

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 5, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Beighle

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Chair Yantis who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of
Commissioner Beighle who was excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 1, 2008

Commissioner Hoople called attention to page 8 and the discussion of the Crisis
Clinic and said the minutes should reflect that the Commission discussed the fact that
the 2-1-1 service is not operated 24/7. Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly
clarified that calls after a certain hour are automatically routed to the Crisis Line.

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

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Hoople reported that on July 29 he attended a meeting at Veterans Memorial Park. He said the focus of the meeting was to make it known that through contract agreements the King County Veterans Program will be working with the state and other agencies to provide programs to veterans around the region.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie called attention to the Maria Cantwell event to be held in Council Chambers on August 7 on the topic of affordable housing. She said anyone planning to attend must RSVP.

Ms. Leslie said on July 31 she attended the King County budget office forum for human services providers. The event, which was held in White Center, was fairly well attended. There was a good segment on KUOW the next morning by a reporter who covered the event. Most who attended were there to hear what solutions the County will be proposing to fix the budget problems, but the presentations focused on the difficulties associated with balancing the budget given all the variables. It was stated that the proposed cuts will be made known to the human services community ahead of releasing them to the general public. The projected budget deficit was reported to be \$86 million.

Chair Yantis asked how the County plans to deal with the situation. Ms. Leslie said at the forum it was said the County government needs the authority to generate revenues from different sources. Essentially, the county only collects sales and property taxes, whereas local cities can charge utility, B&O, property, sales and other taxes in addition to fees. The County is looking at a laundry list of options, all of which would require legislative authority. If the County could charge a utility tax on just residents in unincorporated areas, the revenues would total some \$30 million; if levied on all County residents, the take would be closer to \$50 million. The County is also working on encouraging annexation of unincorporated areas into adjacent incorporated areas.

Ms. O'Reilly provided the Commissioners with copies of an article regarding the costs of childcare rising at a rate faster than inflation.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Preliminary Review of Goal #5 Human Service Funding Applications & CDBG Applications

76. Alliance of People with disAbilities - Youth In Transition Program

Commissioner Lazetti said the club for teens and young adults with disabilities seeks to teach the life and problem-solving skills necessary to make informed decisions about their futures. The club activities support the teens in transitioning from high school to being active members of their communities. She said the application does

a good job of outlining the need and describing how the program meets the need. Within the next four years 584 individuals will exit special education programs with no added funding for transitional services. Youths with disabilities make up 11.5 percent of the 16-20 year old range in King County.

Commissioner Lazetti said the application meets one of the three focus areas, namely homelessness. The program outcomes are focused on outreach and are based on research done by the National Alliance on Secondary Education.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program fills in the cracks left by AtWork!. The program began in Shoreline but has since branched out.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese called attention to the budget paid and highlighted the large expenditure for telephone, from \$620 to \$13,200; she said she would like to hear more about that from the agency.

Commissioner Hoople observed that salaries increased more than 200 percent. In addition, program costs between 2008 and 2009 are shown to increase by 153 percent for only six more people. It was agreed some clarification on the service units is needed.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese noted that the application does not specify where the service locations in East King County are located.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested the agency should also indicate what conversations, if any, they have had with the Bellevue or Lake Washington School Districts.

Commissioner Stout said she would like to know if the program in any way overlaps, duplicates or is coordinated with the programming offered at Highland Center in Bellevue.

77. AtWork! - Community Liaison

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program seeks to connect people to the business community by building relationships and determining employee/employer matches. She pointed out that some of the information in question six was confusing.

Commissioner Stout commented that the agency recently made a major shift in program delivery. Most of their clients are no longer in workshops on site; they are integrated into work sites in the community.

Intern Torrey Morgan noted that the city currently funds a program called the High School and Adult Transition to Community Employment. According to AtWork! staff, the application contemplates a continuation of that program.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the application says nothing about offering

services in languages other than English. The program does fit the homelessness focus area and is coordinated with other groups. No fundraising is shown for the program.

Commissioner Lazetti observed that there was a change in the service unit terminology regarding costs; the unit cost has been changed from an hour to a session, which is not defined. Additionally, the unit cost in the second service unit has changed from an hour to a substantive contact, which is also not defined.

78. AtWork! - Vocational Services Coordinator

Commissioner Lazetti referred to question 19 and said she was confused by what could be a typo; the funds requested from all cities is less than the funds requested from just the North and East King County cities.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the application does not show any requested funding from Issaquah. Commissioner Lazetti pointed out that Issaquah is contributing the building space.

79. Bellevue Community College - Adult ESL

Chair Yantis said the program provides the adult ESL population in Bellevue with community accessible instruction in four skill areas. The program includes childcare. The outcomes are appropriate. The budget numbers in the application are actual for 2007 but goals for 2008 and 2009.

Commissioner Stout referred to the figures in question 19 and questioned whether or not the Bellevue School District will pony up \$37,000 cash for the program, and asked why costs for the program chair should tally up to \$6,300. Ms. Morgan said she would seek clarification of the figures, adding that they may be in-kind contributions.

80. Bellevue Community College - Preparing for Work

Commissioner Stout said she likes the package of application 79 and 80 together because they provide a continuum for clients. The first works with families and the second looks more at preparing people to move into jobs with wage progression. The outcomes are appropriate, well chosen and well documented. Strong coordination and linkages are shown with schools and employers. The same questions asked about the budget for application 79 apply.

Chair Yantis asked what resources might be available from grants for the two programs, and how diligently BCC goes after them.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out a typo in the projected 2008 costs, noting that the figure should read \$88,035. He also noted that the outcomes success percentages are lower for 2008. Commissioner Stout observed that some of their sample sizes are quite small.

81. Bellevue Community College - Women's Center: Center for Career Connections

Chair Yantis commented that the program has been around for a long time and has evolved from where it started out. The program addresses the needs of refugees and immigrants, dislocated workers, homemakers, welfare recipients, low-income residents and others who are seeking livable-wage jobs and the short-term training needed for advancement in the workplace.

Commissioner Stout called attention to question 15 and noted that the data shows the same numbers in every column except for Issaquah. She said she is always suspicious of numbers that come out the same when they are supposed to be based on gathered data.

Chair Yantis said the numbers in question 14-C are very confusing. He said he would like the agency to break down those numbers in a little more detail.

Commissioner Stout also noted that some of the data on page 12 of the application is three years old, which is disappointing.

Chair Yantis said he could not tell from the application information how many clients earned more after participating in the program than they did before. He said it would be helpful to see outcomes that are more specific to the stated goals.

82. Hopelink - Adult Education Program

Commissioner Seltzer said the program used to be called Eastside Literacy and has been around for a long time offering English instruction for the immigrant population. The service is offered both in classroom settings and privately. Some of the sites offer childcare. The program certainly addresses the issue of cultural competency. The program is very well coordinated with other agencies.

Commissioner Hoople called attention to question 19 and said he did not understand what the CTC money is. He also pointed out that while participation in the program is increasing, at the same time total program costs are going down. Fundraising, in-kind contributions and the CTC revenue sources are all down, and the cities are being asked to increase their funding shares.

83. Hopelink - Employment Program

Commissioner Seltzer said the funding sought for the employment program is for a case manager to serve Bellevue low-income residents.

Commissioner Seltzer said she was confused by the statement on page 7 that at this time the only city that can provide funding for the program is Bellevue. Ms. Leslie explained that the program is eligible for CDBG funds, and the only city from which the program can get CDBG funding is Bellevue. Because the program operates in Bellevue, King County CDBG funds cannot be allocated to it. Commissioner Seltzer pointed out that clients come from a number of cities other than Bellevue, and Ms. Leslie said the agency should be asked to explain why it is not seeking King County CDBG funds for those clients.

Commissioner Hoople commented that the budget page of the application includes some blanks, including the sum of the revenues from the various cities. Also, the cost of benefits for 2008 is shown as \$20,000 more than salaries.

84. Jewish Family Service - Refugee and Immigrant Service Center

Commissioner Hoople said the program includes social adjustment and resettlement services for refugees and immigrants to promote self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness. The program includes job placement, social service connections, ESL, and citizenship classes.

Commissioner Seltzer pointed out that the answer given to question nine is concise and clear. She added that the program is well connected to most other service agencies and programs.

Commissioner Hoople commented favorably on the fact that the application talks about the number of participants who have retained their jobs for at least 90 days. He also noted that the last sentence to the answer given to question 23 appeared to have been cut off.

85. Jubilee Reach Center - Storytime/ESL Program

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the ESL program for immigrants and adults is paired with child care and storytime to help prepare pre-kindergarten immigrant children. The program meets at least two of the program funding areas. The outcomes are within acceptable limits. The program utilizes a lot of volunteers and is very Bellevue specific.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Hoople, Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese explained that the program is aimed at both the adults and the children. While the adults are given ESL instruction, the children enjoy storytime aimed at helping them learn English and become ready for school.

Commissioner Stout said the families that participate in the program generally live in the same neighborhood and will be together over a number of years because their kids will all be going to the same schools.

Commissioner Lazetti said she likes the idea that most of the volunteers on the ESL side are retired teachers. She noted, however, that there is nothing measurable built into the curriculum, and they do not ask for income data.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the application states the program is not tied to the school readiness agenda; she said that issue should be addressed.

86. YWCA of Seattle King County Snohomish County - Eastside Employment Services

Commissioner Hoople explained that the program provides individual employment counseling, job search skills, job training, and follow-up services to low-income adults.

Commissioner Stout noted that the program has been funded by the city for a number of years.

Commissioner Seltzer referred to question 17 and questioned why the outcome is focused on retained employment for only 30 days.

Turning to the CDBG applications, Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that no increase in CDBG funding is anticipated. For that reason, no new CDBG applications were received. She shared with the Commissioners estimates for what the staff believes will be received, and a proposal for how to allocate the funds.

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that in 2007 a request was put in for an extra 0.25 FTE for Sam Ezadean who heads up the Home Repair Program. The request was granted and his full-time status has paid off; the number of clients nearly doubled in a year. The salary increase, however, was included as a limited term employee; the current Parks budget request seeks to convert that portion of his position to permanent employee status.

Ms. Leslie explained that the next two Commission meetings will be focused on the second round of application reviews. The staff reviews will be released, and agency representatives will be asked to attend and respond to any last-minute questions.

The Commissioners reviewed the list of applications in Goal 1 and determined that representatives from Eastside Baby Corner, Emergency Feeding Program, Hopelink Emergency Feeding Program, Refugee Women's Alliance, St. Andrew's Housing Group, and World Impact Network should be specifically encouraged to attend and answer questions. For Goal 2, it was decided that Asian Pacific Language School

Learning Center, Chinese Information and Service Center, Refugee Women's Alliance, and Institute for Family Development should be encouraged to attend.

Ms. Leslie provided the Commissioners with updated figures from the Finance Department relative to the human services formula. She noted that in the preliminary numbers the inflation rate was shown at 2.6 percent; in the updated numbers, that figure was increased to 5.8 percent. That means there will be a big bump in the allocation.

The Commissioners discussed the issue of not being allowed to allocate more than an application asks for. It was noted that some agencies have asked for flat funding, while others have asked for an increase of about three percent. In those cases, it will not be possible to allocate a cost-of-living adjustment of 5.8 percent. Those agencies that have asked for a ten percent increase could end up getting 5.8 percent, thus the agencies that tried to be frugal could in a way be penalized. It was suggested that a more modest COLA of three percent or so should be offered across the board, and that the balance of the 5.8 percent increase be allocated in some other way.

There was agreement to set the COLA at 3.2 percent, the figure projected for the second year of the two-year funding cycle.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that if the rate of inflation actually increases beyond the projected 5.8 percent in the coming year, some agencies may see severe holes in their budgets. Additionally, what will happen with King County funding is another unknown.

7. OLD BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Yantis sought to know from the Commissioners their level of interest in having a Day of Caring project. Ms. Leslie said a few years ago the Commission worked jointly with the United Way East Community Council on a project, and in other years various city groups have participated. For 2008, Day of Caring is scheduled for Friday, September 12. The Commissioners indicated an interest in being involved.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yantis adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date