

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 26, 2012
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Bruels, Commissioners Beighle, McEachran, Perelman, Plaskon, Stout

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Yantis

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Bruels who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:13 p.m., and Commissioner Yantis who was excused.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

5. DISCUSSION

A. Discuss and Determine General Fund Preliminary Recommendations

Emily Leslie said the primary purpose was to review the recommendations made to date and revisit dollar amounts, in addition to the small amount that remained to be allocated.

Commissioner Stout offered a number of funding suggestions. She said it would be easy to pull a thousand dollars each from the Hopelink Emergency Food, Senior Services Meals on Wheels, AtWork! Community Liaison, AtWork! Transitional Employment, and Bellevue College Head Start applications, and to pull up to \$3000

each from the Boys and Girls Club Project Learn and Child Care Resources Child Care Financial Assistance applications. Applications that could benefit from additional funding include World Impact Food Bank and Sea Mar Community Health Centers Medical and Behavioral Health.

Ms. Leslie pointed out that Hopelink took the food bank out of its Financial Assistance Program and combined it with their Feeding Program to form a single request. Given that reminder, there was agreement not to change the preliminary recommendation for that application.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested that the growing population of isolated older adults in the city argues against taking funding away from the Senior Services Meals on Wheels application. The Commissioners concurred and made no change to the preliminary recommendation.

With regard to the two AtWork! applications, Commissioner Plaskon noted that in addition to funding reductions from United Way, the agency has also experienced funding reductions from the state. Commissioner Perelman suggested any further reductions would be detrimental to the programs. The conclusion reached was not to change the preliminary allocation.

There was agreement to reduce the preliminary recommendation for the Bellevue College Head Start application by \$1000, and to reduce the Boys and Girls Club Project Learn application by \$3000.

Commissioner Perelman argued in favor of reducing the Bellevue College Career Center application, but the other Commissioners did not concur.

There was consensus to reduce the preliminary allocation to the Child Care Resources Financial Assistance by \$3000.

The Commission agreed with the proposal made by Commissioner Plaskon to reduce the preliminary allocation for the Bellevue School District Human Services application by \$1277, the amount of the cost of living increase.

Ms. Leslie said during the debriefing session following the Commission's June 19 meeting, staff raised concerns about the conclusion reached to defund the Jubilee REACH program. The desire of the Commission to send a message to the agency regarding its accountability is understandable, but it is not the only agency where there are accountability issues, yet the other agencies are not being defunded. She suggested calling the accountability issues to the attention of each agency where there are issues and either not increasing their allocation or reduce it to some degree, and formulating a corrective action plan with specific timelines to be followed.

Commissioner Beighle said she has always had questions about the program and has never felt completely comfortable with it. The school district provides sports

programs, as do other organizations. Jubilee REACH is trying to do too much, is spreading itself too thin, and is pulling away from its primary focus. Ms. Leslie said the agency has been funded by the city for two funding cycles, or four years. For the first two years things went quite well; it has just been in the last year and a half that issues have popped up.

Commissioner Stout said she could support allocating \$5000 contingent on the agency towing the line during 2013; if there is not complete compliance, the second year of the contract should be canceled.

Mr. Adriano commented that Bellevue is known for going out of its way to work with agencies. Most of the time those efforts pay off and troubled agencies get back on their feet. Where Jubilee REACH is concerned, it feels almost as though the agency does not have the experiential capacity to understand what it takes to work with a government funder.

Commissioner Stout moved to allocate \$5000 to Jubilee REACH, with the proviso that if in one year the agency is not completely in compliance with its contract, funding for the second year of the contract will be eliminated; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Plaskon. The motion deadlocked 3-3 with Commissioners Stout, Plaskon and Perelman voting for the motion, and Chair Bruels and Commissioners McEachran and Beighle voting against the motion.

Ms. Leslie informed the Commissioners that after the meeting on June 19 she contacted Chair Bruels and Vice-Chair Yantis to inform them staff would be proposing a corrective action plan for Jubilee REACH since he wasn't able to attend the June 26th meeting. She said Commissioner Yantis supported the idea of a corrective action plan tied to funding rather than defunding the program. He suggested the Commission might want to reduce funding for the application and further indicated he would support that provided the reduction was not too much.

Commissioner Perelman asked why the Commission would even want to give funding to the agency when their application is poorly proposed and their ability to adhere to their contract provisions is questionable at best. Chair Bruels suggested that the approach outlined in the motion is the most practical. Ms. Leslie said the proposed approach puts the agency on probation and gives them a chance to respond. Mr. Adriano added that the city does not have an intermediate phase between the friendly approach of working with agencies and cutting them off; the corrective action is that middle step.

Commissioner McEachran voiced his willingness to change his vote and to initiate the corrective action outlined in the motion. That changed the balance in favor of the motion. He said he also would be willing to participate in a site visit.

The Commissioners concurred that the agency needs to report real outcomes not just outputs.

The Commission agreed the Sophia Way Sophia's Home application should be fully funded, and that the allocation to the Sophia Way Sophia's Place application should be increased to \$36,686. Additionally, the allocation to the Congregations for the Homeless Drop-In Center application was increased to \$15,462.

Commissioner Stout suggested that the transmittal memo to the Council should highlight the degree to which the faith-based community is involved in delivering human services in the city.

Ms. Leslie said the preliminary funding recommendations will be published to every agency that applied. The public hearing is the opportunity for the agencies to comment on the recommendations. Following the public hearing, the Commission will need to take a formal vote on the recommendations before forwarding them on to the City Council.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie shared with the Commission a video produced by the Eastside Human Services Forum at their recent educational event.

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bruels adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date