

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on April 21, 2015

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

April 7, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Beighle, Plaskon

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: Councilmember Chelminiak; Kelli Carroll, Jim Vollendorf, King County Mental Health

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair McEachran who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Beighle and Plaskon, both of whom were excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 19, 2015

Commissioner Villar called attention to the first paragraph on page 2 and pointed out that "...are leveraging..." should read "...are not leveraging...."

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

B. March 3, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and it carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Councilmember Chelminiak noted that the City Council elected to fund the Commission's CDBG recommendations. He said Chair McEachran did an excellent job of discussing with the Council how the recommendation was formulated and why. He said there are Councilmembers, himself included, who are very interested in finding a way to support the Salvation Army capital program. The Council, however, values the work of the Commission and for that reason unanimously approved the recommendation.

Councilmember Chelminiak informed the Commission that the Council has been working closely with Sound Transit on balancing out the original Memorandum of Understanding that dealt with funding, particularly the potential \$60 million owed by the city at the end of the project for the tunnel. An agreement has been reached with Sound Transit that wipes out that financial obligation. Sound Transit's has decided to put its operations and maintenance facility in the Bel-Red corridor, but the city has reached an agreement with them to reconfigure the site in a way that preserve about 1.6 million square feet of land for transit-oriented development. Talks are under way with King County Metro about reconfiguring the bus base, which along with reconfiguring the alignment for 120th Avenue NE, would bring the amount of developable land up to two million square feet. Affordable housing could be included in the mix. There are things Sound Transit will need to pay the city for, such as permitting fees. An agreement has been reached in which they will pay no more than a lump sum to cover those fees. Re-jigging the alignment will require the use of more city property, requiring additional compensation. What has emerged is an offer by Sound Transit to hand over to city ownership, after construction is completed, three properties at 130th Avenue NE they will need to acquire for staging purposes. Under a development agreement, those properties could yield a mixed use configuration with an affordable housing component as part of the ARCH program.

Councilmember Chelminiak noted that Commissioners Beighle and Plaskon are nearing the end of their second terms. An application and appointment process will be launched soon.

Commissioner Bruels said he has been working in support of HB-1875, which would boost funds for Work First; HB-1720, weatherization for low-income housing; and HB-1355, which would increase the state minimum wage. He said he also has been working to make sure the issues of psychiatric boarding and bolstering mental health services are on the minds of legislators.

Commissioner Villar said along with Chair McEachran she attended the recent Imagine Housing benefit event at which a lot of money was raised. She said she also attended the King County Library Foundation dinner where funds were raised for their

Time to Read program; and the *Seattle Times* livewire series event on affordable housing which involved a panel discussion focused on why housing prices are so high and potential solutions.

Commissioner Villar also noted that earlier in the day she participated in a site visit to Renewal Food Bank. The organization obtains most of its food from Northwest Harvest and a few major stores. They do not have a lot of diversity in their food choices and thus are not fully able to meet the needs of all community members. The organization has been standing on its own feet for only two years and have only a single full-time staff member in addition to many volunteers. A second staff member will be brought on board soon. The current location has generated an increase in the number of clients served.

Chair McEachran said the first Imagine Housing auction generated \$12,000, and the most recent one brought in \$471,000. During the event there were a number of interesting exchanges relative to changes in executive directors across the Eastside and he suggested it might be worthwhile to recommend that all of the executive directors should get together to discuss how they can collaboratively impact the needs expressed through the Needs Update.

Chair McEachran urged the Commissioners to review the Congregations for the Homeless annual report which clearly outlines the role the faith communities are playing.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Update on Mental Illness/Drug Dependency (MIDD)

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie introduced Jim Vollandrof and Kelli Carroll with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse division of King County's Department of Community and Human Services.

Ms. Carroll explained that in 2005 the legislature authorized counties to implement a one-tenth of one percent sales tax to fund mental illness and drug dependency programs. Spokane County was first out of the gate and King County followed suit in 2007, with tax collection beginning in 2008. The tax brings in between \$42 million and \$50 million per year. The Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan, approved by the King County Council in 2008, specifies how the dollars are to be allocated. There are 37 MIDD strategies that receive funding. The oversight committee has 30 members and serves an advisory role.

Continuing, Ms. Carroll said during the 2009 legislative session as the recession was at its height a change was approved to the statute which originally directed funding of new or expanded mental health and substance abuse services or housing that is part of a continuum of care. The modification allowed revenue to supplant lost funds up to a certain percentage. In 2011 the statute was modified again to dial down the

amount of revenue that could be supplanted, and was further modified in 2012 to allow the therapeutic court to be fully funded by MIDD and not be included in supplantation.

The next MIDD Oversight Committee meeting is slated for April 23. Ms. Carroll encouraged the Commissioners and staff to attend.

The MIDD is under review with an eye toward renewal of the sales tax, which is set to expire in King County at the end of 2016. The sunset clause established by King County puts pressure on all performers to deliver on outcomes, helps programs stay fresh, and allows the public the opportunity to look at the value of its investment. Council action, rather than a vote of the people, is needed to renew the MIDD.

The mental health and substance abuse environment has changed dramatically over the last eight years. Some of the factors that are driving the MIDD renewal include implementation of the Affordable Care Act; a State statute that calls for the integration of the behavioral health system by 2016; and by 2020 the public health primary care system is to be integrated into a single contract with the state. There is growing use of involuntary treatment courts. In August the State Supreme Court ruled that the placement of individuals who are involuntarily placed in a psychiatric bed not associated with a medical condition is unconstitutional. There are also potential impacts associated with a federal court ruling in the Trueblood case involving a competency evaluation timeline. The court finding holds the state responsible for conducting competency evaluations within seven days of a court order being entered.

Mr. Vollendorf said the current legislative session is really about mental health and education. The amount of attention being paid to the mental health and substance use disorders is exciting to see. There are a number of opportunities being uncovered, but with them come challenges in the form of new regulations and new laws that must be implemented locally. Such actions need to be based on good policy and fully funded. King County is moving to transition from a regional support network to a behavioral health organization and actions taken by the legislature will impact the structure of the Health and Substance Abuse division will look like in the future. Currently there are two separate involuntary treatment systems, one for mental health and one for substance abuse. The former system is fairly well defined and fairly well funded, whereas the latter system is far less well funded. Passage of SB-6312 resulted in a requirement to integrate the systems. Integration will require the addition of new evaluation and treatment facilities, which will be very expensive; it is funded in the current House budget but not in the Senate budget. The legislature has also been asked to fund a secure detox facility for King County; such a facility would allow for the placement of folks who are involuntarily committed for drug or alcohol issues.

There are a number of laws related to the involuntary commitment statutes that are driven by tragic situations. Sheena's Law came out of a case in Spokane County involving a murder-suicide committed by someone who was in the mental health

system; the law requires additional training for police officers and allows designated mental health professionals to use family testimony. Joel's Law, which is also before the legislature, came about through an unfortunate situation where an individual involved in the mental health system was shot and killed by the police while in a psychotic episode; the family is pushing to have more family involvement in the Involuntary Treatment Act process. King County Mental Health supports both laws.

Mr. Vollendorf said over the last several years the Division has moved toward recognition of the fact that people can and do recover from substance abuse and mental health disorders. Recovery is seen every day in the funded programs and in individuals who now serve as peers in the system.

Commissioner Perelman said she has heard talk about profits from the sale of marijuana going into the general fund rather than toward substance abuse programs. Mr. Vollendorf said the Division is very concerned about that. He allowed that he voted in favor of legalizing marijuana, in part because of promises to use tax revenues to prevent young people from using marijuana in the first place. He said his staff have been working with the legislature around that issue.

Mr. Vollendorf commented that between the House and the Senate budgets there is a lot of money earmarked for mental health in the current session. On the Senate side, however, quite a lot of funding has been removed from infrastructure. Much of the Division's funding goes for outpatient, community-based programs, and the new funding put in by the Senate budget is for the deeper end of the system. Progress has been made in working with both the House and the Senate, and if the hoped for funding is realized, the Division will be alright.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Bruels, Mr. Vollendorf said he was notified by Recovery Centers of King County, the County's sole detox provider, that it would stop taking patients as of April 6 in violation of the agreement to provide 30-day notice. Subsequent conversations yielded an agreement to continue taking detox clients through April 10, but it appears that a program that has been in business for decades will close its doors. An agreement has been reached with two providers in the community, Fairfax Hospital in east King County and Cascade Behavioral Health in south King County, to take on the contract on a temporary basis. The number of beds purchased will be reduced from 27 to 20 until an RFP can be prepared and put out on the streets. The hope is that new contractors will be in place by July 1.

Ms. Carroll informed the Commission that in February the King County Council passed Ordinance 17998 that calls for three documents to be submitted by the Executive to the Council regarding the MIDD. By the end of November of 2015 a progress report is set to be submitted. On June 30, 2016, a comprehensive historical review and assessment report on the life of the current MIDD must be submitted. It will include an assessment of the MIDD strategies and programs along with recommendations for moving forward. On December 1, 2016, a Service

Improvement Plan on a renewed MIDD is due. The documents will tee up the Council to take the MIDD vote between the end of June and December 1 of 2016.

Ordinance 17998 specifically calls for the MIDD Service Improvement Plan to be developed with input from the oversight committee and community stakeholders. Over the next 18 months King County staff and the Oversight Committee will be bringing together the analytical components for the reports, develop recommendations for the Executive, and transmit the findings to the County Council. A work plan and timeline is being developed for the Oversight Committee's review work. The work plan will outline the steps that will need to be taken. There will be extensive outreach to communities, entities and jurisdictions inviting participation in the review and renewal discussions.

Ms. Carroll said central to the outreach effort will be making sure that consumers have a voice, including those living with mental illness or substance abuse issues and their family members. Every effort will be put into ensuring that the principles of social justice and equity are reflected in all aspects of the MIDD.

The Oversight Committee on March 26 officially kicked off its MIDD review and renewal work and planning. The committee also approved a small group to provide staff with guidance and advice in a nimble manner.

Ms. Leslie asked what outreach will be done to cities outside of Seattle in regard to MIDD renewal. Ms. Carroll said she will be doing as much as possible and would love to hit every single city council in the County. The Eastside Human Services Forum likely will be involved, and it would be good to partner with the Sound City Association.

Commissioner Villar asked if there will be any focus on foster youth and mental health given that so many foster children end up aging out of the system and wind up homeless or imprisoned. Ms. Carroll said one of the articulated hopes and guided principles offered at the Oversight Committee meeting was increasing the focus on and services to youth. That has become important as more is learned about the science of the way children's brains develop, and also as more is learned about the school-to-prison pipeline that follows where kids graduate from high school, take a left turn and potentially get involved in the criminal justice system. The MIDD includes some strategies that are specifically geared toward kids, and other strategies where kids are served as part of the entire body of work. There is generally a desire for the MIDD to do more for the youth, but there is no specific strategy focused on kids in the foster care system. Systems need to serve children rather than having children try to fit into systems and moving forward the MIDD will reflect that value and others.

Commissioner Bruels said in making the case the Council should be informed that the MIDD is only a start and by no means a be-all-end-all solution to the human services crisis King County is facing, particularly in light of the recession, the

supplantation, and the fact that the tax projections were way off given that they were developed ahead of the recession. By evidence of the One Night Count and hospital volumes it is obvious the County is in the midst of a crisis and tragedy resulting from a lack of services in support of people with mental health and substance abuse problems. The available resources are so scarce that providers are resorting to ever-increasing complex hurdle jumping in order to get services to clients. There is promise that the MIDD will be able to address some of the folks who are falling outside the criteria many providers are putting forth.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie took a moment to bring the Commission up to date relative to approval of the CDBG funding recommendations and the Comprehensive Plan update. With regard to the former, she said normally the recommendation from the Commission is placed on the Council's consent calendar, but was pulled for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is interest on the part of several Councilmembers to find capital funding for the Salvation Army. The Commission's rationale was shared with the Council. The discussion by the Councilmembers, led by Mayor Balducci, was clearly in favor of finding money for the agency. In the end, however, the Commission's recommendations were upheld and approved. There appeared to be a consensus among the Councilmembers to work toward identifying some capital funds to be allocated to the agency as a part of the mid-biennium budget review process.

Chair McEachran praised the staff for making sure the Commission's story was told clearly. The Council discussion ran for 20 minutes and it was rewarding to see the respect the Council has for the Commission and the work it does.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Perelman, Ms. Leslie said a site visit with the Salvation Army is being set up. She said staff have been encouraged to reach out to the agency so that will be done in the coming months.

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano commented that there is more than just the Salvation Army's recent history involved in the Commission's concerns. There are ongoing concerns about collaboration issues. It certainly is both challenging and troubling to use CDBG dollars to help a church build a new church. The Salvation Army is the only church organization the city funds; it is very different from St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Community Services. There have been concerns voiced by the Commission about the activities of other organizations as well and during the next cycle it would be good to return to the topic and reach more forceful conclusions.

Chair McEachran said in the venue in which he lives there are often referrals out to dozens of organizations. Additionally, in multiple areas there is a collective impact as various faith communities band together. Collaborative impact involves sitting together at the table and bringing assets to bear to address a common goal. He said while faith organizations can use government funds in the way Imagine Housing has, but it is not good stewardship to build churches with government money. The

decisions made by the Commission over the past funding cycles to refrain from funding church activities needs to be more clearly defined so the Council can be fully informed.

With regard to the Comprehensive Plan update, Ms. Leslie informed the Commission that the pass-off from the Planning Commission to the Council occurred on April 6. The Council will take up the draft with an eye on taking action on it by June 15. All of the city's boards and commissions involved in the process were invited to say a few words about key recommendations.

Ms. Leslie noted that earlier in the day a request was received from Councilmember Robinson for copies of the Commission's recommendations regarding the Housing Element. That request was addressed.

Ms. Leslie stated that operation of both of the winter shelters have been extended through the month of April. Catholic Community Services has applied for money to extend to mid-May.

Sophia Way has a new director in place. There will be an overlap of a week or so between the interim director and the new director.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly reported that the goal of 400 respondents for the phone and online survey has almost been achieved. The report should be ready around mid-May. Work is under way to get out the providers survey, and community conversations are continuing to be scheduled and conducted. There is one scheduled for April 20 at Bellevue College. She said she met recently with Mike Ogiore with the Bellevue Downtown Association as an outreach to the business community. Key informant interviews are being conducted as well.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McEachran adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date