

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

June 19, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Mercer, Commissioners Kline, Ma, McEachran, Oxrieder, Perelman, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, Department of Parks and Community Services; Nancy LaCombe, City Manager's Office

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Mercer who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:18 p.m.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Oxrieder reported that she participated in the ARCH tour of public housing. She noted that Imagine Housing was given a lot of attention during the tour. She said while there was no place visited in which all units were considered affordable, the combinations within multifamily and neighborhoods of affordable and market-rate housing was very interesting.

Commissioner Ma added that it takes a variety of strategies in providing affordable housing. Some of the units visited were market-rate but less expensive overall because they were dormitory style units in which there was just a room and a bathroom in a community living format in which kitchen facilities are shared. Developments of that sort will continue to be needed to fill the projected need of 400,000 more units by 2040. Redmond requires developers to include affordable

housing; Bellevue only incentivizes affordable housing and to date developers have largely chosen not to take advantage of those incentives.

Commissioner McEachran said the request the affordable housing technical advisory group brought to the Council included the suggestion to put a one percent surcharge on all development to ensure the growth of attainable housing in Bellevue. The political will in that regard is based on a controversy between economic development and the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner McEachran said he attended the Basic and Transitional Studies graduation ceremony at Bellevue College. He said the college is one of the city's largest neighborhoods and does a marvelous job of reaching out to the cross-cultural communities. The *Puget Sound Business Journal* in its most recent edition had an article titled "Headless" that focused on the fact that Seattle is in desperate need for leadership as it recovers from the head tax issue. The article was a stunning review of the product brought forward by McKinsey showing the incapacity of King County to make a response that is not Seattle centric, leaving the Eastside sucking air in terms of affordable housing. The TAG group proposed 2500 affordable housing units over the course of ten years, but even that will not close the gap. In addressing attainable housing, job support is and will continue to be critical.

Chair Mercer remarked that a friend of hers in similar circumstances in regard to professional degree and income is in considerably different circumstances. She said that while she was able to buy a house eight years ago, her friend was not. So while her home value has doubled, her friend rents an apartment. The house payments are \$300 per month more than her friend's rent payments, but the interest on the mortgage is deductible, which is not true of rent. Recently there was a mix-up at the bank and her friend's rent payment did not go through on time, and the result was a \$300 fee. The issue of housing is not facing just the homeless. There are many professionals who for all intents and purposes are being killed by the system. Just creating all kinds of affordable units will not necessarily fight the market forces.

Commissioner Kline urged the Commissioners to read the McKinsey report which is very substantive and looks at a lot of aspects of homelessness that other reports have not addressed. She said she has had the perception for some time that a large percentage of the homeless population in Seattle moved in from outside the area, drawn by the benefits available to the homeless. The report did not bear that out at all.

Commissioner Ma asked if there were any way the Commission could recommend to or push the Council to change city policy to require the inclusion of affordable housing units in all development. He said economically people will want to come to Bellevue no matter what, and developers are going to develop in Bellevue no matter what. For affordable housing to be optional is a serious oversight that is resulting in the loss of opportunities every year. Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly stated that as Bellevue residents the Commissioners are absolutely entitled to make personal

contact with the Councilmembers. City Manager's Office Assistant Director Nancy LaCombe added that the Commission as an official body could advise the Council that the lack of affordable housing is a rising issue that will impact the city in a variety of ways.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the Council has already accepted the first strategy of the TAG, which is to find properties owned by faith communities and schools, as well as surplus government sites, on which affordable housing can be constructed. The approach would take very little re-permitting. He said pushing the envelope of affordable housing should begin there.

Commissioner Ma reiterated that it will take a number of strategies to really address the affordable housing issue. Focusing only on obtaining the more readily available properties will not be enough.

Ms. LaCombe reported that she has been following the ongoing Land Use Code amendment process related to allowing shelters as a use in the city. The Council recently held a public hearing and is slated to have a discussion on June 25. The potential exists that the Council will adopt the amendment that day as well, though there are contingency dates of July 2 and July 16. The interim controls currently in place allowing a shelter in the city expire on August 6.

Ms. LaCombe also informed the Commission that there is a homeless management leadership team made up of city department directors that has been meeting weekly to keep abreast of issues. One thing the group has been discussing is the potential of creating something similar to Seattle's navigation team that involves conducting outreach; the focus would be on assigning outreach workers and possibly some policy officers to do the work in Bellevue. Redmond and Everett both have something similar involving outreach workers. The homeless management team is considering putting together a budget proposal to hire a full-time outreach worker who would also work internally to increase coordination between fire, police, parks and other city departments. Given that the Council is facing a budget neutral year, adding the position will require an offset somewhere else. The position would not replace the Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker.

Commissioner McEachran asked Ms. LaCombe for her take on the 72 people who offered testimony during the Council's public hearing on the shelter issue. He said he was very happy to see that the faith communities weighed in heavily. Ms. LaCombe said she was actually surprised there were not more people to give testimony. She said she was impressed with the depth and breadth of the comments made by folks on both sides of the issue. She agreed that the faith community had done a good job of coordinating and making sure the right people were present, and allowed that those opposed to the shelter were equally prepared. The discourse was civil and that was a good thing.

Ms. LaCombe said the budget recommendation of the homeless management leadership team will likely not mesh with the funding recommendations forwarded to the Council by the Commission. She said the need is clear. The Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker operates full-time but is not able to do all that needs to be done.

Commissioner Ma noted that the shelters in the area are largely operating at capacity and he asked if referrals made by the outreach worker could even be addressed. Ms. LaCombe said some shelters are not currently at capacity, but she agreed that successful outreach could change that picture. The need for shelter space is likely to increase.

## 5. DISCUSSION

### A. Round 2 of Application Review – Goal 1 and Goal 2

Chair Mercer commented that the Commission has in the past developed along with the recommended funding an outline of what would be funded if there were additional funds available.

Commissioner Perelman said her preference would be to ask for new funding to address new programs that focus on diversity, such as aging, disability and culture, as well as programs that service illegal immigrants, including legal assistance and health services.

Commissioner McEachran said the McKinsey report was clear about the reasons why people become homeless. The factors listed included loss of jobs and substance abuse problems. The programs in Goal areas 3, 4 and 5 address those areas. Goal 1 is indeed powerful, but the action is in the other goal areas when it comes to remediating homelessness.

Commissioner Ma proposed adding a third column and including in it funding for certain programs along with a clear rationale. Commissioner Oxrieder agreed and suggested that items placed in the third column could be called out for how they specifically address diversity or meeting cultural needs. Chair Mercer agreed but proposed expressly marking those programs that meet the lens outlined by Commissioner Perelman.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano said the options before the Commission in working through the applications were to fully fund the request; keep the funding flat with no increase above the 2018 amount; add a cost of living adjustment of 3.52 percent to the 2018 funding amount; and not fund the application at all.

Ms. Catalano also proposed that where the Commission has additional questions not answered by the staff reviews that will affect their funding decisions, staff would invite those representatives from goal areas 1 and 2 to attend the meeting on June 26. She

stressed the need to have specific questions for the representatives to address. For goal areas 3 and 4, agency representatives will be asked to attend the following week and so on until all of the goal areas have been reviewed.

1. Attain Housing: Welcome Home Program

Commissioner McEachran noted that at the May 1 meeting the Commission was divided as to whether or not the agency has the capacity to respond to the needs related to financial assistance for the very low-income population.

Chair Mercer suggested there were two questions for the Commission to address, beginning with whether or not the program should be funded, either at the previous level with a COLA, or at the full request. The second question is whether or not there are other programs with more capacity that could use the dollars more efficiently.

Commissioner Ma said the other programs offering a similar service are Solid Ground, Hopelink and Salvation Army.

Commissioner Perelman said the requested increase is more than double but does not come with an indication that the number of people served in Bellevue will be doubled. She suggested the 2018 award of \$8000 is not enough to continue meeting the need and it would be better to shift the dollars to a different program. She recommended not funding the application.

Chair Mercer said she was inclined to keep the funding flat for the first round to see where things end up. Commissioner Piper said that was his inclination as well. Commissioner Ma said he would support that approach.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that 22 households would get funded at the full request level. Given that that represents a fourfold increase over the 2018 level, the amount of households served would only be five or six.

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland commented that according to the proposal based on the staff report, the request represents only a 25 percent increase in the number of directly funded clients. The balance would be used for a staff person.

Chair Mercer said she would like to see an increase in support for the area of direct funding overall. Commissioner Perelman agreed that if Attain Housing is not funded, the \$8000 or so should be earmarked for a similar program offered by another agency. Chair Mercer said that would mean giving the funds to either Hopelink or Solid Ground.

Commissioner Ma said Hopelink serves more and would be the logical choice.

Commissioner Kline commented that the Solid Ground argument about leveraging funding from other sources to cover its overhead does not ring true. The program overall appears to be incurring a higher overhead cost. She agreed the best option was to shift the funds to another program. However, until there is something that resembles coordinated entry for the type of service, the result of taking money away from the little pockets they are used to accessing may be a disservice to certain folks.

Ms. O'Reilly stressed the need to consider the unintended consequences of shifting the funds. Concentrating the funds in a particular agency could potentially harm those who must go to a second place to get the assistance they need because they have reached their limit at the first agency.

Commissioner McEachran said the Commission discussed in the first round the fact that folks often graze from agency to agency to get their needs met. Giving more capacity to a single agency may reduce that to some extent. That was the approach taken by the Commission previously regarding e-bags when funding for them was shifted from the emergency feeding program to Hopelink, the result of which is that e-bags are more readily accessible.

Commissioner Perelman said Attain Housing does not come across to her as being as well-rounded an organization as other organizations funded by the city that can offer additional services.

Chair Mercer and Commissioners Perelman and Piper favored defunding the application and shifting the funds to a similar program elsewhere. Commissioner Ma said for the first round he would prefer to fund the application with a COLA increase. Commissioners Kline and Oxrieder agreed with Commissioner Ma.

There was consensus to initially fund the application at the 2018 award level.

2. Catholic Community Services of King County: Eastside Emergency Shelter for Families

There was consensus to fund the application at the requested amount.

3. Catholic Community Services of King County: Emergency Assistance

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase, not to exceed the requested amount.

4. Catholic Community Services of King County: New Bethlehem Day Center

Chair Mercer noted that the request included an increase of \$5000 over the previous funding level, and added that there is a potential for a greater increase the next time

around to address their planned expansion. Ms. Stangland said the expansion is planned to occur in the spring of 2020.

Commissioner Kline noted that the increase was below what a COLA increase would be.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

5. Community Homes, Inc. :Housing Readiness Workshops-Adults w/Intellectual/Dev. Disabilities

Chair Mercer said she would support funding the new application, but also suggested flagging the program for potential funding with supplemental funding. There was consensus to take that approach.

6. Community Homes, Inc. : Community-based Housing-People w/Intellectual/Dev. Disabilities

There was consensus not to fund the application.

7. Congregations for the Homeless: Day Center

Commissioner Piper recommended funding the application with a COLA increase based on the ask versus the projected change in the number of residents served.

Commissioner Perelman noted that what the agency wants to do is move to being opened daily 12 hours per day. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency has stated that the day center hours will not be increased if the funding is not increased.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she could support partially funding the application, but not at the full requested amount.

Ms. O'Reilly said there is a full-time mental health counselor on staff who is occupying one of the rooms on the second floor of the Lincoln Center. The opportunity to connect clients with services is a primary advantage of the day center over the night shelter. The agency is doing a very good job of bringing in assistance.

Commissioner Ma said the proposal is to increase from eight hours per day to 12, and to increase from five days a week to seven. He said he would support partial funding on the hope that the agency could extend beyond being open five days a week without increasing the hours per day.

Commissioner Kline commented that the proposal would increase salaries from \$70,000 to \$225,000. She said that is the equivalent of about three more people.

Commissioner Perelman questioned why Bellevue should be the main funder for the program given that clients come from all over the place to use the program. She said she could support funding at the \$60,000 level. Commissioner Kline said she wanted to know what threshold amount of money would be needed in order for the agency to do anything more. She said \$60,000 might be enough, but that she would want to see that amount collectively given by all of the cities.

Commissioner Piper pointed out that the increase in the ask was about \$94,000. Splitting the difference would be \$47,000, which added to the previous allocation would be on the order of \$80,000.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$80,000.

8. Congregations for the Homeless: Men's Eastside Winter Shelter (EWS)

Commissioner Oxrieder asked if the shelter will be at the same location for the coming winter. Ms. O'Reilly said it appears it will be there for a few more years.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the ask in part seeks to cover the cost of a new security guard. Chair Mercer said that is in response to issues that have occurred in previous years.

Commissioner McEachran said it was difficult to realize that it will take between \$250,000 and \$300,000 to bring the facility up to fire safety standards in order to keep the facility open year round. He said it will certainly be a question what the winter shelter will look like and where it will go in the next biennium.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

9. Congregations for the Homeless: Housing

Commissioner Piper said the application did not indicate any uptick in the number of forecasted service units or clients served. Commissioner Kline noted that the request was for funding to give the housing case managers cars to drive, as well as to cover the increased rental costs.

Chair Mercer said she would prefer to increase funding to Congregations for the Homeless to pay for a security guard than to pay for cars. Commissioner McEachran questioned whether the city should be funding a security guard. Commissioner Kline pointed out that the request also includes money for case management, which is more easily justified.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that folks in the Wilburton neighborhood are opposed to having the winter shelter permanently located in their area. There certainly are tensions that the additional security will help to address.



Chair Mercer agreed it would be better to fund additional case management over a security guard.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

#### 10. Congregations for the Homeless: Outreach

Chair Mercer proposed funding the application with a COLA increase and carrying over the balance of the request to the potential additional funding column.

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that the agency is seeking funding to cover an additional outreach worker to cover three cities.

Commissioner Perelman commented that if the city moves ahead with funding an outreach worker the program will benefit.

Commissioner McEachran asked if Redmond and Kirkland help to fund the outreach worker. Ms. O'Reilly said Kirkland does but Redmond has its own outreach person. Commissioner McEachran said it appeared to him the focus was on creating an Eastside navigator through City Hall to work with the Congregations for the Homeless outreach efforts. He added that he was not sure the navigators are the real answer to the question and questioned if they are really producing positive outcomes. Ms. O'Reilly said it is still an open question with regard to what the research says about the model. A preliminary search turned up very little about the efficacy of outreach programs.

Ms. Stangland commented that the Sophia Way outreach application reports a 400 percent increase in the number of women getting into housing. Their results are based on a different model from what they are applying for, one that is not connected to a focus on those living in their cars. Commissioner Kline said it is very clear what Sophia Way wants its outreach person to do.

Commissioner Kline said in her mind there is a blurred line between a case manager and an outreach worker. She said absent a clear description of what the Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker would be doing, she would lean more toward funding case managers who go out into the community.

Commissioner McEachran said outreach workers act as maitre d's seeking to connect people to attainable housing. The case managers mentor the men in the night shelter and create more relationships as a result.

Ms. Stangland said the outreach workers currently fill in the case management gap in the day centers. There are currently no case managers in either the Sophia Way or the Congregations for the Homeless day centers.

Commissioner Ma agreed with the sentiment of questioning the effectiveness of outreach. He said he would be inclined to taking some funding from Congregations for the Homeless outreach request and putting it into their new program Up and On Housing.

Commissioner Kline said she would not want to see the program reduced below the previous funding level. She said she would suggest flat funding with a COLA increase. Chair Mercer concurred, adding that defunding the application entirely would send the wrong message. She said it would be far easier to justify not funding a second outreach worker.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

#### 11. Congregations for the Homeless: Up and On Housing

Commissioner Ma said he would like to see the program funded. Commissioner Perelman said her inclination was to not fund the new program. Commissioner McEachran said he was on the fence, adding that the program is very good.

Commissioner Piper agreed that the program is innovative but said he had concerns about the number of residents served. He said he leaned toward not funding the application.

Commissioner Ma said the program is the transitional piece that will really give support to those coming out of homelessness and seeking stability. In the long run it will save money by assisting folks in not falling back into homelessness. Commissioner Kline agreed and pointed out that the program is different in that it exists outside of coordinated entry.

Commissioner Perelman clarified that for the requested \$16,000, only two people will be assisted according to the application.

Chair Mercer said a part of her would prefer to beef up coordinated entry to become more effective. Putting the funds into the day center would result in touching far more people. Commissioner Ma said the program is not about touching more people, rather it is about focusing on people who have already transitioned toward getting out of homelessness but who still face struggles that need to be overcome before being fully reintegrated. To not provide support is to risk seeing those people fall back into homelessness.

Commissioner McEachran said the affordable housing inventory for Bellevue includes something like 86 different places. He suggested that by working with the men in the shelter some could be moved in the direction of those places in a sort of Eastside coordinated entry system.

The majority of Commissioners concluded not to fund the application but to include it in the additional ask column.

Chair Mercer suggested that during the next discussion round Goal 5 should serve as the starting point. There was consensus to do that.

## 12. Congregations for the Homeless: Year-Round Rotating Shelter

Commissioner McEachran commented that for many years the Congregations for the Homeless rotating shelter was the only shelter program in town. A collaboration of faith communities opened their doors and assisted in providing not only space but food. In some ways things have moved beyond the initial model.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that according to the application 70 percent of the men who stayed in the rotating shelter left the shelter for permanent housing. She said that is an amazing outcome that calls for fully funding the application.

Chair Mercer agreed but said she would like to see those same statistics for men beyond six months after leaving the shelter.

Commissioner Piper recommended a COLA for the application.

Commissioner Perelman said the increased ask is to fund another navigator and rent in one of the churches. Ms. Stangland said the navigator helps the clients find and connect with housing resources.

Chair Mercer asked how the program's outreach differs from the day center and winter shelter case management request. Commissioner Perelman said they address different populations. Chair Mercer suggested that if a navigator is funded along with increasing funding for the year-round shelter by \$30,000 to get to the full number, the allocation will be saying the Commission thinks the navigator and the year-round shelter will have more of an impact than the navigator for the Eastside Winter Shelter.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that much of the money requested would go to rent at \$5400 per month. Commissioner Kline clarified that those funds would only cover the period of time the shelter is housed at the Redmond United Methodist Church, which is only the month of January.

Commissioner Ma said he could support giving funding the application an increase of \$5400 to cover that one month's rent along with a COLA increase to the previous funded amount.

Commissioner Kline said her inclination was to give a COLA increase and to funnel any additional money to Congregations for the Homeless into the day center expansion. The reality is the organization can move funds around as needed to make things work.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

13. DASH/Downtown Action to Save Housing: Affordable Senior Housing Assistance at Evergreen Court

Ms. O'Reilly noted the Commission had previously questioned what the funds would actually be used for, that there were only a minimum amount of low-income units, and that there was no explanation of the expenses. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency had responded by saying it will use the dollars to support two to four elderly residents per month who are waiting for Medicaid approval to supplement their rent and services. The agency indicates they are seeing the need increased as people live longer and end up burning through their savings more quickly.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

14. Eastside Baby Corner (EBC) : Meeting Basic Needs for Children

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

15. Friends of Youth: Outreach & Drop-In Services for Homeless Youth & Young Adults

Ms. O'Reilly said the program is essentially a day center and outreach, but it is not called that. It is located in Redmond near The Landing shelter.

Ms. Stangland noted that the increased ask would help to defray the loss of a federal grant.

Commissioner Kline said a COLA increase would come close to the full ask. Commissioner Perelman agreed to a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

16. Friends of Youth: TLP Housing for Homeless Young Adults and Young Families

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

17. Friends of Youth: Youth and Young Adult Shelter

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

18. Hopelink: Emergency Food

Chair Mercer commented that the increase in the ask was substantial.

Ms. O'Reilly said it was good that the agency included in all their applications the formula used for how they calculated Bellevue's share of their asks.

Commissioner Perelman observed that the volume of services was flat. She proposed only a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

19. Hopelink: Financial Assistance Resiliency Program

Chair Mercer said the ask was substantial. She said she could support at a minimum adding in the \$8000 from Attain Housing. The program keeps people from sliding into homelessness. She said she would consider fully funding the application.

Commissioner Ma agreed with the notion of putting more money into the program. It is an important program for keeping people out of homelessness. He suggestion, however, only increasing the current funding level by the \$8000 from Attain Housing.

Commissioner Kline said the program is effective and the percentage of overhead is relatively low. The program also enjoys a large geographic coverage.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$40,008.

20. Hopelink: Housing

Commissioner Perelman argued for keeping the funding flat because of the number of Bellevue residents served.

Commissioners Ma and Piper said they could support a COLA increase, while Commissioner Oxrieder said she would fully support the application. Chair Mercer agreed to go with COLA, as did Commissioner Kline.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

21. Imagine Housing: Imagine Housing Supportive Services

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that during the last funding cycle the application included a request for baby things, including diapers, which are not included in the current request. Commissioner Perelman noted that the current request includes basic need items like detergent, hygiene and cleaning supplies.

Commissioner Ma proposed fully funding the application because the program is serving more buildings and more clients.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the supplying of ongoing supportive services is becoming a huge drain given that the people who supply those jobs cannot live in Bellevue and must commute from outlying areas.

## 22. LifeWire: Housing Stability Program

Commissioner Oxrieder said the big question the review team had was whether or not it falls to the city to make up the difference when private funding falls through. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that backfilling is not the responsibility of the city. She stressed, however, that the agencies were all directed to ask for what they need, but were told not to expect getting it all.

Commissioner Ma said he could support a COLA increase.

Chair Mercer asked what will keep the program going if the city only increases its funding by the cost of living. Ms. O'Reilly said it might take giving each client less in financial assistance. Chair Mercer noted that agencies have indicated it is easier for them to find foundations that will assist in providing direct client assistance, but much harder to find folks to pay for staff. She said she wanted to know the agency will be able to maintain the program if the Commission only gives a COLA increase. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that someone facing a domestic violence issue can come to the program and be served, where someone not having a domestic violence issue will not be served by Lifewire. That is their specific niche. Chair Mercer said she understood that but stressed that if the agency cannot pay a person to run the program, the funding earmarked for clients will not get to the clients. Ms. O'Reilly said she would put the question to the agency.

Commissioner Perelman asked what the overall agency budget is. Commissioner Kline said the application indicates that for 2018 their budget is \$4.27 million, and for 2019 it will be \$4.70 million. Commissioner Perelman suggested the agency will not close the program if it does not get the full requested amount from Bellevue.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

## 23. LifeWire: Emergency Shelter (MSH)

Commissioner Perelman noted that their service volume was flat. She recommended no more than a COLA increase.

Ms. O'Reilly said the large increase in the ask was to cover hotel/motel vouchers in addition to funding their apartments. Ms. Stangland said the breakdown indicates a 20 percent increase for renting shelter units and a 25 percent increase for supportive services. Of the total, \$25,000 is for the hotel/motel vouchers.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

24. MAPS-Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) : Housing

Commissioner Ma said the housing program is very small and is only one of many things the agency does. He said he was more interested in their referral service program. He recommended not funding the application.

Commissioner Piper agreed and pointed out that the program serves only one Bellevue resident.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

25. Margie Williams Helping Hands Food Bank: Margie Williams Helping Hands Center

There was consensus not to fund the application.

26. Renewal Food Bank: Food Bank

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program reaches out to the Russian/Eastern European community in a large way. He said he would fully fund the application.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

27. Salvation Army: Eastside Social Services

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

28. Solid Ground: Housing Stability Project

Commissioner Oxrieder said she was surprised to see in the application materials that at some point Seattle discontinued funding the Housing Stability Project.

Commissioner McEachran suggested the Commission should seek to learn a little more about the program and how it fits with similar programs. Chair Mercer agreed and said after the funding cycle is concluded the Commission would benefit from inviting representatives of the various financial stability programs to sit down and talk about coordination efforts.

By way of background, Ms. O'Reilly explained that about eight years ago there were about five emergency financial assistance programs. Along with the food banks, a program was developed called Meeting Needs Together. It was coordinated by a hired consultant. The groups met together for about a year but their funding mechanisms were so different that they ultimately could not develop a common application. Part of the conversation was focused on which group should specialize in

providing specific assistance. In time it all fell apart for various reasons. Chair Mercer said the difficult thing for the Commission is in determining who focuses on what, making it hard to decide who should get funded.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that because the systems are not currently coordinated, some clients benefit by going from agency to agency seeking assistance. If there were coordination, however, the result could be less overhead generally for all the programs. Centralizing the overhead could make more money available for clients.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

29. Sophia Way: Day Center

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

30. Sophia Way: Eastside Women's Winter Shelter

Chair Mercer said it was her understanding that the ask is intended in part to extend the shelter's open hours. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency received a grant from Symetra to pay for staff to use St. Peter's church for the summer. The extra open hours will not be funded with Bellevue dollars. The increase is earmarked for next year's summer months open hours.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that Bellevue funds more non-Bellevue residents than Bellevue residents in the facility.

Commissioner McEachran said it would be good to see the development officers for some of the high-end programs get together to talk about collaborating on community impact and fund developed.

Commissioner Perelman said she did not consider Sophia Way to be a sophisticated organization given all the trouble they have been in over the years. Commissioner McEachran pointed out that their current board members were all handpicked; each is someone who has in the past been involved in housing, and the intent is to keep from failing again.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

31. Sophia Way: Outreach

Chair Mercer said the fact that the city is locked in to the outreach effort means the application needs to be fully funded. Ms. Stangland said funding at a minimum of \$5000 in additional money for either the Sophia Way or Congregations for the Homeless winter shelter outreach program. Fully funded the Sophia Way application is not necessary.



Chair Mercer said that could take the form of keeping the funding for the application flat and adding \$5000 to that amount. Ms. Stangland clarified that it could be limited to only \$5000.

There was agreement to fund the application with \$5000.

### 32. Sophia Way: Sophia's Place

Commissioner Oxrieder said it was her understanding the increase in the ask had to do with adding staff to improve safety at the shelter. Hospitals were sending women suffering with mental illnesses to the shelter without meds and without treatment, which resulting in the emergence of safety issues. Ms. O'Reilly said in a recent meeting with the agency it was noted they are trying to find money for an in-house mental health counselor.

Commissioner Oxrieder suggested funding above the previous allocation but less than the full requested amount. She proposed \$70,000.

There was agreement to fund the application at \$70,000.

### 33. Sound Generations: Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Perelman commented that the program is not heavily utilized in Bellevue. Chair Mercer said the program is currently seeking to expand. Commissioner Oxrieder said currently the program serves 72,000 meals to 81 clients within Bellevue.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the total number of clients served in the greater Puget Sound area is over 400,000, making Bellevue's share minimal. She said she could support not funding the program or at least consider trimming the number of dollars currently allocated to the program.

Commissioner Kline said she wished there were more positive stories from the program. She allowed that the program provides a necessary service for a lot of people but stressed the anecdotal stories she has heard have focused on the fact that meals go uneaten. Commissioner Perelman said she has heard those stories as well and also pointed out that clients do not have to be low-income.

Commissioner Perelman observed that according to the application, 78 percent of the clients are low- or very low-income across King County.

Commissioner Kline said the application makes a big point about the program having a social aspect, but that is not actually born out as nothing is said about the delivery folks actually talking to the clients.

Chair Mercer said some cuts will need to be found somewhere.

Commissioner Perelman suggested reducing the allocation to \$10,000. Commissioners Ma and Piper called for flat funding. Commissioner Kline said she would support funding at \$15,000 just to send a message but would not want to drop down to \$10,000.

Commissioner Perelman said the agency needs to understand that Bellevue's community is very international. She added that the program simply is not penetrating Bellevue to the degree it should be.

Commissioner McEachran said he would like to have a better understanding about the meals that are actually delivered and whether or not they are good meals with good food. Commissioner Perelman said she would ask her friend who for many years volunteered to package the meals.

Commissioner Kline said the social component should also be part of the rationale. Ms. O'Reilly said the meal delivery persons are often the only ones who regularly visit with the clients, and they can pick up on things like the client not eating or not getting out of bed. That is certainly a social aspect while also being a way to take notice of something not being quite right. She agreed, however, that the social element should be indicated as an outcome in the application.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$15,000.

34. St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle King County: St. Madeleine Sophie

Ms. Catalano said Federal Way has funded St. Vincent de Paul for many years. They do home visits, interview clients, identify any other needs and make referrals as needed, all in addition to giving utilities and rent assistance.

Commissioner Ma said that approach is similar to the program offered by MAPS and said he would prefer to fund the latter.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

35. YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish: Eastside Resident Services

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

The Commission agreed to continue the meeting until 9:00 p.m.

Having indicated she would not be able to attend the July 3 meeting in person, but would be available to participate remotely, a motion to allow Commissioner Kline to participate in the July 3 meeting electronically was made by Commissioner

McEachran. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

36. Alpha Supported Living Services: Alpha Health Services Program

There was consensus not to fund the application.

37. Asian Counseling and Referral Service: Children, Youth and Families Program

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

38. Assistance League of the Eastside: Operation School Bell

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

39. Athletes For Kids: AFK Youth Mentoring

There was consensus not to fund the application.

40. Bellevue School District: Human Services

Commissioner Perelman said she could support a COLA increase but continued to believe the evening activities and other things should be paid for by the school district. Commissioner Oxrieder agreed.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

41. Catholic Community Services of King County: Volunteer Services

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

42. Chinese Information and Service Center: Eastside Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Ma commented that the program overlaps to some degree with the program offered by the India Association of Western Washington. Ms. O'Reilly said the answer given by the agency when that question was asked was that at one time they had an East Indian cultural navigator but when the India Association of Western Washington wanted to have their own navigator, the East Indian person was not rehired, eliminating the overlap.

Commissioner Perelman said the increase in the ask is focused on adding resource workshops and services in new locations.

Chair Mercer said the program is important enough that she would not go less than a COLA increase. She added that she would be willing to increase the allocation.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase and to place the balance of the ask in the third column.

43. Chinese Information and Service Center: Eastside Russian Senior Program

Commissioner Perelman asked what the agency would do if the Commission chose not to fund the application. Ms. O'Reilly said she was told that the program would not be implemented in January while the agency sought other funding.

There was consensus not to fund the application and to place the full ask amount in the third column.

44. Crisis Clinic: King County 2-1-1

There was consensus to fund the application at the previous allocation amount but without a COLA increase.

45. Eastside Legal Assistance Program: Eastside Legal Assistance Program

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program is expanding. Ms. O'Reilly said the increased ask is intended to bring another attorney on board.

The Commissioners agreed the program is important.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase and to place the balance of the ask in the third column.

46. Hopelink: Family Development

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

47. India Association of Western Washington: IAWW Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Ma said he likes the program in that it is all volunteer based. Chair Mercer agreed but suggested the program should not be funded with base dollars.

Chair Mercer argued in favor of funding the application with \$5000 and putting the balance in the third column. Commissioner Kline said from a practical standpoint it would be better to keep all funding for the organization in one spot, and she said she

would put it into the next application. Putting the full ask in the third column will help to strengthen the argument for additional funding.

Commissioner Perelman suggested splitting the ask between funding and the third column would dilute the message.

There was consensus not to fund the application and to place the entire ask in the third column.

48. India Association of Western Washington: India Association of Western Washington

Chair Mercer said she favored funding the application with a COLA increase and to push to get the dollars for the navigator.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she would support giving the application \$15,000. She said they do a lot given that it is entirely run by volunteers.

Commissioner McEachran proposed funding the application at \$15,000 and putting another \$15,000 in the third column.

Commissioner Kline stressed that funding is needed to pay staff to maintain the program.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

49. Issaquah Schools Foundation: VOICE Mentor Program

There was consensus not to fund the application.

There was agreement to continue the review process with application 50 at the June 26 Commission meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None
7. NEW BUSINESS – None
8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None
9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McEachran and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Mercer adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

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Secretary to the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

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Date

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

June 26, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Mercer, Commissioners Kline, Ma, McEachran, Oxrieder, Perelman, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, 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 Mercer who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:11 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 5, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McEachran and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner McEachran said he watched the June 25 City Council meeting at which there was a strong conversation about the Land Use Code amendment dealing with the Eastgate shelter site. He said the position of the neighborhood can be deduced by reading the minutes of the East Bellevue Community Council meetings.

Commissioner McEachran said the *Seattle Times* recently ran an article on the region's second-fastest growing neighborhood, which it says is downtown Bellevue. He also called attention to two documents printed out for the Commissioners to read: the City Council priorities and the State of the City report. He thanked staff for providing the Commissioners with printed information about ARCH.

Commissioner McEachran reported that he had had a couple of visits with the new fire chief who is anxious to learn more about the Human Services Commission, and that he had also met with the police chief.

Commissioner Ma noted that the City Council is focused on economic development and pointed out that affordable housing is a very important element of sustained economic development. Affordable housing should be pushed through that lens. Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly said after the process of reviewing the applications and developing a recommendation is done, the Commission will return to a schedule of having folks make presentations on various topics. That may include having the economic development staff come and inform the Commission about their work.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the economic development office has been renamed the Office of Cultural and Economic Vitality. He suggested that Associate Planner Janet Lewine, resource staff for the affordable housing strategy, should be scheduled back to back with a presentation from the economic development staff in order to gain a fuller picture.

Commissioner McEachran shared with the Commissioners a map showing the location of affordable housing units in the city. Commissioner Kline said it would be nice to also have a map showing affordable housing units on the Eastside generally.

Commissioner Piper said he staffed a foster care booth at the Pride Fair on June 23. He said he took some time to talk to some in the crowd about issues, including suicide. Recent reports about the increase in suicide rates in the state is particularly alarming in light of the fact that the rate among LGBTQ youth locally is five times the national average.

Ms. O'Reilly reported that Arthur Sullivan with ARCH will be retiring at the end of September.

Ms. O'Reilly also informed the Commissioners that Crisis Clinic is changing its name to Crisis Connection.



## 6. DISCUSSION

### A. Round 2 of Application Review: Goals 2, 3 and 4

#### 50. King County Bar Association: King County Bar Foundation Pro Bono Services

Chair Mercer noted that the ask is roughly double the previous amount.

Commissioner Ma said he could support giving the application more than just a COLA given the need owing to current events. Commissioner Oxrieder agreed. Ms. O'Reilly explained that the King County Bar Association works more on the housing side as opposed to the immigration side.

Chair Mercer said the King County Bar Association and Eastside Legal Assistance Program are the two programs that focus on legal services. Commissioner Piper said while there is some overlap in the services the two agencies provide, they are largely complementary to each other, with ELAP focusing more on domestic violence and immigration issues.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the application does not project much of an increase in expenses even though the ask is considerably higher. She said she would support a COLA increase for the application.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

#### 51. MAPS-Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) : Information, Referrals, & Resources

Commissioner Ma said their presentation before the Commission caused him to change his mind about funding the program, especially with the Muslim ban coming back on. It will be important for Bellevue residents to see Muslims working and helping in the community. Their approach differs from other organizations in that most of the funding comes directly from members of the mosques and it is run entirely by volunteers.

Commissioner McEachran said the program serves as Velcro to the Muslim community. Where there is a need to connect to that which is distant, the organization finds a way to do it consistently.

Commissioner Ma recommended full funding.

Commissioner Perelman said her preference was to put the entire request into the third column.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the agency did not include an audit or financial review with their application. She said staff went back and asked for their Form 990 hoping to gain some information regarding their financial integrity by having the form prepared by a third party. It was found, however, that the form was in fact prepared internally. She said she was troubled by not having any third-party verification of their financials. Form 990 asks specifically what the mission of the agency is and the form as filled out clearly states it is to further the Muslim religion.

Ms. O'Reilly clarified that MAPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and said the Muslim Community Resource Center operates under that umbrella organization.

Reading from the Form 990, Chair Mercer said the mission of the organization is to provide Islamic educational, social and cultural services to the Muslim community in the region and to promote the teachings of Islam to the inquiring non-Muslim. She said that was problematic for her. Commissioner Piper concurred.

In arguing the other side, Commissioner Kline point out that that is the mission statement for MAPS, the umbrella organization, and not necessarily MCRC.

Commissioner Perelman said it would be interesting to read the mission statement for Salvation Army.

Commissioner Ma said in addressing the Commission the program representatives stated that they serve as an arm of the overall organization, and that their intent is to serve the community through their Muslim faith.

Commissioner Oxrieder said the question is whether or not public funds can be awarded to a religious organization. Ms. Catalano said her research has shown that federal grants can be given to faith-based non-profit organizations so long as the funds are used for social services.

Commissioner Kline suggested asking the city's legal department to weigh in. Chair Mercer agreed and said she would like to ask the organization specifically what role religion plays in the delivery of their services. She said she wanted to know if the mission statement of promoting the teachings of Islam to the inquiring non-Muslim is happening in or as part of MCRC's delivery of services.

Commissioner Perelman said she would like to know if MAPS currently has any grants from the federal government.

Commissioner Piper said he would like to see the firewall between MAPS and MCRS clarified. Ms. O'Reilly said it is the same for both.

Chair Mercer suggested that if the application survives a legal review, it should be funded at \$10,000.

Commissioner Kline noted from the application that the organization's assets total \$5 million and that their revenues for the 2016 were \$2.2 million.

Commissioner Ma commented that in light of the discussion he would recommend putting the ask into the third column. He added that from the perspective of an equity lens, the Commission should be open to funding the services provided by the organization, provided the application passes legal muster.

Commissioner Kline said the current process has revealed that there is a gap in how the funder cities work with and prepare small agencies, many of which are faith based, in how to apply for and become the recipients of government grants. United Way of King County and other funders are facing the same issues, which should come as no surprise given the influx of different immigrant and refugee groups. All funders need to be clear, however, about insisting on the submittal of financial information prepared by third parties, regardless of the size of the applicant's organization. That should be tightened up in the next funding cycle.

Commissioner McEachran commented that over the past 10 to 15 years cross-cultural groups have appeared in Bellevue. They work through a sequence of volunteerism and ultimately present themselves as having strong possibilities for meeting needs in the community. They are not always sophisticated by the time they seek funding from the city. It is to some degree the responsibility of the city to help educate them. Commissioner Kline concurred, noting that United Way used to fill that role, but that aspect has since fallen by the wayside.

Ms. O'Reilly said the financial review information submitted by NAMI was several years old. She said their staff asked her if the city has resources for discounted financial audits. She said she reached out to the Washington Society of CPAs at the suggestion of Commissioner Kline and the response she received was that they offer services in that regard.

Commissioner Perelman asked if the Commission could make funding contingent on the receipt of an independent audit. Ms. Catalano said the Commission could choose to do that. The problem would be in the agency not meeting the contingency requirements by January 1, 2019, at which time the Commission would have to recommend reallocation of the funds, which the Council would have to approve. The workaround would be to require the contingency requirements to be met prior to the Council approving the Commission's recommendation.

Commissioner Perelman suggested asking MCRC if it would be open to having their 2017 Form 990 produced by a third-party. She also suggested asking the legal department to include Salvation Army and Jewish Family Service in its review of the MCRC and MAPS mission. Commissioner Piper voiced support for taking the equitable tack.

Ms. O'Reilly reviewed with the Commissioners the list of agencies that submitted Form 990 financials and indicated which had been prepared by third parties.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that because the current application does not specifically require submittal of financials prepared by a third party, the Commission could not direct any agency to do so. He agreed the Commission could certainly ask any agency for the documentation, including MAPS. MAPS should, at the very least, submit its 2017 Form 990, even if it is prepared internally.

Chair Mercer clarified that the Commission had asked for a review by the city's legal department of the missions of all faith-based organizations that have submitted applications for funding, specifically Salvation Army, Catholic Community Services, India Association of Western Washington, Jewish Family Service and MAPS. She noted the Commission had also asked if MAPS has received any government funds from any source, and whether or not religion plays a role in the delivery of their services.

Chair Mercer asked the Commissioners how they would like to proceed relative to funding the application should all of the answers that come back are satisfactory.

Commissioner Oxrieder suggested funding the application at \$10,000, and putting \$10,000 in the third column. Commissioners Piper and Ma agreed with that approach. Chair Mercer said her preference was to place the full ask in the third column. Commissioner Perelman said she could agree to either approach. Commissioner Kline said her inclination was to put the full amount in the third column as a way of building a better case for additional funds.

After additional discussion, Chair Mercer and Commissioners Kline, Perelman, Ma and Piper agreed to put the full ask in the third column. Commissioner Oxrieder held with the view that the ask should be split evenly between being funded and being placed in the third column. Commissioner McEachran said he was leaning toward the split option as well.

Commissioner Perelman said she would like to have Councilmember Robinson, the Council liaison, attend the meeting on July 17 and offer her opinion.

Given the majority, the full ask was placed in the third column.

Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask MAPS when its Form 990 for 2017 would be done and who was preparing it.

## 52. Youth Eastside Services: Behavioral Health Care for Children & Youth

Chair Mercer noted that the ask was less than a COLA increase.

Ms. O'Reilly commented that the organization does a lot of work in the area of suicide prevention.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

53. Youth Eastside Services: Community-Based Outreach Services

Chair Mercer noted that the increase in the ask was less than a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

54. Youth Eastside Services: Early Childhood Behavioral Health

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the substantial increase in the ask reflected the actual cost of the program. She recommended a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

55. Youth Eastside Services: Success Mentoring

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

56. Consejo Counseling and Referral Service: Domestic Violence  
Community Advocate Program

Chair Mercer noted that the ask was actually less than the previous allocation. Commissioner Perelman said that was the result of the agency seeking funding from other cities.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

Commissioner Perelman said she wanted it clear that the reduction in funding below the previous allocation was solely because their ask was reduced.

57. Crisis Clinic: Teen Link

Chair Mercer said the program is one that addresses the issue of suicide prevention. She also pointed out that in the application the agency indicated it is no longer receiving MIDD funds from King County, a statement the MIDD program director has since confirmed.

Chair Mercer said the upshot is that the funds will still go to the cause, but the individual schools will choose their provider, which may or not be Crisis Clinic. Ms. Stangland said the suicide prevention dollars may end up being allocated to other geographic areas and thus not accessible by Bellevue clients.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

58. Harborview Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress

Chair Mercer noted that the ask matched the previous allocation.

Commissioner Perelman asked if the agency was asked about their plans to provide legal advocacy. Commissioner Piper pointed out that their answer was given on page 6 of the application. Commissioner Perelman questioned why they were not choosing to partner with another agency instead.

Commissioner Ma commented that the care outlined in the application is being provided by an established medical center, and the care is of the type that ideally should not be provided by a non-profit agency trying to fill a gap.

Chair Mercer called out the fact that the actual estimates and projected service units are all the same numbers from Bellevue.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that while the organization is well respected, the amount of funding requested from Bellevue represents only a drop in the bucket and they will not have a huge impact. Commissioner Kline agreed the application could be flagged as a place to go back if the Commission needs to look somewhere to bridge what it wants to do.

There was consensus to fully fund the application and to flag it for possible additional consideration with regard to the funding amount.

59. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center: Comprehensive Sexual Assault Advocacy Services

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

60. LifeWire: Survivor Advocacy Services

Commissioner McEachran commented that the program has a significant relationship with Bellevue College, which is something that is important to the Council. He said he would favor funding at a level higher than a COLA.

Commissioner Perelman asked if the agency would hire an additional FTE at Bellevue College if the application were not funded. Ms. Stangland said the answer given by the agency is that it would not be able to provide advocacy on the campus of the college, or adequate support to the growing Bellevue College community.

Chair Mercer said she found it interesting that the number of participants enrolled in the program is 1020, while the number of participants measured for the outcomes is only 237.

Commissioner Ma said his inclination was to fund the application a bit above the COLA level.

Commissioner Perelman suggested the previous award of \$168,794 was very generous.

Commissioner Kline said she would like to see the program given an increase in funding but said the money is just not there to give. She also pointed out that the application indicates a drop in donations and events, which are areas under the control of the agency.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

61. Refugee Women's Alliance: Domestic Violence Program

Chair Mercer noted that the ask was less than a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

62. Asian Counseling and Referral Service: Whole health Oriented Mental Health Program

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

63. Bridge Disability Ministries: Meyer Medical Equipment Center

Chair Mercer pointed out that the agency had not been previously funded despite having previously applied.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

64. Crisis Clinic: Crisis Line

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

65. Easter Seals Washington: Easter Seals Washington Adult Care/ Health Services

Commissioner Perelman said she would agree with either keeping the funding flat or reducing it. She said her reasons included usage of the funds and the need to ask other cities for funding given the Bellevue's share is disproportionately high.

Commissioner Kline noted that Bellevue clients represent 25 percent of the total, but the ask of Bellevue is half of the total ask from all cities.

Commissioner Piper agreed and said he would agree to defunding the application. He said he was not satisfied with the rationale given for asking Bellevue for more. Commissioner Ma said the justification given is that the cost of doing business in Bellevue is higher. He agreed that was not a sufficient argument.

Commissioner McEachran said he could support reducing the allocation as well. He referred to page 14 of the application and pointed out that the budget shows a profit of \$265,000, twice the total ask of all the cities. Ms. Catalano said the agency claimed that resulted from a glitch in the system. The amended budget submitted by the agency does not show a profit.

Commissioner Perelman asked exactly what Bellevue's funds go for, and Ms. O'Reilly said according to the application Bellevue dollars pay for salary and wages.

Commissioner Kline said \$30,000 would be roughly in line with the percentage of Bellevue clients served. She said if the full ask were approved, Bellevue would be paying a disproportionate share of the cost burden in comparison to other cities.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$30,000.

66. Friends of Youth: Youth and Family Services Counseling and Prevention

Chair Mercer said the program is new. Ms. O'Reilly noted that as proposed very few Bellevue residents would be served.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

67. HealthPoint: HealthPoint Dental

Commissioner Kline said the Commission needed to consider whether or not to concentrate the dollars allocated for dental care. Commissioner McEachran concurred.

Commissioner Ma asked if International Community Health Services (ICHS), which is the other program offering dental services, is more local. Ms. O'Reilly said they are located in Bellevue.

Ms. Stangland stated that the HealthPoint program serves more Medicaid clients, while ICHS focuses more on serving the immigrant and refugee populations.

Commissioner Perelman said the number of residents served by HealthPoint is far less than the number of Bellevue residents served by ICHS. The total dental care service units for HealthPoint is 1200, while ICHS is 9000.



Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that ICHS offers a 25 percent discount for non-preventive, elective procedures. They consider preventive and basic restorative services to include teeth cleaning and fillings, while elective procedures include crowns, bridges and implants. They offer a payment plan as well.

Commissioner Ma asked why the ICHS ask was so much higher. Ms. O'Reilly said the application indicates the costs are calculated on the basis of cost per client. About 75 percent of the ICHS dental patients at Bellevue are adults who are less likely to have dental coverage than children. About 11 percent of Bellevue dental patients did not have coverage in 2017. With the uncertainty surrounding the Medicaid program, the number of dental insured is likely to increase and could affect the ability of ICHS to continue providing affordable dental services.

Commissioner Ma said he was leaning toward putting more funding into ICHS, taking \$20,000 away from HealthPoint.

Commissioner Perelman commented that based on their program budgets, the two are about equal in size. Ms. O'Reilly added that for a while HealthPoint was the only game in the area taking adults. When ICHS came in, they were able to attract more people, largely due to transportation issues.

Chair Mercer noted that HealthPoint is located in the Together Center, which points toward their collaborative nature.

Commissioner Kline said she was not fully supportive of the notion of taking money from HealthPoint and giving it to ICHS based on the fact that the two programs serve different populations. Commissioner Oxrieder noted that both serve Medicaid clients. Commissioner Perelman reiterated that immigrants and refugees are the target audience for ICHS.

Commissioner Perelman asked what the response of ICHS was to the question of their showing a surplus and how they would use city money. Ms. O'Reilly said they responded in regard to their medical program. Ms. Stangland said the ask for their medical program is quite large, and because the program is new the funds show up as non-committed revenue. They are not expecting to receive their full ask.

Commissioner Perelman said she could support giving HealthPoint \$40,000 and increasing ICHS to \$51,000 from regular funds, and adding \$25,000 in the third column for ICHS.

Chair Mercer said she could support that approach.

Returning to the issue of the budget surplus for ICHS, Ms. O'Reilly commented that many of the services offered cannot be billed for, like behavioral health and patient education. They are considering the funds will be spent down for those holistic care

services. She allowed that those services should in fact show up as expenses in the budget.

There was consensus to fund HealthPoint dental at \$40,000.

68. HealthPoint: HealthPoint Medical

Chair Mercer said the ask was less than a COLA increase would be.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the number of Bellevue residents served is tiny compared to other cities, yet the ask from Bellevue is considerably higher. The numbers do not add up to fund the program at the rate asked. Ms. Stangland said the question was put to the agency and their response was that their ask is in line with past funding requests. Ms. O'Reilly added that they also indicated each city has different amounts available for health and human services.

Commissioner Perelman said that translates into Bellevue has more money. She said the program budget totals \$50 million, and the fee-for-service program and managed care revenues all sound like Medicaid. She said she was not sure why Bellevue was even in the mix. She said she could support defunding the application.

Commissioner Ma said he could not support that approach. He said he could support lowering the funding level because the program does not serve as many Bellevue residents. Medicaid reimbursements are low, and the federal government seems intent on continuing to reduce Medicaid funding. Local funds are needed to help pay for the services provided.

Chair Mercer questioned how much benefit could be derived from the relatively meager funds from Bellevue in light of the agency's \$50 million budget.

Commissioner Piper said there is a clear disconnect between the requested funding and the number of service units. He said he could support putting the dollars where they could be better used.

Commissioner Perelman suggested the Commission would benefit from having ICHS representatives attend a meeting to talk about other areas in which they could be involved. Ms. O'Reilly said in addition to their main office, ICHS health advocates set up shop at Mini City Hall in Crossroads. ICHS is also the medical provider for the school-based health clinic at Highland middle school. She agreed to invite a representative to a future meeting.

Commissioner McEachran noted that the review team had recommended against funding the ICHS medical application because of the budget surplus.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that HealthPoint does not have a surplus. Commissioner Perelman reiterated that their budget in 2018 is \$54 million, and will

\$56 million in 2019. Commissioner Ma said he would be comfortable in reducing the award. Commissioner Piper said he could support that. Chair Mercer suggested there would not be much difference between reducing the allocation and defunding it altogether given the overall size of the budget.

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that if Bellevue does not fund the program, Bellevue residents will need to seek services elsewhere.

Commissioner Kline stressed the importance of Bellevue serving as a leader by example on the Eastside. Collectively, the program needs funding from the cities. She said she could support reducing the allocation somewhat to get the point across that the other cities need to step up, but could not support pulling out entirely. She proposed \$50,000.

Reading from the application, Commissioner Perelman noted that the number of Kirkland clients is currently at 6000 and is going to go to almost 7000 in 2019, while the ask of Kirkland increases from \$15,900 to \$16,000. By comparison, Bellevue's clients served stands at 2400 and is projected to increase to 2700 while the ask increases from \$62,000 to \$63,000. Commissioner Kline said that translates into the fact that Bellevue clients represent 1.4 percent of the total service units, and 23 percent of the total ask.

Ms. O'Reilly said at the time the city started funding the HealthPoint medical program, the only other federally qualified health clinic for Bellevue residents was public health. Commissioner Perelman said ICHS is now another qualified provider.

Commissioner McEachran said the argument can be made that the HealthPoint medical program operates in collaboration with other programs.

Commissioner Oxrieder said if the application is defunded, the dollars should be put fully into another health program. Chair Mercer said she was hesitant to turn the dollars over to ICHS given its budget surplus. They are certainly a qualified provider and they have a number of collaborative impacts, but there is no justification given their budget.

Commissioner Ma said he would support reducing the allocation but not defunding it.

Commissioner Piper proposed going to \$40,000 for the application. Commissioner Perelman stated that in the final round if additional cuts are needed, she would call for them to be made in part to the HealthPoint medical application.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$40,000.

## 69. HERO House: Supported Employment

Commissioner Perelman said the increase in the ask is intended to add an FTE to the supported employment program.

Commissioner Ma said their new facility is very nice. The location offers resources for clients to come in to use their computers, write resumes and other things. The program serves almost like a workshop in providing guidance to the clients.

Chair Mercer asked why the application was in Goal 4 instead of Goal 5. Ms. O'Reilly said it was because of the mental health component associated with the clubhouse model. She said the program is highly regarded by and funded through King County's community services division. There are very few certified clubhouse models operating in the country. The program also has support from the business community.

Chair Mercer observed that the program previously showed a surplus. She said she would support going with a COLA increase. Commissioner Perelman agreed but said she would put the balance of the ask into the third column.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase and to place the balance of the ask into the third column.

## 70. IKRON of Greater Seattle: Behavioral Health Services

Chair Mercer noted that the increase in the ask was substantial.

Commissioner Piper recommended a COLA increase. Commissioner Oxrieder said she could support that.

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program relates to Congregations for the Homeless and saw an 87 percent increase in the number of individuals seeking behavioral health services between 2016 and 2017. The program has a very rapid response rate.

Commissioner Perelman added that 30 percent of the clients are homeless. She said she could support a COLA increase.

Ms. Catalano said Kirkland funds the program and speaks very highly of it.

Chair Mercer commented that there are two issues related to capacity: people hours and space. She said it appeared to her that the ask would address the people hours but not necessarily the space issue. Ms. Stangland said the agency intends to provide more services out in the community. Chair Mercer said even so the application indicates it has been necessary to turn away an average of ten clients each month over the past two or three months due to space capacity. Commissioner

Kline said the application does not necessarily indicate the agency has not accounted for the need for additional space.

Commissioner McEachran said he has seen their staff at the day center. He added that the program is looking at the issue of staff retention.

Ms. O'Reilly said the agency also provides substance use disorder treatment, which is one of the Commission's focus areas.

Ms. Catalano explained that the \$27,100 received by the agency in 2018 is the money they got through cancelation of the Sound Mental Health contract.

Commissioner Ma proposed fully funding the application. Commissioner Kline said she would support putting some part of the ask in the third column, but would also give more than just a COLA increase.

Commissioner McEachran noted that the Council favors funding supportive services.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$35,000 and placing \$11,000 in the third column.

71. International Community Health Services: ICHS Dental

Based on the discussion of application 67, there was consensus to fund the application at \$51,000 and to place an additional \$25,000 in the third column.

72. International Community Health Services: ICHS Medical

Chair Mercer noted that the program was not funded during the previous cycle. She said the program is shown in the application to have a surplus and she said she was concerned about the agency not explaining that.

Commissioner McEachran noted that the point was previously made by Commissioner Ma that even though clients may not be from Bellevue, they may work in Bellevue.

Commissioner Ma said from a messaging standpoint he wanted to fund the application to some degree, possibly similar to the HealthPoint medical application.

Commissioner Piper said he struggled with rationalizing why the application should be funded given that the agency runs a \$4.7 million surplus. Commissioner Ma allowed that that was an issue for him as well.

Ms. O'Reilly said she could go back to the agency with another request to explain the surplus issue. The answer previously given was not sufficient. If the funds are used

for other services such as education, it should be shown somewhere in the application.

Ms. Stangland pointed out that the dental application budget showed a deficit, while the medical budget shows a surplus. Ms. O'Reilly said if the difference between funding or not funding the application hangs on getting an answer to the surplus issue, she would ask the agency to clarify.

Commissioner Kline said she wanted an answer to the surplus issue. She said would not want to fund them if indeed there is a surplus, but would not want to defund the program without putting the money back into medical somewhere else.

The consensus of the Commission was to not fund the application but to revisit it during the final round.

### 73. NAMI Eastside: Individual & Family Support and Education

Ms. O'Reilly said the review of a financial statement submitted with the application was from 2014. She said she asked for a more recent statement and was told they do not have one. The Form 990 was reviewed instead, which was prepared by a third party. The agency representative did indicate that they are in the process of having an audit done for 2018, which is required by the national NAMI organization. They are one agency that asked for additional resources for a discounted audit. An actual audit can be expected in early 2019; they are using one of their fundraisers to help pay for the audit.

Commissioner Perelman noted that the agency previously submitted only a single application for both programs. Now in the form of two applications, the ask is more than doubled the previous level. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency was asked how much of the nearly \$14,000 received from Bellevue for 2018 went to the NAMI school, and the answer given was that they expect to spend \$8475 of the total for the schools program.

Chair Mercer proposed giving a COLA increase to the application and placing all of the schools ask into the third column. She said the program has support in the schools and has a diversity point of view.

Commissioner Oxrieder said the proposal did not feel together from the beginning to her. It just seems like they are saying they will get people to do this and will train people to do that without being very specific.

Commissioner Piper commented that there are discrepancies in the application beyond just the demographics.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she could support giving a COLA to the support and education application, but was not sure she was ready to fund the schools application.

Commissioner Ma agreed with a COLA for the support and education application but said he was leaning toward passing on the schools application. He asked how the schools program differs from the Youth Eastside Services program. Ms. O'Reilly said NAMI offers presentations in the schools but not treatment. They work toward breaking the stigma of mental health by having people in recovery from mental health issues talk to students in the classrooms.

Commissioner Perelman asked if the program will be getting any money from the Best Starts Levy. Ms. O'Reilly said she did not know but agreed it would be good to seek an answer.

Commissioner Perelman noted that the agency is seeking to expand the program in the schools but asked if there has been any confirmation from the schools that they want the program expanded. Ms. O'Reilly said the application indicates the key school contacts are the health educators. NAMI works with the health educators to offer the classroom training, with scheduling occurring on a first-come/first-served basis.

Commissioner Oxrieder commented that the projected increase is from 645 to 2800. Ms. O'Reilly allowed that that represents a huge expansion. Commissioner Perelman said the application indicates the program anticipates significant growth and the application reflects an additional 1.25 FTE dedicated to management and execution of the program, as well as increases to the presenters stipends budget. She said she was supportive of the program but was not inclined to pay for indirect costs.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

74. NAMI Eastside: NAMI in the Schools

See the discussion for application 73.

There was consensus not to fund the application and to place \$10,000 in the third column.

75. Northshore Senior Center: Northshore Adult Day Health and Wellness Program

There was consensus not to fund the application.

76. Old Friends Club: Daytime Memory Care and Respite

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the program is not in Bellevue. Ms. O'Reilly said the intent of the agency is to move into Bellevue in the near future.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

77. Sound Generations: Volunteer Transportation Program

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

78. Therapeutic Health Services: Alcohol/Drug Treatment

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

79. Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy: Family Health Insurance Navigation

There was consensus not to fund the application.

80. Washington Poison Center: Washington Poison Center Emergency Services

Commissioners McEachran and Oxrieder suggesting not funding the application, while Commissioner Piper suggested full funding.

Chair Mercer said the Commission was pretty clear during the first round about not wanting to fund the application. Commissioner McEachran agreed and said while the program is very important, it does not fit well with the Commission's focus. It might be a good candidate for CDBG funds. Additionally, the program is currently running a sizeable surplus.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None

8. NEW BUSINESS – None

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McEachran. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ma and the motion carried unanimously.



Chair Mercer adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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Secretary to the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

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Date