

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 6, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Senait Taddese, Terry Smith, Patrick Foran, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Yantis who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 18, 2008

Commissioner Hoople called attention to page 7 of the minutes and suggested that the sentence "Commissioner Hoople suggested making reference in the memo to the fact that the city is below its GMA housing targets" should be changed to read "Commissioner Hoople suggested making reference in the memo to the fact that the city is below its affordable housing targets."

B. April 1, 2008

Commissioner Beighle referred to the fourth paragraph on page 7 and said the phrase "...made a large number of people rich..." should read "...made very few people very rich"

Motion to approve the March 18, 2008, and April 1, 2008, minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Stout and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Hoople reported that four Commissioners and two staff attended the recent Healthy Start breakfast event. Commissioner Stout reported that the event will clear about \$20,000 for the organization.

Commissioner Hoople said on April 23 he attended the King County Community and Human Services Department request for proposals (RFP) workshop focused on employment linked to housing services under Strategy 2 of the Veterans and Human Services Levy.

Commissioner Stout said she met on April 23 with the organizer of a new group that is working around the state, and specifically in Bellevue. The group, Stand for Kids, is funded by the Gates Foundation and is focused on schools, particularly low-income high-need schools. One of the main goals is to get communities rallied around the notion of getting people into office who will focus on the needs of the kids.

Councilmember Noble said the Council recently received a report on the Bel-Red affordable housing issue. He thanked the Commission for taking the time to craft a letter to the Planning Commission, and he noted that the Planning Commission took the letter very seriously and is looking to change its recommendation accordingly. The Council has expressed general concurrence with the direction the Planning Commission is taking.

Councilmember Noble reported that he has been appointed to serve as a member of the Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) oversight group. Seattle is the only other city with a representative; the Suburban Cities Association has a representative.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie said the strategies for the MIDD implementation plan are going to be out for public comment after May 9. The public comment period will run for two weeks. The King County Alliance for Human Services and the Eastside Human Services Forum are both looking over the strategies and will provide comment. The City Council is working on an interest statement as well.

Commissioner Beighle said she recently toured the Avondale Park development and attended a tribute to former Redmond Mayor Doreen Marchione after whom the community center has been named. There are 50 transitional units, including some emergency shelters, in the development. Donations of furniture are accepted, and

the families get to get it when they move out. Families in the units must pay 30 percent of their income for rent.

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran reported that his department has been tasked by the Council to bring forward a recommendation on a park bond package. Staff are in the final stages of putting it all together. He said he hopes to be able to update the Commission soon regarding everything that will be included in the package and what the costs will be.

Mr. Foran noted that the week of April 28 to May 2 was volunteer appreciation week. He took a moment to thank the Commissioners for their willingness to serve on behalf of the city. The decisions made by the Commission literally translate into giving people homes to live in and food to eat, and the services they need to get back on track. As a token of appreciation, he gave each Commissioner a small gift.

Councilmember Noble said the willingness of individuals in the community to volunteer their time is one of the things that makes Bellevue a great place to live.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to open the public hearing was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Stout and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Marty Jacobs, Family Services Director for Child Care Resources, thanked the Commission for its support for childcare and human services in Bellevue. She said Child Care Resources is funded in part by the city to provide childcare services that support Goal Area 5. The organization provides childcare information and referral, childcare scholarships for working poor families, childcare subsidies for families that are homeless, and training and technical assistance for childcare providers. The most recent Needs Update identifies the fact that there is a lack of affordable high-quality childcare in Bellevue. In the past few years the organization has been seeing an increase in the diversity of those calling the information and referral line; the number of people of color calling has increased from 49 percent in 2006 to 61 percent in the first quarter of 2008, and the number of Latino families has increased by about 30 percent in the first quarter over 2007.

The ethnic diversity of childcare providers is also changing. The majority of families served by the organization have low income status. The childcare scholarship program is currently serving 29 children from 24 different families, and there is a waiting list of 24 additional children. Affordability and availability of high-quality childcare remains a major barrier for families. Among the 60 family childcare providers caring for some 180 infants, there are only four vacancies. There are 30 family childcare providers caring for some 250 school-aged children, and they report a vacancy rate of only one percent. Families that use the DSHS subsidy find the problems even more difficult; only 56 percent of childcare providers accept the subsidy. The cost of care in Bellevue and on the Eastside is higher than in any other

area of King County, with the average cost of infant care at \$900 per month in family daycare, and \$1,273 in a center. For the family earning 300 percent of the federal poverty level, the average cost of having an infant and preschooler in childcare would require 58 percent of their gross income.

Childcare providers encounter barriers in their effort to supply high-quality services as well, particularly those whose first language is not English. Child Care Resources has responded to the need by providing training and technical assistance in other languages. In 2007 the first family child care conference in Bellevue included a track in Spanish; the 2008 conference will offer a track in Urdu at the request of a child care licenser. Technical assistance has also been provided to Farsi-speaking providers.

Fortunately funding for childcare services has remained fairly stable. Funding for a quality rating improvement system is one area that is increasing, though not initially in Bellevue. There are concerns about HUD funding for the homeless subsidy program, so other sources of funding for that area are being sought. Funding has been sought from United Way to help providers either expand or start new childcare programs.

Mr. Joe Cunningham, Senior Development Officer with the Kindering Center, said he is also the father of a child diagnosed with autism. He said he learned about the Kindering Center through the Fathers Network, one of the programs offered by the organization. He said in 2007 the organization served over 3,000 children with special needs. Issues are being faced as certain disabilities are diagnosed more often, such as autism, but the commitment of the organization is to continue meeting the needs. There is a need to meet the challenge of a rising rate of premature births.

During the last school year the infants and toddlers program served 1,020 kids in the specific intervention programs; two years ago the number served was only 698. Over the last five years there has been a 248 percent increase in enrollment. One of the reasons is the incontrovertible evidence of the efficacy of early intervention. The reputation of the organization in the community is triggering many more recommendations.

One of the challenges facing the Kindering Center is the changes to the funding stream. Revenues are not keeping pace. On average it costs about \$13,000 per year per child for the services delivered, but reimbursements are closer to \$9,000. The forecast for the number of children to be served in 2009 will add another \$600,000 to the overall funding gap. The support of the city of Bellevue is appreciated, but the organization intends to continue building other forms of support. The organization is also seeing changes to a couple of major funding services; the contract with King County will cap the number of children served at 328 children per month, which will seriously impact the overall enrollment. Loss of the Medicaid match program cut \$500,000 from the agency's budget. Continued support by the city of Bellevue will be both needed and appreciated.

Mr. Bob Simpson with Hero House, a clubhouse model for psychiatric rehabilitation located in Bellevue. He said the mission is to support a growing number of Eastside adults living with serious mental illness to live with increased hope, empowerment, relationships, and opportunities to sustain themselves as respected members of society. The organization was recently awarded the highest level of certification from the International Center for Clubhouse Development; the Bellevue facility was acclaimed as an elite clubhouse operating in a truly effective manner. There are more than 400 clubhouses in operation worldwide, about half of which are the States. The Bellevue operation has been certified for three years with no conditions, an outstanding achievement for such a new organization.

The members participate in the work of the clubhouse through two units, the business and hospitality units. The clubhouse has a supported education program and a well-proven employment program, including transitional employment, supported employment, and independent employment. The organization provides an extensive transportation program to assist the members in accessing services, employment, social and recreational needs, and medical appointments.

The Bellevue facility has been open for two and a half years. The membership has doubled in the past 12 months alone. Seventy-four percent of the members are enrolled in an educational program, are volunteering in the community, and/or are working in a competitively paid employment opportunity. About one-third of the clients are from Bellevue.

According to the Human Services Needs Update, about 29,000 Bellevue residents struggle with mental illness every year. The adults among them can find services at Hero House in the services offered regardless of DVR status, insurance coverage, or Medicaid eligibility. Other major mental institutions on the Eastside do not accept non-Medicaid applicants. While the organization engages in legislative advocacy, fundraising and corporate grant-making, the state and federal dollars are diminishing. Local communities must help fund their residents, so Hero House will be submitting a request for funding under the parent organization NAMI Eastside.

Mr. Jesse Levine spoke as a member of Hero House. He said before joining Hero House he was low and did not care what anyone thought of him. He said he was unemployable and did not focus on taking care of himself. At Hero House he found a safe place in which to rejuvenate himself. He said he is now employed through the transitional employment program, served as a member ambassador to the 2007 clubhouse conference, is an active member of the clubhouse committee which involves public speaking, serves on the Hero House advisory board, and recently completed the facility training program for NAMI. He said he serves as a role model to his peers with mental illnesses.

Ms. Faith Wimberley with Community Health Centers of King County explained that the organization offers medical, dental, complementary, alternative and behavioral health services for anyone regardless of their ability to pay. There are currently 12

clinics in operation, including in the city of Bellevue. The organization is seeing a larger percentage of aging adults, particularly for dental care, and is seeing a growing percentage of persons of color from non-Spanish speaking cultures.

The agency is committed to its four focus areas but has expanded its services within those categories. Barriers highlighted often by patients include access to dental services and access to specialty care.

Over the past few years there have been significant changes to the funding picture. Recently groups have begun funding based on specific programs or specific demographics, which has proved a challenge to funding the continuum of services offered by the agency. The current focus on homelessness and housing is good for the community as a whole, but should not draw funding away from supporting the core level of medical care needed by Eastside residents.

Mr. James Wangelin, a board member of NAMI Eastside, thanked the Commission for its generous support for the organization which has allowed the agency to expand its programs to the Eastside. He explained that a portion of funding for the organization used to come from a King County infrastructure grant; unfortunately that funding has been reconsidered. That leaves NAMI in a challenging position, though the organization is continuing to expand its programs and outreach to all age groups and ethnicities.

Ms. Kathleen Johanson, Board President of Eastside Domestic Violence Program, thanked the Commission for its continued support over the years. She said Bellevue is the largest city served by the organization. Breaking the cycle of violence is difficult, but programs like EDVP help families break the cycle, become self-sufficient, and live lives free of abuse. The organization has provided crisis line counseling, emergency shelter, women's and children's counseling, rental assistance and legal advocacy for 26 years, and recently has begun offering transitional and permanent housing per the King County ten-year plan to end homelessness. EDVP is the only domestic violence agency serving North and East King County. The sad reality is that there are only 90 domestic violence beds in all of King County, which falls far short of meeting the need.

There are nearly 91,000 victims annually. EDVP served over 5,600 victims in 2007 and answered over 8,800 crisis calls. For every victim sheltered, 13 are turned away. A large number of woman must hang up before their call to the crisis line can be answered.

The annual operating budget of the agency is split between federal/city contracts and public support, which is private donors, foundations and United Way. Of every dollar received, eighty-four cents is spent on programs.

Ms. Lynda Wolf with Hopelink highlighted the employment program which has been generously supported by the city with CDBG funds. She thanked the Commission for its continued support for programs that help low-income individuals and families. Over the past several years the area has enjoyed declining unemployment levels; however, more and more people are struggling to earn a living wage and maintain housing and food stability. The current economic trend is toward a rise in unemployment, which is a concern. The employment program Hopelink offers works with low-income residents to teach them appropriate workplace behaviors and skills. The program also helps the residents build work support systems for their families, such as childcare and transportation solutions, to help them achieve and maintain employment. Hopelink works closely with Bellevue Community College and the Lake Washington Technical College to encourage and support low-wage workers in obtaining higher skills leading to higher employment wage progression.

Through the community jobs program, Hopelink contracts with the State Community Trade and Economic Develop (CTED) and the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) to provide a six-month subsidized internship for low-skill Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. The recipients earn a wage while in a semi-protected job, allowing them to learn the skills necessary to maintain employment.

Two of the five goals identified in the most recent Needs Update are Food to Eat and a Roof Overhead, and Education and Job Skills to Lead an Independent Life. The program provided by Hopelink addresses those goal areas directly.

As of 2006, it was reported that a family of four needed \$38,000 in annual earnings to make ends make. With increases in food and transportation costs, that figure has now risen substantially. Hopelink serves the families that do not attain the living wage threshold. The employment program is embedded in the larger family development program in which the clients are supported in moving from at-risk to safe to thriving. The programs include training, job preparation, job search, retainment, job retention and wage progression. Hopelink works on family support issues by providing case management that helps parents develop solutions for housing issues, transportation problems, family dynamics, and other aspects that affect overall wellbeing.

Hopelink is implementing a new innovating partnership in 2008 with Employment Security Work Source and Bellevue Community College to provide educational opportunities, tutoring, case management, internships and employment placement to disadvantaged students who are enrolled in the opportunity grant at the college. The unique program is being funded by the Seattle Foundation. Research by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges has shown that short-term training of less than one year may help with entering the labor market, but it usually does not help people get past low-paying jobs. According to the study, the tipping point for living wage jobs was one full year of college or completion of a certificate program. The program is focused on keeping students and young parents enrolled and

succeeding in their training programs so they can move on to getting living wage jobs.

Mr. Steve Roberts, Executive Director of Congregations for the Homeless, said the shelter program for single men has been in existence since 1994. The shelter has 30 beds and has been full for the last year. To date, 22 men have been placed in permanent housing and there have been no failures. The secret to success in housing is case management. The program uses a lot of volunteers, including case managers. The member churches provide the space, the food and the support.

Over the last year more men have been coming to the shelter who have been through DSHS and who are receiving supplemental payments. While some have settled on receiving \$338 per month, but a number of others have made the decision to stop receiving that payment and start working again. A number of the clients have also enrolled in treatment programs and there have been some real successes in overcoming addictions.

The improvements to the mental health treatment system on the Eastside has been a welcome change. The number of clients in need of mental health treatment and case management has been on the increase, so having new providers and services available has been important for the program.

The goal of the program is to help single men get out of the cycle of homelessness, and the key starting point is and will continue to be affordable housing. The work of the Human Services Commission in regard to the Bel-Red corridor is laudable. Hopefully the City Council will get behind the issue and take advantage of the opportunity to make the kind of changes that are necessary. Fully 27 percent of the people who work in Bellevue cannot afford to live in Bellevue.

Congregations for the Homeless continues to enjoy great support from King County. The program receives State 2163 and other funding which is used to pay for the housing subsidies and some case management.

Ms. Sarah Sena, Community Programs Director for Eastside Domestic Violence Program, thanked the Commission for its continued support of programs for battered women and their children in Bellevue. She said a number of different groups and services have risen to the surface in the past couple of years. The Latino services coordinator reports that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Spanish-speaking women seeking services; that fact can be tied both to the increased level of outreach to that community, and to the fact that the population continues to increase. There has also been an increase in the number of requests for outreach, and an increase in the number of teens accessing services as a result of being witnesses of violence in their own families.

EDVP is seeing a lot of funding shift away from direct service and toward prevention. While that is a good approach to take, the shift damages the ability of the agency to

prevent domestic violence over the long term. Funding should be earmarked both for prevention and direct service. There has also been a shift in funding toward permanent housing, which has left a gap in funding for emergency housing services for domestic violence survivors.

There are a number of barriers domestic violence clients face in trying to access services. The top barrier is language. It cannot be known how many women do not seek to access domestic violence services because they do not have access in their native language to any information about the available programs. EDVP hopes to hire more staff who speak a variety of languages. Affordable housing is a major barrier to people seeking safety from domestic violence. Childcare is another barrier, as is the lack of affordable or free legal representation.

The budget crises being experienced by King County is disconcerting to EDVP. Human services are projected to receive a significant cut in funding; for EDVP, that could mean a loss of \$200,000 over the next three years. EDVP is optimistic that it will be receiving some funding from the mental health and chemical dependency sales tax.

Ms. Gloria Backus, staff attorney with the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, said domestic violence is a serious problem in society. People who have limited incomes have a very difficult time getting legal services of any type. ELAP fills a valuable niche on the Eastside. The domestic violence clients who gain assistance from ELAP tell stories about how violence has affected their lives and how it is impacting the lives of their children. ELAP acts to make sure people get into safe situations, either by obtaining a protection order or by helping them file the necessary legal paperwork.

In addition to services for domestic violence victims, ELAP volunteer attorneys put on clinics at which low-income people can obtain information about wills, housing issues, and other civil law matters.

The city has funded ELAP in the past and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

Ms. Valarie Costa, Evaluation and Accountability Manager for Senior Services, said the non-profit organization serves seniors, families and their caregivers. She thanked the Commission for the funding allocated for three of the agency's eleven programs: the Minor Home Repair Program, the Volunteer Transportation Program, and Meals on Wheels.

The programs offered by the agency that are not funded by the city include the Community Dining Program at the North Bellevue Community Center, information and assistance, senior rights assistance, health insurance advisors, and fitness classes.

Senior Services is seeing an increase in the number of clients under the age of 60

and in the number of individuals with disabilities. The caregiver and transportation programs are growing very fast.

Like other organizations, Senior Services is experiencing funding challenges. The increased cost of food and fuel are major challenges. Transportation is always a challenge for low-income residents. An area can have all the services in the world, but without transportation clients will not be able to access them.

Ms. Deborah Jones with NAMI Eastside said one in every one hundred people have schizophrenia. The ones people hear about are usually those who have made the news for one reason or another. Mental illnesses, particularly schizophrenia, disables young adults. She said she and her husband became associated with NAMI Eastside when their 21-year-old son was diagnosed with schizophrenia; the program they participated in was the Family to Family course, a national curriculum taught by volunteers who are facing similar situations. The program first offers support and then education. Many who take the course become advocates.

Hero House offers transitional or supported employment. The concept is that the staff go to the job site with the individual member, and both learn the job. If a member is unable to show up to work on a particular day, the staff person takes their place and does the work free of charge to the employer. The program allows members to continue in their job while gaining confidence and skills that hopefully will lead them to full independent employment.

Ms. Carolina Lucero with SeaMar Community Health Centers said the organization is set to open a clinic in the Crossroads area. The non-profit community-based organization provides health and human services for low-income and other individuals. The organization has been operating in Washington state for about 30 years and in 2007 served over 93,000 unduplicated residents in over 400,000 visits. Over the years there have been requests to bring the service to Bellevue to serve the low-income and Spanish-speaking community. She said she looks forward to working with the city.

The mental health component of SeaMar has been providing services in Bellevue for about five months. Services have also been provided to Latino seniors in the city for close to eight years at a local senior center.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Stout and the motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION

A. 2009-2010 Human Services Funding Review Process

Ms. Leslie said the issue to explore is whether the Commission should spend a lot of time reviewing applications for agencies and programs that have been historically

funded by the city, or if there should be a tiered funding process established. She suggested the Commission would likely want to spend more time on applications for new or changed programs, on agencies or programs with contract performance issues, on programs that are similar, or on programs that represent very large grant amounts.

Chair Yantis commented that the process traditionally employed by the Commission in which each application is very carefully scrutinized, item by item and program by program, down to the minutest detail, often with little impact on the eventual outcome. He suggested that the programs that are doing well according to the guidelines should be separated out for a more streamlined review.

Commissioner Stout stressed the need to be very careful not to just automatically fund certain groups. Needs change over time. The Commission needs to make sure it is funding the services Bellevue citizens need, not just those programs that have been traditionally funded.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese suggested letting staff do the initial screening. Any Commissioner wanting to scrutinize an application in the first tier could take the time to do so and then report concerns back to the full group. That would keep the Commissioners from having to scrutinize every single application.

Commissioner Seltzer noted that staff provides a report for each application and program, and as they craft their report they will be aware of any specific changes to long-standing programs. They could tier the applications appropriately.

Chair Yantis observed that in past years the Commission has found it difficult to remove funding from programs that seem to be doing the function they were contracted to do. When that action has been necessary, it has been a very difficult process. If there is to be a change in funding for ongoing programs, there should be a very good reason for doing so.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese commented that some of the questions raised by the Commission during the review process might trigger a response from the provider to make some changes to a program. Ms. Leslie said it certainly helps the agencies to know where the Commission is coming from. The feedback helps them understand how the Commission is viewing their particular programs.

Commissioner Seltzer questioned the necessity of going over all the individual unit costs for the programs previously funded. Those are things the staff can understand and handle much better than the Commission anyway. Commissioner Hoople agreed, pointing out that in many cases the comparison of unit costs involves apples and oranges; trying to make sense of the unit costs can just be a waste of time.

Chair Yantis said he would prefer to avoid deliberating the applications for months and then giving them each a COLA increase. He agreed with Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese that one solution might be to divide up the Commission into groups and have each group review a portion of the applications. That approach might lead to asking and having answered the questions most pertinent to funding.

Commissioner Stout allowed that each Commissioner has specific areas of expertise and the applications could be divided up accordingly and reviewed by those Commissioners. Each application should be reviewed by at least two Commissioners, and if there is a disagreement or a lot of questions, a third Commissioner should be asked to review the application as well. Each group should then provide a summary of their findings to the full Commission, and that process may in turn generate additional questions.

Commissioner Stout suggested that the Commission groups reviewing the applications would need to craft a written report to be brought back to the full Commission to avoid any gaps in understanding.

Chair Yantis noted that if a COLA increase is given to all of the applications, the Commission will have only about \$44,000 in new funds to allocate. If the applications are not given a COLA, there will be about \$100,000 available, and the Commission will have more opportunity to focus on the areas determined to be the most important.

Commissioner Seltzer suggested that a COLA should either be given to all previously funded applications or to none of them. Picking and choosing can lead to trouble. Ms. Leslie said the information that went out to the agencies with the applications gave a heads up that there may not be a COLA increase.

Chair Yantis said the decision to give a COLA or not should be made by the Commission prior to reviewing the applications.

Mr. Foran suggested the Commission should make some policy decisions about repeat funding and COLA increases. He said staff sees emerging needs in the community every time the Needs Update is published. Applications for funding flow in soon after and the Commission every time has to review them and make very difficult decisions about how to allocate limited dollars in a way that will have a positive impact. The only way to have enough money to effect a significant impact in a single area would be to shave the allocations across the board. In the overall scheme of things, that approach hurts more than it helps; it is not the best way to move toward some new trend. The Council provides the COLA specifically to give the agencies an annual increase.

Mr. Foran said the matter of efficiency for the Commission comes down to deciding what issues to spend time on. He suggested the two issues most applicable are the relevancy of the service to the Commission strategies and the effectiveness of the services. Agency accountability and administrative capabilities should not be the

focus of the Commission in determining allocations; those are areas the staff already focus on. The Commission should feel completely confident that staff will not submit an application for funding unless it is worthy to be funded.

Chair Yantis said with few exceptions the agencies being funded by the city deserve more money than the city has to give them. For that reason, it might make a bigger difference in the community to give each a COLA increase than it would to hold back those funds and earmark them for some new targeted area.

Councilmember Noble said his view is that in only rare instances does it work to expand the funding circle by taking a percentage away from everyone. That approach is easy, but it is unfair and inequitable, and it causes more problems down the line. He allowed that there are some instances where withholding the COLA may be appropriate, but it is not the way he would go generally. Adding to what Mr. Foran said, he said in the same way the Commission should be able to trust the recommendations of staff, the Council trusts the recommendations of the Commission.

Mr. Foran said the service delivery strategy of the city is to ensure that the network remains viable. The concept of a COLA increase meets that criteria. If one or two providers drop out for some reason, the services they provided are no longer in play. The primary area of struggle is how to address emerging needs as they are identified. Shaving everyone by a few percentage points is one way to have funds to allocate to the new area, but the approach is not necessarily in keeping with making sure the network is whole. Even if a service is no longer relevant to the Commission strategy, it still may be in the city's best interest to keep it viable. Some other means of responding to trends and innovation should be sought.

Chair Yantis said the process the Commission has traditionally followed has been to maintain an even a keel as possible for six years and then seek additional funding from the Council to catch up. The only other alternative would be to use the available COLA funds to address new trends. He said he would like to see more put into prevention services, but to date the city has not been able to do that because the basic needs are so great.

Mr. Foran reiterated that it will all come down to a policy call.

There was consensus to assume a COLA increase will be given unless an agency has not met expectations.

Mr. Foran informed the Commissioners that some serious discussions internal to the department are going on about how to meet new trends and address gaps. He said there are a variety of things done by the department that overlap many of the agencies funded by the Commission. The concept of the wrap-around services project acknowledges that fact. The department has shifted how its existing resources are being used within the schools so they will be more broadly effective.

Additional funding shifts and moves will be explored.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A female who did not identify herself by name reported that she has been on the King County Housing Authority waiting list for a home for over a year and a half. She said they encourage those on the waiting list to check in with them regularly, but noted that every time she calls she fails to get a live person on the other end of the phone. She said she is also on the waiting list for Hopelink and St. Andrews Housing Group, the latter for six years. Having such long waiting lists does little to help someone in crisis.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yantis adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date