for the Minor Home Repair Program as well as the Elder Adult Day Services project.

Chair Stout pointed out that the DASH project serves low-income seniors who have no other options.

Commissioner Beighle said she strongly supported the Eastside Legal Assistance Program project.

Commissioner Plaskon asked in whose pocket the money would ultimately end up if the Eastside Legal Assistance Program project were to be funded. Mr. Adriano said his understanding is the funds would be used to pay staffing costs. The specific project is focused on helping clients clear their credit history, which could serve to help them get into housing.

Ms. Leslie informed the Commissioners that the guidance received from other jurisdictions around the country involved with CDBG-R funds recommends not spreading the money around to too many projects. The reason for that is the reporting requirements are onerous in terms of tracking the dollars. Funding fewer projects would be much easier.

Given the time, it was agreed to delay the remainder of the decision process until after agenda item 7-A.

6. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Stout invited everyone present to introduce themselves and to indicate the organization with which they are affiliated.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Update on Homelessness in East King County (Joint Meeting with other Cities' Commissions/Advisory Committees)

Ms. Leslie introduced the topic and welcomed everyone.

Bill Block, director of the Committee to End Homelessness, said his organization has been delegated the task of implementing the ten-year plan to end homelessness in King County. He said the governing board until recently has included King County Executive Ron Sims, Seattle mayor Greg Nickels, Bellevue City Council members, Blake Nordstrom and Dan Bretler. The organization also has an interagency Council that Ms. Leslie serves on along with department heads and executive directors from around the county.

Mr. Block said homelessness continues to be a major issue in King County. During the most recent One Night Count, 2800 people living on the streets were counted; in addition, another 2500 were in emergency shelters, and 3500 were in transitional housing. He said if he were to meet ten people every day of the week and month it would take nine months just to meet everyone living on the streets, and another eight months to meet those in emergency shelters.

Since the ten-year plan was initiated, some 3300 units of dedicated housing have been opened or brought into the pipeline to be opened. Many who are homeless struggle against barriers that go beyond mere economics, but the recession has increased the number of persons who are suffering specifically because of economics. In order to afford housing in King County, one must be earning a minimum of \$18 per hour. Single mothers with two kids making \$11 per hour simply cannot afford housing. It has been gratifying to see municipalities include in their planning processes bringing online more affordable housing.

Mr. Block commented that within the last year King County expanded the housing stability project through the Veterans and Human Services levy and finally began reaching vets in need of housing. Recently there was an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* about 1811 Eastlake, a facility created for people who are chronic street alcoholics, the very ones people have said for years that they do not want housing solutions. The facility is in fact full, and the article found that the facility has reduced criminal justice and medical emergency services costs by \$4

million in a single year. The article went on to indicate that those persons still on the street cost \$2500 per person per month more than it cost to keep people in housing. On the Eastside, the number of homeless persons is less, but the level of police involvement and emergency medical calls proves that housing people is less expensive.

About half of those who report to jail health are homeless, though many will say they are not yet homeless. The fund created to help those who are not yet homeless has served 68 people to date in 2009.

On the Eastside the opening of The Sophia Way has been wonderful. There traditionally has been almost no emergency housing for women on the Eastside. Overall, the Eastside has only about six percent of the emergency housing beds and five percent of the total units.

Mr. Block said the creation of the funders group has brought together representatives from King County, United Way, the Gates Foundation, the city of Seattle, the housing authorities, and Ms. Leslie and Arthur Sullivan from ARCH representing the Eastside. The group established a five-item set of priorities that will be the focus for the coming year and beyond. There already is in place an approach that funds all aspects of projects to avoid capital projects that are left searching for service grants or vice versa.

Two of the priorities are focused on making money is spent on people in ways that they need, and not spending too much or too little through a coordinated entry approach. Currently, families must go from provider door to provider door seeking entry and often takes the first opening, even though the program may not be tailored to them. What is needed is a system that assesses everyone equally so it can be determined where they best fit.

Many people become homeless because of barriers that screen them out from landlords. The barriers include felony convictions, a prior bankruptcy or eviction. The landlord liaison project began on the Eastside and is focused on getting landlords to open their doors to people. There is guarantee money available to make sure rents get paid, and there is the promise of case management. The program has been very effective.

Mr. Block allowed that the current economy represents a serious challenge. State, county and local jurisdiction budgets have been and are being cut, and the reductions will trickle down into homelessness. The homelessness programs have seen relatively fewer reductions than was at first anticipated, and there is some federal stimulus money available for prevention and rapid rehousing; there is also some additional TANF funds. The Eastside continues to fund a number of wonderful programs. The general awareness of the homelessness problem has been growing across all parts of King County.

Commissioner Hoople asked if the federal dollars coming to King County for homelessness will be administered by the county or be spread out to the local cities. Mr. Block said the ESG money will flow to the county. Some CDBG money will go directly to the cities. Ms. Leslie added that the homeless prevention and rapid rehousing planning was done in consultation with representatives from various jurisdictions, though all of the dollars will be going to King County.

Commissioner Plaskon referred to the six-month follow-up on the housing stability and the finding that 96 percent of the clients were still housed. He asked if those clients received emergency rental assistance throughout the six-month period. Mr. Block said some did and some did not; some did not require the assistance for the full time. As the clients stabilize they often elect not to move from the community they have become a part of.

Klaas Nijhuis with ARCH said he moved to the Eastside from the East Coast where he was instrumental in creating the first plan to end homelessness for a small city. He said he has been involved in homeless efforts at the municipal level and as director of a non-profit. He introduced Helen Leuzzi from The Sophia Way, Steve Roberts from Congregations for the Homeless, and Jan Dickerman from Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing (KITH).

Mr. Nijhuis said the creation of housing is what motivates ARCH, including emergency shelter units. Before the first plan was adopted, there were about 230 units of housing available for the homeless, 50 shelter units and 180 permanent units. Since then, an additional 290 units have been added to the supply on the Eastside, 130 for families, 130 for singles, and 30 for youth.

The Eastside plan came together largely through the efforts of the Eastside Homeless Advisory Committee. The group is currently focused on the kinds of units that should be created in the coming two or three years given the available funding streams and established priorities.

Mr. Roberts said the Eastside is a unique environment in which to work. There is strong government support from the various jurisdictions, and a recognition on the part of many regarding what the issues are and how to begin to address them.

Congregations for the Homeless has been around for a long time and still operates an emergency shelter that has 30 beds. The shelter currently has the longest waiting list it has ever had. Of the 120 men who come through the shelter annually, about 72 percent make it into permanent housing. In 2005 the organization started housing with grants from the state and currently has almost 50 units for which clients receive subsidies to cover the gap between the full rent and 30 percent of the client's income.

Community is a key ingredient to ending homelessness. When clients are in a shelter for up to six months, they develop a strong community. Moving clients into

permanent housing can place stresses on the sense of community unless steps are taken to ensure the community will continue.

Congregations for the Homeless piloted the landlord liaison project with the help of United Way, Friends of Youth, Hopelink and Eastside Domestic Violence Program. The project was piloted because of a lack of units, and it has made huge strides toward determining what it is landlords need when it comes to providing units to the hard to serve. At the top of the list are solid relationships and case management, someone to call when something goes wrong, and help in making sure the clients pay their bills on time and keep their units clean. The project has substantially increased the number of available units. What is needed now is rent subsidy and case management dollars.

Answering a question about the placement of approximately 50 men in permanent housing, Mr. Roberts explained that some of the units available are apartments. He said they have tried having two men share a two-bedroom apartment, but found it did not work well. For the most part, the men are placed in individual units.

Commissioner Hoople asked if anyone is addressing single parent families, whether the parent be male or female. Mr. Nijhuis noted that a number of projects include set-aside units for family housing. He said those units are typically occupied by single parent families.

Mr. Roberts said the fact that Congregations for the Homeless has strong financial management draws cities into working with the organization. One of the things the City of Redmond has asked the organization to take on is the hiring of an outreach worker whose responsibility is to work with homeless persons and get them connected with housing opportunities and other resources.

Helen Leuzzi with The Sophia Way commented that in various parts of the world it is possible to feed and house people for a dollar or two per day. In east King County, however, it costs between \$18 and \$22 per day to house someone who is living in poverty. The homeless are people just like anyone else; they have family and friends and dreams, but what they do not have is the wherewithal to put a roof over their heads. The Sophia Way is a program that helps single homeless women transition from a life on the street to a life on their own.

The Sophia Way program is very structured. It is focused on independent living. Every participant comes into the shelter at 7:00 p.m. and are allowed to stay until 7:00 a.m. They model life in their own apartments the moment they walk in the door. One evening per week a speaker is brought in to give life skills classes. The program supervisors reiterate the messages the rest of the week as they work with the clients and case managers.

The women are expected to be in subsidized housing for between three and six months; from there they are moved into permanent housing. The Sophia Way has

emergency shelter that can house up to eight women; ways to grow that space are being investigated. In the subsidized housing program, the clients are expected to contribute 30 percent of their salary toward the total rent. The program allows time for the women to regroup and save up to get an apartment of their own. The Sophia Way opened its first apartment just recently and hopes to open an additional one or two apartments every month for the rest of the year. The plan calls for opening a home by June of 2010. Housing people in a home style has its benefits; it is an especially good way to help people who are on GAU.

The Sophia Way is the only single housing shelter and subsidized housing program in east King County outside of domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence are welcomed into the program if they are not currently in crisis mode.

Commissioner Yantis asked how the life coaching aspects of the program will be facilitated as the move is made toward apartments and homes. Ms. Leuzzi said the first client was moved into an apartment only recently. For the near term, the case management services will continue on a weekly basis, the same as she had in the shelter. Once the clients become stabilized in their apartments and have met their beginning goals, they will move to home visits once a month.

Jan Dickerman, executive director for Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing (KITH), said she has been focused on housing in her career for a very long time. She explained that KITH serves homeless families with children as well as homeless men and women. On any given night 35 persons are being served. The organization owns 20 units and is always looking to establish new partnerships. One issue facing organizations on the Eastside is the need to continually fight against the stereotype that the Eastside is well to do and that there is no homelessness there. Only about 11 percent of the rental stock on the Eastside is available to low-income residents; that compares to about 54 percent in the rest of King County. If people cannot afford the rent on the Eastside, they will have a challenging time living there.

Ms. Dickerman said the work done by the Committee to End Homelessness is to be applauded. The result has been an increase in the overall housing stock available to low-income Eastside residents. It will not, however, be possible to build the area out of homelessness; that means it will be necessary to subsidize people so they can afford to live in private sector market-rate housing.

When the economy is bad, low-income residents feel it the most. While everyone suffers, when the low-income lose their jobs, they are often plunged immediately into homelessness. KITH is taking calls from some 96 unduplicated households during the average month seeking housing assistance. Many who are seeking help have serious issues in their past, including methamphetamine and other drug usage, as well as domestic violence issues. A growing percentage face English language challenges.

Commissioner Yantis asked what the average length of stay is in transitional housing offered by KITH. Ms. Dickerman said it works out to be about two years on average. Some units are supported by a partnership between Sound Families and the Housing Authority, so those who have completed their two-year service period are placed at the top of the list for housing supported by the King County Housing Authority.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese asked if there is a childcare component. Ms. Dickerman answered that there is a very real need for affordable childcare. KITH works with Childcare Resources to tap into scholarships. Once the families find work they are expected to find their own childcare.

Alison Esinger said the mission of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness is to ensure the safety and survival of people who are homeless, and to work collaboratively to end the crisis of homelessness in the region. The Coalition has been in operation for 29 years, which is something to be proud of, but which is also a reminder of just how long the modern crisis of homelessness has been around. The crisis in part is predicated on disinvestment in public housing and housing subsidies coupled with depressed wages. The Coalition members represent most of the emergency services shelter, transitional and permanent housing providers across King County. Some members are in fact homeless themselves, people who are advocates, and a growing number of regular citizens who care about the issue and want to be involved.

Ms. Esinger said the One Night Count is an astounding community effort. There are two components, a shelter survey previously done by the Coalition but which is currently under the administration of King County; and the street count of the homeless and without shelter in King County. In 2009, the street count documented 2,827 people in a three-hour period in 13 cities in King County. On the same night, 2,552 persons were counted in emergency shelters; another 3,582 were in transitional housing units. The total, then, was 8,961 men, women and children. Nationally, about three times the number of people counted on the One Night Count will experience homelessness during the course of one year in any given community. The One Night Count provides both a snapshot of homelessness but also some sense of what the overall picture is.

One of the strengths of the count is that it is conducted in the same geographic areas every year. The team leaders are well acquainted with their cities, the areas they are assigned to, and about homelessness. They receive a great deal of training, and they are required to scout out their locations in the daylight before the night of the count. The event is used as an opportunity to educate. For each of the last few years, between 800 and 900 volunteers participated. The count occurs between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The participants are directed to be as discreet as possible and not to wake anyone up.

Ms. Esinger pointed out that the largest number of homeless persons counted are in Seattle. The Eastside numbers are reported as a group, not by city. No publicity is

given to the specific areas counted. In all, 158 people were counted on the Eastside during the most recent count.

Meghan Altimore thanked everyone in the room who participated in the One Night Count. She explained that the Eastside count began five years ago and has steady grown in efficiency and support from the community. It is too the place where volunteers are turned away there are so many wanting to help. The same areas are counted annually to be able to develop better trendlines, though each year consideration is given to adding new areas. An effort is being spearheaded by Commissioner Beighle to get a count started in Issaquah.

Ms. Altimore added that Bellevue is to be commended for opening the severe weather shelter. She said in 2008 the count occurred on a very cold night. The volunteers hoped to find no one but in fact the numbers were quite high on the Eastside. The fact that there is a place for the homeless to go on cold nights is wonderful.

Ms. Esinger acknowledged that there are limitations to the One Night Count. Because the count is taken in the middle of the night, it is nearly impossible to tell whether those being counted are male or female, and what age they are. The count yields a general number that gives some sense of the general need, but it does not allow for a specific breakdown of what is really going on. The Coalition has a number of committees that work to develop partnerships across organizations and advocate for needed services. The Family with Children Committee took upon itself the problem of documenting the unmet need across the county for shelter for families with children. A pilot study was conducted in October, and for the 24 hours around the One Night Count from 8:00 a.m. on Thursday to 8:00 a.m. on Friday the committee members worked with 29 of the 32 programs countywide to compile the turn-away numbers; conservatively, the committee concluded that there were 142 calls from families with children seeking shelter during that 24-hour period representing 283 children and 176 adults. Most indicated they had spent the previous night at the home of friends, with family, or at motels.

In 2007 the Coalition in conjunction with the Committee to End Homelessness went to four communities where the One Night Count was not occurring, namely North Bend, Issaquah, Carnation and Auburn. People at community meals and food bank programs were interviewed, and the report is available at the Coalition website.

There is no question that in the long run what is needed to end homelessness is permanently affordable housing. The only other option is to assure that everyone has access to jobs that pay at least \$18 per hour and offer full benefits, but that is unlikely.

The Beyond the One Night Count workshop began two years ago. The series of advocacy workshops and issue briefings focuses on local, state and federal issues. The workshops are a lot of fun. Those who participate are serious about advocating

for additional resources to address and prevent homelessness. The Obama administration is being lobbied to invest \$1 billion in the national housing trust fund. Advocates are also seeking an additional 200,000 Section 8 vouchers.

Commissioner Yantis asked Ms. Dickerman if consideration has been given to getting women who do not have jobs to offer daycare services for those that do, or for women to swap childcare services while they respectively seek work. Ms. Dickerman said that is occurring on an informal basis.

Sharon Anderson with the City of Kirkland asked staff to provide a brief overview of the severe weather shelter. Mr. Adriano said the process evolved through staff from the different cities working together with staff from the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee. Many of the difficulties encountered had to do with local government rules and regulations. An RFQ was put out in the hopes that providers would step forward to operate a severe weather shelter in extreme conditions. As that was happening, an emergency project was pulled together because the weather turned very cold; that was during December. The center was operated largely from the Interfaith Social Concerns Council, King County Housing Authority, and staff from Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue. In January operation of the shelter was officially passed via contract to Catholic Community Services and the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council.

Ms. Leslie said one of the issues addressed in the debrief following operation of the shelter was whether or not it would be more efficient to open a regional shelter rather than have each city operate their own shelter. She said the discussion will continue with the other jurisdictions.

****BREAK****

5. DISCUSSION (Continued)

A. Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R)

Commissioner Seltzer asked how many programs or projects staff could handle without undue strain. Ms. Leslie said the guidance received was to take on no more than two or three projects because of the additional reporting requirements.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said she would be willing to withdraw the proposed allocations to the Eastside Legal Assistance Program and the Minor Home Repair Program and put the money into the Major Home Repair Program.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the reporting requirements, which include verifying that construction materials were manufactured in the United States, would not necessarily apply if the legal assistance program were given some of the dollars. Ms. Leslie agreed that it would be easier to work with public service contracts, but noted that there will still need to be a heightened level of reporting.

Chair Stout asked if the criteria related to either saving or generating jobs could be used to sort out the projects. Ms. Leslie said that is a major criteria; every project considered should be reviewed to see how it fits into that criteria.

Commissioner Yantis pointed out that each project that involves construction will either create or preserve jobs.

Chair Stout and Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese argued against funding the Youth Eastside Services soundproofing project. They claimed that the job should have been done right in the first place and said they were disappointed that no one recognized the need from the start.

Ms. Leslie suggested that it is better to invest one-time money in capital projects.

Motion to recommend funding for the Major Home Repair Program (\$87,105), elder and Adult Day Services (\$35,000), DASH (\$60,000) and CDBG-R Administration (\$9,584) was made by Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese. Second was by Commissioner Seltzer and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Leslie informed the Commissioners that because of the compressed time period, the Council will hear the presentation and vote on it all at the June 1 meeting in Council Chambers. Commissioners were invited to attend the Council presentation.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie acknowledged Ms. O'Reilly for being named the outstanding practicum instructor of the year by the University of Washington School of Social Work.

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stout adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date