

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

June 20, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Villar, Commissioners Kline, Ma, McEachran, Mercer, Oxrieder, Perelman
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None
- STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Kayla Valy, Department of Parks and Community Services; City Council Liaison Councilmember Robinson
- GUEST SPEAKERS: Chris Brandt –AtWork!  
Cathy Murahashi –King County The Arc of King County  
Kim Indurkar – Community Services Supervisor  
Adaptive Recreation Highland Community Center for the City of Bellevue  
Vicki Islett- Community Homes  
Kristin Headlee –City of Bellevue  
Elaine Acacio –City of Bellevue  
Robert Blumenfeld –Alliance for People with disAbilities  
Taylor Hayden-Noble – Provail

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Villar took a moment to welcome new Commissioner Tim Ma.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. June 6, 2017

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

### 4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

### 5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Kline reported that her husband completed a 100-mile marathon pushing disabled children. In all, he pushed 13 children, primarily in two-hour shifts. He completed the run within 24 hours.

Commissioner McEachran said he attended a recent community conversation at Bellevue College. The turnout was small and the conversation focused on what is happening at Bellevue College. He said he also attended the adult basic education commencement which included Preparing for Work graduates. With regard to his work on the Wilburton CAC, he said the focus will turn to transportation issues beginning in July and will be on housing in September.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano reported that the 2017 CDBG entitlement amount has been announced to be \$685,152, which is \$49,280 more than in 2016. She said the Action Plan will be submitted for HUD approval, and hopefully the funding will be released by September.

Intern Kayla Valy reported that she had accepted a job with United Way of Snohomish County to be the CORE (Creating Open Roads to Equity) Collaborative Manager. She said her last day with Bellevue would be July 5.

Chair Villar offered her congratulations and thanked Ms. Valy for her excellent work on behalf of the city.

### 6. DISCUSSION

#### A. Americans with Disabilities Month – Panel of Agencies that Service Adults with Disabilities and City of Bellevue Initiatives that Service Adults with Disabilities

Councilmember Robinson welcomed Commissioner Ma to the Commission. She reported that the Eastside Human Services Forum opioid addiction presentation was excellent and said she has talked with the City Manager to identify steps the city could take to address prevention, treatment and other issues. One clear first step will be to make sure first responders have enough of the anti-overdose medication.

Councilmember Robinson said if the men's shelter and supportive housing issues gets to the development agreement phase, the Commission would be asked to weigh in.

Kristin Headlee said she works for the city's Human Resources Department as a recruiter and is also part of the Supported Employment Program Task Force. Supported employment is a program that provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The program assists individuals in the area of job placement. The program is operated in partnership with local agency Puget Sound Personnel. There are other agencies that provide similar services. Bellevue's program began in 2016 after observing Seattle's program, which has been in place for a few years. The initiative dovetails nicely with Bellevue's Diversity Initiative Bellevue Welcomes the World, Diversity is Our Strength.

Elaine Acacio, Diversity and Inclusion Manager for the city, said the Council's vision of diversity is broad and includes a variety of social identifiers, including persons with disabilities. Bellevue launched a similar program a few years ago but this time around it has been institutionalized as part of the city's diversity initiative. The response from staff has been amazing and the first hire occurred within three months and prior to approval of the budget process. There have been a total of three hires to date and a couple more are in the process. The city intends to expand its local partnerships to identify hiring opportunities.

Commissioner Kline asked if there is a target number in mind for the number of hires. Ms. Headlee said when the program was first rolled out the hope was that there would be one or two hires, and that is what was budgeted for. The funding, however, comes from the individual departments and each can hire as many as they can fund.

Commissioner Oxrieder asked what kinds of jobs are being performed by the new hires. Ms. Headlee said they are customizable and are dependent on the skills of the persons hired. The jobs range from filing to scanning, putting together packets, stocking supply rooms and helping to clean. Ms. Acacio added that the departments seeking supported employees have developed inventories of processes and jobs for which the current staff do not have the capacity to perform and would benefit from having additional assistance. They have developed the asks and have worked directly with Puget Sound Personnel in making matches.

Commissioner McEachran praised the city for modeling what it wants to see the city doing in terms of being inclusive. He said the approach is perfectly timed to match with the Needs Update and the next funding cycle and gives the public a different lens to view what is happening at ground level.

Councilmember Robinson suggested the Councilmembers would be interested in the presentation. Ms. O'Reilly said she could work with staff from Human Resources to see about getting it on a Council agenda.

Commissioner Perelman asked about the intent to expand the partnerships. Ms. Acacio said the city is currently working only with Puget Sound Personnel but there are other agencies that assist in employing the disabled. Talks have begun with the Bellevue Downtown station and with Bellevue College. Ms. Headlee added that the college and the school district already have some internship programs in place, and the focus will be on expanding them and including paid positions.

Kim Indurkar, Highland Community Center Manager, said in the 1970s a couple of parents asked the Parks Director for space to provide recreation for their adult children who had intellectual disabilities. By the 1980s, the programs had grown substantially and were funded by the city, and Highland Center became known as the adaptive recreation center for the city. In the 1990s, the city began moving adaptive recreation to other sites, and then in 2000 with the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act inclusion services began to increase. The first Choices for People with Disabilities plan was written in 2008 and the focus was on creating clear vision for how to provide recreation services for citizens. The community expressed a desire to see adaptive recreation included and to see inclusion services added.

Continuing, Ms. Indurkar said Highland Center continues to provide a wide variety of adaptive recreation programs, including social, cooking and sports elements. The goal of the plan, however, is to see adaptive recreation offered at each of the community centers and facilities, including the Northwest Arts Center, the tennis center, the aquatic center, Crossroads Community Center, and Bellevue Youth Theatre. The latter includes an adaptive recreation theater program that helps build skill levels. During the summer of 2017, an adaptive recreation science camp will be held at Crossroads Community Center for kids diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

For many years the city has been trying to reach individuals who are diagnosed as being medically fragile or who have severe disabilities. If connections are made with them, after graduation they may simply be isolated. A recreational based transition program has been formed in partnership with the Bellevue School District. During the school year, students came to Highland Center to participate in recreation activities that were adapted by the teachers to fit the needs of the students.

A partnership is in place with the Special Care Agency, also known as Bridge of Promise, which has been providing a day program once per week at Highland Center. Beginning next year, the agency will be partnering in the transition program so that once students graduate the agency will be able to provide them with day services, possibly up to three days a week in space provided by the city.

Ms. Indurkar said Highland Center has for several years worked with agencies such as Prevail and AtWork! on pre-vocational training and testing for individuals not quite ready for paid employment. The ARC has also used Highland Center to provide services to parents of kids with disabilities. Northwest Arts Center is doing a program

called Art on the Go that involves traveling around the city providing art classes for kids both with and without disabilities.

Ms. Indurkar said since 2008 Parks department staff have been receiving training on the Americans With Disabilities Act, inclusion, and how to work successfully with persons with disabilities. Currently, frontline staff, coordinators and supervisors are receiving training, and the ultimate goal is to provide some level of training to all city staff.

Commissioner Perelman asked if financial aid is available to assist people in participating in the programs at all levels. Ms. Indurkar said the city provides some scholarships and there is an organization that pays for either Bellevue or non-Bellevue residents. There is also a contract in place with Lifespan for those who are not receiving DVA services from the state for respite care. The intent is for cost not to be an issue.

Ms. Indurkar said there has been a spike in the youth programs in the number of children with autism diagnoses. About 80 percent of the youth participating in the camps have an autism diagnosis. There has also been an uptick in the number of adults participating in the programs who need a little more care and attention. Another issue is connecting with students before they graduate. For those who do not make connections prior to graduation, the chances of making connections later are reduced. That is why having the partnership with the Bellevue School District is so important.

Reading from the brochure, Commissioner McEachran referred to page 12 and the illustrative that also exists in the city's Comprehensive Plan that shows effective practice and a continuum of services. He also pointed out that many of the programs listed in the appendix are supported by the Commission, which is an important connection to recognize.

Commissioner Mercer asked about the outside costs associated with moving to more inclusive services and adaptive recreation programs. Ms. Indurkar said if the trend continues toward individuals served with adaptive recreation needing a higher staff ratio, there will certainly be an associated cost. Additionally, expanding inclusive services could require hiring outside agencies to provide personal care.

Commissioner Perelman asked if the camps are operating at capacity. Ms. Indurkar said every year the camps operate at capacity and have a long wait list. It would require partnering with another agency to expand the capacity of the camps.

Ms. Chris Brandt, Executive Director of AtWork!, said she has been with the agency since 2006 and has worked with people with disabilities for more than 40 years. She said the goal of the agency is to empower people with disabilities to be productive, integrated and contributing members of the community. Some ten years ago AtWork! operated three sheltered workshops in which persons with disabilities all worked

together in the same facility in what could be called a segregated and isolated situation. The city supported the funding of a community liaison that ultimately led to closing the sheltered facilities and moving the disabled workers into community jobs and community inclusion. No workers were left behind, and AtWork! became from being the largest sheltered workshop provider in King County to being a national leader in integrated and customized employment for people with the most significant disabilities.

Ms. Brandt said AtWork! has three main programs: School-to-Work, Employment Services and Community Inclusion. She explained that AtWork! is the embedded provider for the Bellevue Downtown Station Transition program and also serves students in transition throughout King and Snohomish counties. The Employment Services program serves a variety of people with a broad spectrum of disabilities and provides everything from discovery and assessment to helping to make good job matches, developing jobs in the community, and providing retention for a lifetime. The program also helps clients with career advancement and wage progression because it is really all about equity of opportunity and people with disabilities escaping poverty. Persons with disabilities is the largest minority group in the country and the only one that anyone could end up joining at any moment with an almost certain guarantee of being poor.

AtWork! serves clients who people have thought were unemployable. Most of those served by the agency have intellectual and a broad spectrum of developmental disabilities. AtWork! is known for serving people with high acuity or complex support needs. The agency provides good jobs and those who are served usually get connected through the Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the school districts through King and Snohomish counties. AtWork! is also active in public relations and marketing, and is involved in advocacy and public policy. The combination of offering good jobs and having a high placement and retention rate triggers word of mouth referrals. To date in 2017, 52 new clients have been served, which is more than any other previous full year. There are currently some 300 people served per year.

The barriers to service include capacity, staff training and expertise, system issues, and waiting lists. It takes about six months to get people trained at the level needed to do their work. The system issues are those that make people jump through hoops with regard to eligibility, and those involving how services are coordinated. Washington state ranks 42nd overall in how much it contributes to the support of people with disabilities, and it does not offer complete and comprehensive services.

It is huge that cities like Bellevue contribute to being able to serve more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Half of the funding received from the state is from Medicaid, which is not an entitlement. The state can decide not to spend block grant Medicaid on community services. People can be institutionalized at a cost of \$250,000 per person annually paid for by Medicaid. Community residential,

employment and inclusion support costs only \$50,000 per person annually, and everyone is working hard to keep funding for those services flowing.

Ms. Brandt said people from all over the world have come to Bellevue to see what AtWork! does and to learn about how they can help people with disabilities in their communities become more connected and included. When they walk around Bellevue, they see a community of inclusion for people with disabilities.

Since 2008, AtWork! has worked with some 220 employers to hire persons with disabilities. The agency seeks and fills customized jobs, things that are not getting done but that need to be done, as well as jobs that are repetitive that often see a lot of turnover. Job development is not always easy given that it often requires customization, but it is often the employers who come to AtWork! seeking assistance in creating an inclusive workforce.

Ms. Brandt said AtWork! works with school districts, the county, and providers like Prevail and Trillium on collaborations that enable the disabled in getting jobs. The agency works diligently on public policy and advocacy, with ARC of King County, with residential providers, and with recreation and community programs like Highland Centers.

Commissioner Perelman asked who pays for the coaches needed by some disabled workers. Ms. Brandt said AtWork! has a contract with King County through which Medicaid dollars are used for that purpose. The agency also has outcome-based contracts with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation through which state funds flow. About \$2.5 million of AtWork!'s budget is generated from those sources, and half of that is a Medicaid match from the federal government.

Commissioner Perelman said it was her understanding that transportation is an issue that hinders or contributes to the success of individuals. She asked what the agency does to assist in that arena. Ms. Brandt said the region is fortunate to have Access transportation services. It is not perfect, however, because of the waiting windows and overall scheduling reliability. Job development is focused near as possible to client homes thus reducing to the extent possible the transportation issues.

Chair Villar asked how many of the employees live with their parents or family caregivers versus in different environments. Ms. Brandt said her guess was that two-thirds of employees reside with family. People with disabilities are living longer, thus there are an increased number of elderly parents.

Commissioner Kline asked what support is available to folks who age out of the services performed by AtWork!. Ms. Brandt said no one ages out of the Community Inclusion program and the agency serves them until they pass away. Currently the older person in community inclusion is 75. During the last funding cycle, AtWork! sought funds to expand the program because there were people who were aging out of employment. Some folks with Down's Syndrome and other disabilities develop

dementia and other issues that make it important for them to retire younger. The reimbursement rate for the Community Inclusion program is very low compared to the quality of service AtWork! provides. United Way funding and income from the agency's businesses flows into the program. A capacity grant from King County allowed the agency to bring on two new staffers to serve new people.

Ms. Vicki Islett, Executive Director of Community Homes, said the mission of the organization is to provide, promote and sustain exceptional community based housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are three primary programs in which seven adult family homes are operated and partially funded through CDBG dollars that flowed through ARCH. A program was developed about three years ago to help families develop community based housing called shared living. The program relies on Medicaid funding and Section 8 grants.

Ms. Islett said the organization recently launched a housing readiness workshop series in recognition of not being able to keep up with the demand for housing. Workshops are being conducted throughout King County to enable and empower families to develop housing on their own. They are assisted in identifying resources and the steps that need to be taken, and they are given some very concrete tools.

The barriers to housing are many for adults with disabilities. Affordability is a huge issue in Bellevue and the greater Seattle area. People with disabilities also need support services in order to live successfully outside their parents' homes, and those services are funded by Medicaid. All providers are nervous about what might happen to Medicaid. There is no entitlement to housing for people with disabilities and it is up to families to find and/or create housing, but there is no system in place for doing that. Nothing is provided by the state. Adult family homes are the most common referrals families get from case managers. While there are 57 adult family homes in Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland, only six of them serve people with developmental disabilities, and five of those belong to Community Homes, and there are currently no vacancies. Two-thirds of adults with disabilities live at home with their parents, and they are outliving their parents. The question is where they will go once their parents are gone.

Ms. Islett shared with the Commissioners a success story of a young man who with two of his friends now share a house with the assistance of their caregiver.

Ms. Islett said the housing workshops have been a very big hit with all who have attended. Several have asked questions about how the approach could be expanded to include a larger audience. The King County Department of Community and Human Services Development Disabilities Division provided a grant to be used for replicating the workshops throughout the county. One good outcome has been a collaboration with Open Doors for multicultural families, and King County chose to boost its grant to allow for translation services. Two workshops are planned for the summer with Open Doors to reach the most underserved of all underserved families.

Ms. Taylor Hayden-Noble, Eastside Employment Services Program Manager for Provail, said the multiservice organization is based in Seattle and provides a variety of services, including occupational therapy and speech language therapy. The agency has a meeting space for persons with traumatic brain injuries and runs its own community living program with a house on the Eastside. The organization takes part in the telephone equipment distribution program which helps connect individuals.

Ms. Hayden-Noble said employment services are offered to individuals out of the Seattle headquarters and the Eastside office in Redmond. The current employment rate among participants is about 88 percent. She said the agency sees the same trends and issues as other employment providers, and in fact Provail works closely with AtWork!. Provail also relies on Medicaid funding that flows through the Developmental Stability Administration as well as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Those organizations are two of the main referral points along with families within the disabilities community which are tight knit.

There is a huge increase in the need for services. The agency is seeing a lot of kids with autism. Maintaining staff and making sure they are fully trained continues to be a challenge. The agency gives a lot of attention to career advancement for its employees. With regard to clients, Provail believes anyone who wants to work can work and that everyone should be included and should find work that gives them purpose, meaning and a paycheck.

Ms. Hayden-Noble said Provail is focused on finding businesses that are ready to take the next step. It is not always easy to break into businesses that have Human Resources departments that serve as gatekeepers for the companies, so Provail works on cultivating relationships. The company works with a number of local businesses in the retail trades, but also with car dealerships and mortgage companies while always looking for the next untapped market.

Chair Villar asked what age is the right age for parents of children not in a transition program to approach an agency to start talking about services. Ms. Hayden-Noble said Provail has begun focusing on pre-employment services for kids who are still in high school up to age 24. The program allows the clients to explore different types of work by trying out different jobs. The program helps clients identify the different types of skills they need. Ms. Brandt added that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act recognizes that individuals with disabilities and their families need to know about and get started with services at much younger ages. It is never too early to start talking about work, living normal lives and giving kids chores to do.

Ms. Hayden-Noble said Provail is embedded in the Lake Washington, North Shore and Shoreline school districts and also works with students in other school districts. The goal is to find jobs for the students in the transition program, though that cannot be guaranteed. The placement rate for the school to work kids stands are 90 percent, far above the King County average of about 60 percent. Job retention is equally important to placement so a great deal of attention is given to that aspect of

employment. Job retention is defined as still having the same job after six months, and retention rates are closely tracked. The goal for the year is 95 percent, and currently the retention rate stands at 94 percent.

One of Provail's most visible collaborations is with Microsoft as part of their nationwide autism hiring initiative. Those who are hired are involved in programming, data science and software development. Potential hires are prepped to go through actual interviews, and about half of them are ultimately offered jobs. Currently 28 individuals who have come through the program are working at Microsoft.

Ms. Cathy Murahashi, Family Engagement Coordinator at the ARC of King County for the Parent and Family Coalition, said she is a Bellevue resident and has a daughter with Down's Syndrome who grew up in the community, works in a Microsoft café, and enjoys the Highland Center. She said her job is very important to her.

Ms. Murahashi said the ARC of King County is an advocacy agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The agency has been around for 80 years and was started by parents at a time when there was nothing available for their children. The mission is for people with developmental disabilities to live, work and play in their communities. The ARC has a direct services program called supported living which supports people living in their own homes. The program, which differs from the adult family home model, serves about 50 clients across King County.

Another part of the agency's core mission is information and referral. People call in with questions about disabilities, employment providers, housing providers, and various other issues. Workshops on various topics are provided to families, and outreach to the community through the schools and other organizations is conducted. The agency also provides an online resource guide for families. The Parent to Parent program is focused on providing support for families that have just received a first diagnosis; the program matches them with other parents who have children with the same disabilities.

Ms. Murahashi said her primary focus is on advocacy. She said there is a focus on systems advocacy that tries to bring families together to discuss both how to navigate the system and how to be involved. There is a program for self advocates who want to speak up for themselves in Olympia and elsewhere.

The Parent and Family Coalition program is a network of families involved in grassroots advocacy. The legislative forum that is held in November usually sees some 600 attendees, including about 30 elected officials. King County puts forth a developmental disabilities agenda each year and the coalition hosts that event. Families are taken to Olympia during the session to meet legislators and to talk about the issues that are important to them. Monthly meetings are held at the Highland Center the second Tuesday of every month where the intent is to keep families connected and in the loop.

With regard to barriers, Ms. Murahashi said there are still physical barriers in the community. The bigger issue, however, is the resource barrier. Nearly every person with a disability relies on government services, and those services are expensive. The system requires those in need of services to be impoverished in order to qualify for those services. There are also social barriers and persons with developmental disabilities still face discrimination on a regular basis. Bellevue is generally welcoming, but not completely. System barriers can be daunting for families who do not know how the system works; many families who need services have no idea where to turn for help. Some are given poor information, and on occasion are even given bad information intentionally. The system is inequitable, which results in some persons receiving services simply for being in the right place at the right time, while others with the exact same needs do not receive services. The fact that many of the families are from different cultures adds to the barriers faced. Another barrier faced involves persons already qualified for services, and with funding in place, who cannot find a provider able to provide the services.

Ms. Murahashi said the need for services is only going to increase. Instances of autism continue to grow at an alarming rate. Additionally, the caregiver parents of children with developmental disabilities are aging at the same time the number of persons able to provide the services is shrinking. Every single developmental disabilities services in the state is funded by Medicaid and if things go as projected, all of those services are at risk.

Mr. Robert Blumenfeld, Program Manager for the Alliance of People with disAbilities, said the agency is a federally funded center for independent living in King County. The agency is funded through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The funding means the agency cannot focus on any specific disability. The agency advocates both on behalf of individuals and systems. The Center for Independent Living requires that non-profits must be consumer controlled. In other words, 51 percent or more of the staff must be people with significant disabilities. Currently all of the staff are significantly disabled, as is more than half of the board.

Mr. Blumenfeld said the guidelines keep the Alliance of People with disAbilities from providing very specific services beyond those in the core funding. The clients form their own programs and establish their own services. The agency assists the clients in getting their goals accomplished and in getting the services they need, which often are the little things other programs do not offer. The agency is not currently funded by any of the cities in King County, and unfortunately federal funding has been flatlined for several years.

Commissioner Perelman asked what kind of training is offered to individuals. Mr. Blumenfeld said the individuals are referred to as peer advocates regardless of the initials at the end of their names. He said he has been with the agency for 20 years, far beyond the national average of employees working for human services non-profits. Turnover in the Center for Independent Living is between 20 and 35 percent. There are some consumer clients who just want to get in and out as fast as possible.

He said he has been working with a client since 2002 who had been employed for 40 years before receiving a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. Another woman was a special education teacher before being diagnosed with severe bipolar disease and ended up having to live in the home of a relative before finally finding housing late last year. The agency does a lot of advocacy and is part of the inclusive playground in Bellevue.

Commissioner Kline commented on how impressive it was that all of the agencies represented work closely with each other. She asked if there are other agencies that work with the developmental disability community, noting that Puget Sound Personnel had previously been mentioned. Ms. Murahashi said the Tavon Center offers a horticultural therapy program in Issaquah. They also work with Special Care, an agency that is part of Bridge of Promise. Ms. Jayden-Noble mentioned Alyssa Burnett Center in Bothell, and Ms. Islett mentioned Eastside Adult Day Services and the Kindering Center. Mr. Blumenfeld pointed out that there are over 50 disability non-profits in King County.

Chair Villar thanked everyone for their presentations and the information shared, and for demonstrating a collaborative impact.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Villar said when she met with Councilmember Robinson she passed along the results-based accountability slides from the Mental Health and Drug Dependency presentation. She said they included some good measurements on quantity and quality and suggested it would be worthwhile to get some feedback from some of the agencies on whether or not the reporting is more useful than the metrics included in the grants. Ms. O'Reilly explained that results-based accountability is a framework for how to do outcomes. The MIDD was renewed toward the end of 2016 and the new evaluation plan incorporates the results-based accountability framework. Some agencies will need to receive training in using the approach; others have already received training.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McEachran commented that over the past six months he had been hearing people talk at almost every venue about a lack of consistent access to services. That certainly was mentioned by the panelists. Commissioner Mercer noted that the group mentioned transportation but did not highlight it as being a major issue, especially in light of elderly parents taking care of disabled children who themselves are becoming elderly.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Oxrieder about the men's shelter issue, Ms. O'Reilly commented that the day after the Council meeting at which the topic was discussed, staff reviewed the video and their notes to pinpoint what was

actually decided. The Council clearly gave the go-ahead for the work to remodel the facility.

Noting that Councilmember Robinson had suggested the Commission should weigh in on the shelter issue, Commissioner Mercer said if that is going to happen there should be some preparation time so the Commissioners can know what will be expected of them. Chair Villar said there are certain agreements that will need to be in place. For example, while the facility will be a low-barrier shelter, there will still be some people who will not meet the low-barrier threshold. Still unanswered are questions about where those people will go and whether or not the shelter staff will contact someone on their behalf.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Villar adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Human Services Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date