

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on June 7, 2016

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 17, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson McEachran, Commissioners Bruels, Kline, Mercer, Oxrieder, Perelman, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Jaime Fajardo, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair McEachran who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:04 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 19, 2016

Commissioner Kline called attention to paragraph 11 on page 13 and asked to have the first sentence revised to read "Commissioner Kline said she generally found score sheets to be useful but in this case she did not."

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Villar said she attended the Congregations for the Homeless luncheon. She said it was well attended and was for the first time held in a hotel rather than in a church. They came up short of their fundraising goal for the event but will have time to catch up during the year. Chair McEachran noted that he attended the event as well.

Chair McEachran reported that he attended the most recent meeting of the new Lynnwood Human Services Commission along with Human Services Manager Emily Leslie. Ms. Leslie said the group was meeting for only the second time, though most of the members have human service connections or backgrounds. They have been allotted a percentage of their city's general fund amounting to about \$500,000. They have also included a Human Services Element in their Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Leslie reported that the staff have been busy drafting the staff reviews of the applications.

Ms. Leslie said she is serving on the interdepartmental HELPS team that is looking at various issues that affect all areas of city departments. One big focus is on homelessness around which a presentation was recently made to the leadership team; a follow-up presentation will be given the morning of May 18.

Chair McEachran noted that the first meeting of the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Group would occur on Monday, May 23.

Commissioner Villar asked for an update about siting a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue and was told by Ms. Leslie that the work is still going on. The day center, as well as trying to find a temporary shelter site, is getting much of the focus. The staff HELPS team is sharing information and providing coordination of the various departmental efforts. The police department certainly is involved in the homelessness issue; they have a new mobile crisis unit that is funded through the MIDD tax, and they get involved in instances of aggressive panhandling. Code enforcement often gets involved, as does the permitting staff from the Department of Development Services in siting tent cities. There are also legal issues that get the City Attorney's Office staff involved.

Intern Jaime Fajardo noted that he was attending his last Commission meeting. He said he was very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the Commission.

6. DISCUSSION

- A. Human Services Funding Application Review – Goals 4 & 5 and CDBG Preliminary Review

71. HERO House: HERO House

Commissioner Bruels noted that the agency has been a long-time partner with the city. He said they are seeking an increase of almost 95 percent. The model is consumer oriented and is deeply committed to including membership participation in policy development. It appears the requested increase is tied to the fact that their contract for employment is not covering the costs of the services, and there is a backlog of clients that they do not have the staff to address.

Commissioner Kline observed that the application indicates the agency is short on staff but shows only a small increase in staff salaries. She asked if contractors will be brought in to do the work. She said she was also curious about the fact that the application states both that there is no wait list and that they have members waiting for employment services. Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said the reference could be to the fact that the employment component needs staff to help with placement and job shadowing. There is no wait list for people to use the clubhouse, however. Commissioner Kline said she would like more information about the magnitude of the employment wait list and how many staff will be needed to address it.

Commissioner Villar said the application refers to a corporate grant they expect to apply for and indicates they have received funding from that source in the past, but the revenue page does not show it for either 2016 or 2017. The application also references the fact that their lease is about to expire and that they may need to move. She said she would like to know when the lease will expire.

72. International Community Health Services: Dental

Commissioner Bruels said the program is operated within the International Community Health Services (ICHS) clinic. The application seeks a substantial increase. He said clarification is needed with regard to the dental services offered. The application indicates that clients are charged a nominal fee but nothing is said about how much that is. Clarification is also needed with regard to what they determine as elective procedures and services and therefore not covered by the financial assistance program. He said he also wanted to know what the agency is doing in terms of assisting people who cannot pay for elective procedures.

Ms. O'Reilly said she spoke recently with Michael McKee at ICHS about the payment schedule. She said she learned that Medicaid will pay for someone to have a root canal if the tooth is in the front, but if it is in the back Medicaid will only pay to have it extracted.

Commissioner Perelman called attention to page 16 of the application and the reference to funding from the federal HRSA and asked why they are seeking far less from that source for 2017.

Commissioner Kline said she would like to know what the agency does by way of fundraising for the program.

Commissioner Perelman observed that the application indicates a projected increase in the number of people the program will serve, but is not clear about why the budget should be doubling.

Commissioner Kline said the application does explain that the program has been operating at 25 percent capacity and the plan is to ramp up to 75 percent capacity. The percentages regarding residents served on page 8 of the application do not track with that, however.

73. NAMI Eastside: Education, Support, Advocacy

Commissioner Bruels said the local chapter of the national organization provides outreach support for individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she did not understand the outcome section of the application. Commissioner Bruels said he did not either.

Commissioner Villar commented that the application was silent with regard to the specific funding requests, number of residents served, and total service units. She said she also would like to know why some of their former supporters are not being asked for funding.

74. Pediatric Interim Care Center: Interim Care of Drug-Exposed Infants

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides a vital service in caring for infants not well enough to be released home but not ill enough to be kept in the hospital. The program applied for Bellevue funding two years ago but did not receive it. The application indicates only two Bellevue residents served by the Kent-based program.

Commissioner Villar asked if there is another program locally providing the same service. Commissioner Bruels said the program is the only one on the west side of the state.

Chair McEachran said the program is actually the only one of its kind in the United States. The program works with drug-exposed infants and is able to send them home drug free. Their daily care costs are about \$150 per baby, which compares to about \$3500 per day in a neonatal care unit.

75. Sea Mar: Community Health Centers

Commissioner Bruels said it appears from the application that the agency is seeking funding to hire care managers to help decrease barriers to access to care.

Commissioner Kline commented that the request appears to seek seed money for a new program. Commissioner Perelman observed that the application includes numbers of clients served. Commissioner Kline said those numbers could be interpreted as being for the agency as a whole. The assistance and referral component appears to be new.

Ms. O'Reilly said the program appears to be ongoing in other areas but is seeking funding to staff it at the Bellevue clinic.

Commissioner Mercer said the only source of funding listed in the application besides the HFFC cities is the Bureau of Primary Care.

Chair McEachran commented that the service appears to be duplicative of other funded programs. The program does, however, have a high number of Latino clients where there is a clear need.

Commissioner Kline said she viewed the program as a higher level service than what the Commission's targets address.

Commissioner Bruels said the idea behind the program is intriguing but it does not sound like the requested funding would actually accomplish making more services available to more people. What they are seeking is funding for someone to serve as liaison between the patients and the clinic, not to actually provide more services. He said he would like to know what the program has done, if anything, to access the cultural navigator services the city already funds, if they have run into any barriers accessing that service that have led them to try to bring the service in-house.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that Burien and Kent are both being asked for less funding even though more people are being served.

76. Sound Mental Health: Child and Family Services Community Services

Commissioner Bruels said the program provides mental health services for children and families. The program has enjoyed funding from the city for some time and the increase in the ask is not substantial.

Commissioner Kline said she was curious to know why the program budget was increasing over 200 percent.

Commissioner Oxrieder pointed out that the application does not mention Bellevue in assessing the need. Commissioner Kline added that the number of residents served in Bellevue is shown as decreasing.

Commissioner Villar observed that page 18 of the application was entirely blank.

Commissioner Kline questioned the salaries and benefits and said some clarification

is needed. She also asked how the service is different from what YES provides. Commissioner Bruels said the programs are not substantially different, it is just a matter of volume and capacity.

77. Sound Mental Health: Low-Income Counseling

Commissioner Bruels said the agency runs a mental health center as well as a counseling clinic staffed by professional counselors and interns from various masters programs. What they collect in terms of fees do not cover the actual costs and the request is to help close the gap. He said he was not overly happy with the listed outcomes and would prefer to see something along the lines of homelessness prevention and the like.

Commissioner Kline commented that the budget section for the application is exactly the same as for the child and family services application, complete with page 18 being blank. The only difference is the salaries section.

Commissioner Perelman added that the numbers served by the programs as shown in the application appear to be off.

78. Sound Generations: Volunteer Transportation

Commissioner Bruels said the agency was previously called Senior Services. The Volunteer Transportation Program has been funded by the city for a long time and is seeking a slight increase in the ask. The agency is facing a funding reduction from United Way and an increase in operating expenses.

Commissioner Villar called attention to page 20 of the application and the statement that Sound Generations funded the program for 2016 at \$47,029, and that that amount will drop to \$16,082. Commissioner Kline said United Way was funding Sound Generations as an organization and they were flowing the funds through to the program; the drop in funding represents the United Way decrease. Commissioner Villar said she would like to know what solutions the agency has for reducing the funding gap other than reaching out to the cities.

79. Therapeutic Health Services: Therapeutic Health Services

Commissioner Bruels said the application seeks funding for the agency's substance abuse clinic in Bellevue to engage in case management, counseling and opiate replacement therapy. The agency is a long-time partner with the city. The application seeks only a modest increase.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the revenue page in the application does not make any sense; it shows an increase from \$3.5 million to \$14 million, which is more than the projected spending levels for both years.

80. Washington Poison Center: Emergency Services

Commissioner Bruels said the agency has applied to Bellevue for funding several times but has not yet been funded. The service is a useful one and provides answers and direction during crises related to exposure to poisons or toxins, usually by children. The program also provides an excellent consultation service to physicians. While it is a good program, it does not fit in well with the Commission's focus areas.

Commissioner Kline said the program has an emphasis on prevention, which does fit a focus area and which might make the program worth considering.

Commissioner Villar voiced concern over the fact that the budget in the application shows a surplus of \$192,940, even though they are seeking only \$72,984 from the cities.

Commissioner Mercer said she appreciated the fact that the program is part of the safety net and takes calls from all of the cities regardless of funding.

There was agreement not to consider funding the application.

81. Apprenticeship & Non-traditional Employment for Women: ANEW

Chair McEachran said the program offers women with career connections and retention services.

Commissioner Perelman commented that the program is operated out of Renton, which is also where most of the clients are coming from.

Chair McEachran observed that the agency is seeking funding from every imaginable source.

Commissioner Kline said while the program does address the issue of increasing employment, the primary focus is on addressing the workforce shortage in the construction industry.

There was agreement not to consider funding for the application.

82. AtWork!: Community Access

Chair McEachran said the program provides support for adults with disabilities who are not working to engage in the community with non-disabled community members who have the same interests.

Commissioner Oxrieder asked what the program's other revenue sources are. Commissioner Perelman noted that King County reimburses them for services rendered.

Commissioner Bruels noted that the program is new and asked what was done previously to address the stated need. Ms. O'Reilly said the program is not new. Bellevue was asked to fund it two years ago but chose not to. The contract with the county does not fully cover their costs.

Commissioner Kline said it appears the need for the program is increasing given that people are either aging out or their disabilities are progressing to where they cannot work. It is not really an employment program.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that nothing is said in the application about fundraising activities.

Commissioner Perelman commented that the actual number of people served in Bellevue is relatively small. The impact of funding the program would be quite low.

Commissioner Villar noted that the request to Renton is to fund \$920 per person, whereas Bellevue is being asked to fund at \$2000 per person.

There was agreement not to consider funding for the application.

83. AtWork!: Community Liaison

Chair McEachran said the program educating community businesses about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities, and working with employers to identify customized jobs.

Commissioner Perelman called attention to page 6 of the application and the statement that the service is offered free to the majority of the users and asked if the clients are asked to pay a fee for the service.

Commissioner Kline observed from the application that the program has 24.5 employees supporting 217 clients. Commissioner Villar said support staff accompany their clients until they are full trained for their jobs, which means each employee can only work with a limited number of clients. The companies hiring the clients pay the salary of the client but not the coach.

Commissioner Bruels commented that the application is silent with regard to the need to increase the ask.

Commissioner Perelman said she did not understand why the numbers for Bellevue clients would decrease for 2016 and increase in 2017.

Commissioner Villar said the application lists a mismatch between the number of people served and the amount per person relative to the amount of the ask. She said she also had questions regarding the outcomes.

84. Bellevue College: Career Center

Chair McEachran said the long-time partner program works with immigrants and refugees, dislocated homemakers, low-income populations, underemployed veterans and others. The program seeks to end homelessness by helping clients find jobs and access training opportunities.

Commissioner Villar said she would be curious to know why funding from the Walmart Foundation dropped from \$25,000 to zero.

85. Bellevue College: Head Start

Commissioner Bruels said the program is another long-term partner with the city.

Commissioner Perelman asked if clients must be Bellevue residents in order to receive the services. Ms. O'Reilly said the program prioritizes slots in the child care center for Bellevue College students. Some of them receive Head Start funds, but they are integrated and seamless. It is conceivable that a resident of Kirkland who is a Bellevue College student could receive priority. She said she would ask for some clarification.

Commissioner Kline said the staff-to-children ratio seemed quite high. There are 53 staff FTEs serving a total of 200 kids. Commissioner Mercer commented that many of the staff could in fact be part time. Where infants are concerned, the staff-to-child ratio has to be quite low. Ms. O'Reilly agreed to clarify the ratio.

Commissioner Villar noted that the program does not engage in any fundraising activities. Chair McEachran said it may in fact be precluded from doing so as a federal program.

86. Bellevue College: Preparing for Work

Chair McEachran said the program is part of Bellevue College's adult basic education department. The program helps meet the need of the immigrant community for English and job skills. Clients must be Bellevue residents.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that page 15 of the application was blank. Chair McEachran commented that fundraising for the program is precluded, and the fact that it serves only Bellevue residents narrows the field.

Commissioner Villar commented that Bellevue is being asked to fund more than half the program cost.

87. Boys & Girls Club: Project Learn

Chair McEachran said the summer camp program is focused on improving school performance and social competency while decreasing the amount of time at-risk youth spend unsupervised.

Commissioner Kline called attention to page 7 of the application and the statement that there are no other comprehensive after-school or summer school programs specifically targeting low-income youth in Bellevue. Ms. O'Reilly said the program is unique in that it is offered on-site in some King County Housing Authority buildings.

88. Bellevue School District: Early Learning Programs

Chair McEachran said the program offers affordable high-quality year-round care and education for children ages two to twelve.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the application reports a nine percent increase in applications for financial assistance, but the ask is for a 25 percent increase. He said he would like to know why. Ms. O'Reilly said the narrative explains that Sherwood Forest elementary school has identified 16 students that have a need for the program, in addition to their general program increases, and that that is the reason behind the increased ask.

Commissioner Mercer commented that many of the kids who participate in the program also have medical and other issues. The district's programs are considered very good relative to early learning, and they partner with agencies like Kinderling Center to identify kids early. It would not be surprising to learn some of the program costs are going up because of the needs of the kids they serve.

Commissioner Perelman said she would like the agency to clarify the information on pages 8 and 9 of the application.

Ms. O'Reilly said the program is offered at all Bellevue elementary schools. Commissioner Mercer said the medically fragile kids are primarily at Phantom Lake elementary. She said she would like to know why the application zeros in on the program at Sherwood Forest.

Commissioner Kline said she would like more information about what the proposed budget covers. The application says there are 161 kids and 122 staff in the program. Additionally, dividing the total salaries and benefits by the number of staff would indicate each is making more than \$70,000.

Ms. O'Reilly questioned whether the number of students in the whole system is as high as 161. Commissioner Mercer suggested the agency should be asked to go back and make the numbers match throughout the application.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that the budget does not show any funding from Child Care Resources. The city provides funds to Child Care Resources for use throughout the county. Typically the early learning centers utilize those scholarship funds. She said she would ask why the budget did not show those funds.

89. Child Care Resources: Child Care Financial Assistance

Chair McEachran said the Financial Assistance Program provides child care scholarships to parents with moderate to low incomes.

Commissioner Villar voiced concern about the statement on page 18 of the application regarding what happens when the program runs a deficit. She suggested that if it is known every year that there will not be enough money and that funds will need to be drawn from other fundraising efforts within the agency, a different budget should be projected.

Commissioner Mercer asked what the rationale is for relying completely on the cities to fund the program. The organization conducts fundraising efforts and it would seem that some of those funds should be funneled into the program.

Ms. Leslie said the program began as a child care subsidy program operated by King County. The county halted the program and cut it out of its budget. Because Bellevue was contracting with the county for Bellevue residents, Child Care Resources was asked to take over the program. The agency has since added other cities and no longer operates the program just for Bellevue. Ms. O'Reilly added that when the county stopped managing the homeless child care funds from HUD, Child Care Resources was asked to take over in exchange for a management fee.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that 79 percent of the funds are used for direct aid to clients, which means 29 percent is going toward administration, which is quite high. She said she would support having more control over what it really costs to administer the program, and maybe even imposing in the contract a percentage cap. She also observed that the program has a waiting list in Kent and Burien but nothing is said about a waiting list for Bellevue. Ms. O'Reilly said there frequently is a waiting list for Bellevue children; she said she would follow up on that.

Commissioner Kline suggested the program should be able to provide for some flexibility over the hours people are able to call seeking services. Having some evening hours would be beneficial to the population served.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that the requested amount should not be higher than the expenses listed in the application. Where discrepancies like that occur, it makes it appear as though the person filling out the application simply threw numbers into the mix without trying to make sure they are accurate.

90. Child Care Resources: Child Care Consumer Education and Provider Quality Improve

Chair McEachran said the program assists families in meeting their child care needs by providing referrals to providers and community resources, as well as through customized, culturally relevant and inclusive technical assistance and training for child care providers.

Commissioner Villar said she found it odd that the agency was seeking less funding even though their projected numbers were unchanged.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the application lists the same amount of funding from United Way, and nothing is shown from new Best Start for Kids levy monies. Ms. O'Reilly commented that no agency included anything about the levy funds because they are too new and nebulous.

91. Child Care Resources: Homeless Child Care

Commissioner Kline asked about Early Achievers and Ms. O'Reilly explained that it is the state's quality rating system through the Department of Early Learning. She said the state is paying to train a lot of providers, but some providers are not yet in the Early Achievers system; by August 2016 all must be in the program. It would make sense for the agency to say it does not need as much from Bellevue because more providers will be covered by Early Achievers.

Commissioner Mercer noted that the ask is only moderately higher and asked how the program is dealing with the problems they shared with the Commission in January. Ms. Catalano said cities that previously were not asked for funding are now being asked to contribute. Ms. O'Reilly added that the agency also conducted an additional fundraiser.

Commissioner Villar observed that the application shows actual expenses and the projected decrease aligns with the decrease in the ask, but pointed out that the projected number of service units remains the same. Commissioner Kline added that the numbers from Seattle drop off altogether, which does not make sense. Commissioner Villar said it would be helpful to have the agency match up the numbers between the residents and the service units on pages 7 and 8.

Commissioner Kline said it would seem there should be a second service unit for counseling in addition to the service unit for child care.

Commissioner Perelman said the application is another instance of other cities being asked for far less money than Bellevue. Commissioner Villar pointed out that Redmond is being asked to fund three kids whereas Bellevue is being asked to fund six.

****BREAK****

Commissioner Kline observed that the YMCA child care program, which the city funded for many years, had not submitted an application for funding. She said it would be helpful to know what is happening with the program given that it is losing the Bradford Center location. She added that it would be helpful to include on the spreadsheet all programs funded during the previous cycle in order to track funding levels by category consistently.

92. Hopelink: Adult Education

Commissioner Villar commented that the application asks Bellevue to fund 55 people at \$571 per person. If that is true, the numbers do not match. It is only possible to get to the full \$63,000 ask if Bellevue funds 110 people.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the application indicates the program is recalculating its unit costs and that accounts for the increase in the ask. The question is what they have been doing all along and if the program has been losing money.

Commissioner Villar noted that what the program gets from other sources has been decreased making it appear that their strategy is to ask fewer sources for money.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the full cost per person is \$1141, and that amount times 55 is \$62,755, which is essentially their ask rounded up. Commissioner Perelman said that does not align with the statement in the application that Bellevue will only be charged half the full cost.

Commissioner Kline commented that while the application indicates the cost per person is \$1141, their total expenses for the program divided by the projected number served the number comes out to \$1342.

Commissioner Mercer observed from the application that the actual cost is \$1141 per person, and that the program is projected to serve 110 persons. The application is clear that Bellevue is only being asked to fund half, and half of 110 times \$1141 matches the ask.

Commissioner Kline asked if the program seeks donations from those clients who are able to pay.

93. Hopelink: Employment

Commissioner Perelman said the program provides individuals with a career plan and moves them forward to finding work opportunities. The program has been funded by the city for several years, and the only difference is a change in methodology.

Commissioner Kline pointed that for both of the Hopelink applications the thresholds are incredibly low.

The Commissioners had no specific questions for the agency.

94. IKRON Corporation: Integrated Employment Services

Commissioner Perelman said the program is seeking funding from the city for the first time.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the city already funds similar programs.

Commissioner Oxrieder asked if IKRON Corporation is a non-profit. Ms. O'Reilly said she would verify that.

Commissioner Kline suggested the program could possibly do a better job than Hopelink given how low the outcome thresholds are for Hopelink.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the home office is in Ohio.

Commissioner Perelman said she liked the emphasis of reaching out to the homeless community.

95. Jewish Family Service: Refugee and Immigrant Service Centers

Commissioner Perelman said the program provides assistance with refugee and immigrant resettlement, cultural orientation, information and referral, language support and social services.

Ms. Catalano clarified that the 2016 amount awarded in the application includes both CDBG and general fund dollars. Ms. Leslie said the service program is the only one that receives funding from both sources.

Commissioner Perelman observed that the program budget has increased substantially. She said that does not mesh with the fact that the number of service units is going down.

96. Kinderling: Kinderling

Commissioner Perelman said the program has long been funded by the city and keeps kids from being expelled from preschool.

The Commissioners had no specific questions for the agency.

97. OneAmerica: English Innovations

Commissioner Villar said the program is new to Bellevue.

Commissioner Bruels said he liked the fact that the ESL program is not solely focused on employment.

Commissioner Villar said the application indicates that 98 percent of their clients speak Spanish as their first language, which is not the reality in Bellevue. She said she was not sure how ready their staff are to deal with the variety of languages in Bellevue.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she found it interesting that Tutta Bella is the agency's Bellevue partner. That is where the Alzheimer's Café is hosted as well.

Commissioner Villar said the lunchtime conversations are also held at Crossroads, which is about as close as one can get to a clear duplication of services.

Ms. O'Reilly said representatives of the program visited the Commission right after the ELL panel was conducted. She said she gave them the list of everyone who had participated on the panel along with their email addresses, and they said they would make contacts in order to initiate some collaboration. However, nothing is said in the application about having contacted any of them.

Commissioner Perelman voiced concern over the fact that the program is just starting and the fact that they are asking Bellevue to pay for the entire program.

There was agreement not to consider funding for the application.

98. Somali Refugee and Community Services: Somali Refugee and Community Services

Commissioner Perelman said the program is excellent and is located in the Tukwila School District. The program, however, appears to have no connection to Bellevue.

There was agreement not to consider funding for the application.

99. YWCA: Employment Services

Commissioner Perelman said the Employment Services Program matches Bellevue and Kirkland funds with BFET funds. The city has funded the program for some time.

Commissioner Kline said she was surprised to see that only two Redmond residents were served in 2015 even though the Family Village is located in Redmond.

Commissioner Mercer asked what differentiates the program from the other employment services. Commissioner Perelman said it is primarily the group of people

served; the program goes after a particular group of people. Commissioner Bruels added that there is a need for the programs.

Commissioner Kline commented that the salaries and wages listed in the application are very low. Commissioner Villar said all the numbers in the application felt low to her.

Commissioner Kline asked if there is only one counselor to support the entire program, or if someone else employs the counselors and the information is not included. She also pointed out there are no clients from Redmond and no ask from Redmond.

Commissioner Villar said she would like to know why the fundraising number was so low.

105. Washington Community Alliance for Self-Help: Washington
Community Alliance for Self-Help

Commissioner Kline said she found the application confusing to read, in part because the organization is referred to by several different names.

Commissioner Bruels said he was intrigued by the microfinance concept. It is an effective evidence-based model. He said he was not sure, however, that the program fits with the focus areas. He added that the focus is on training people to start their own businesses, but their success rate is not much different from the small business success rate in the market.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she attended the fall human services joint meeting in Redmond and sat at a table with the leader of the Muslim community organization who talked about the very need the program is focused on.

Commissioner Mercer suggested that the program is not focused solely on the microloan element. They also have the eight-week community introductory business training courses. Apparently large numbers of people have attended those sessions, but only half of them develop their own businesses, and only half less than 25 percent have received microloans.

Commissioner Bruels said he would prefer to see an emphasis on empowerment. Instead of having classes on how to run a business, they should bring in people who are current microfinance clients to run self-help support groups.

With regard to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications, Ms. Leslie pointed out that ARCH did not apply, in part because the HUD timing rules make it very difficult to address affordable housing development.

Commissioner Mercer asked if the city could provide feedback to HUD about the urgent need for affordable housing and the fact that their rules are making it difficult to use CDBG funds for that purpose. Ms. O'Reilly said the city's lobbyist could have that conversation.

100. CDBG: City of Bellevue – Administration

Commissioner Kline called attention to the CDBG line item in the program revenue column on the budget page and pointed out that it does not agree with the total CDBG award amount column.

The Commissioners had no specific questions.

101. CDBG: City of Bellevue – Planning

The Commissioners had no specific questions.

102. CDBG: Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue

Commissioner Kline asked if the decision has already been made for the agency to purchase the building. Ms. Catalano said there are still some questions to be answered as part of the due diligence.

Commissioner Villar commented that according to the application the agency wants CDBG money as well as in-kind donations from the city.

103. CDBG: City of Bellevue – Major Home Repair Program

The Commissioners had no specific questions.

104. CDBG: Sound Generations – Minor Home Repair Program

The Commissioners had no specific questions.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie said the city will pay for any Commissioner wanting to attend the Alliance of Eastside Agencies annual luncheon on June 1.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners about the June 7 Eastside Human Services Forum summer workshop focused on equity.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie said the staff reviews will be ready for the Commission's next meeting where the second round review will begin.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bruels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair McEachran adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date