

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on August 5, 2008

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 1, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Beighle, Hoople, Huenefeld-Gese,
Lazetti, Stout

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chairperson Yantis, Seltzer

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commissioner Stout who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Yantis and Commissioner Seltzer, both of whom were excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 20, 2008

Commissioner Stout referred to the third full paragraph on page 9 and noted that "...were almost at the same point..." should read "...were almost at the same point in 1996..." and noted that the other schools involved, Spirit Ridge, Lake Hills and Stevenson Elementary schools, and Odle and Highland Middle schools, should be listed. She then suggested that the next sentence should read "What that project had accomplished was phenomenal, however." Finally, she said the penultimate sentence of the same paragraph should read "...the school district managed to kill most of the work that had previously been done."

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Beighle. Second was by Commissioner Lazetti and the motion carried unanimously.

B. June 3, 2008

Commissioner Beighle called attention to the second paragraph under old business on page 5 and noted the reference to "Eastside Leadership" should read "Leadership Eastside." She also asked to have added after the word "group" the word "project."

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese. Second was by Commissioner Lazetti and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Lazetti said she served as a volunteer at the 24 Hour Relay and had a great time.

Commissioner Beighle said she attended the opening ceremony and learned that 127 teams participated in the event. There was a great deal of individual school spirit and enthusiasm.

Commissioner Hoople said he volunteered for Relay for Life in Lawrence, Kansas. He said he also was able to take part in dedicating a building to the navigator who died in the airplane crash he himself was in.

Commissioner Hoople said while driving across North Dakota he listened to a radio broadcast in which the lady in charge of all food banks in the state was interviewed. The primary concern voiced was focused on the fact that the rural populations are not being served. A survey was conducted that showed those being served are primarily the working poor and the elderly. Both of those groups are hesitant to approach a food bank because they are embarrassed to do so, and both groups cited transportation issues.

Commissioner Hoople said he attended the recent Washington State Convention of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said she attended the most recent Salvation Army Advisory Board meeting to provide a synopsis of the Needs Update. She said she asked them to outline the trends they are seeing. One they shared was the big increase in the number of people accepting the free meal that is offered five nights each week. The meal used to be provided at Crossroads Community Center by Catholic Community Services. When the Crossroads building was remodeled two or three years ago, the Salvation Army had already located in its current space and offered to take on the program. Recently, the number of participants has jumped

from about 40 to 80. The Army is also seeing an increase in the number of people in need of emergency assistance with their utility bills.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie reported that on June 9 she and Grant Program Coordinator Joseph Adriano met with the executive director and some of the managers of Hopelink; Kirkland and Redmond staff were also present for the meeting. Hopelink explained how they have reorganized themselves and talked about some of their internal initiatives. Ms. Leslie said she was most interested in learning more about the closing of the two child development centers operated by the agency, one of which was in Bellevue. It was stated that for a number of reasons the programs had begun downsizing the number of children served in an attempt to address a \$750,000 deficit. The program was not serving Hopelink Place families as planned; many of the clients at the Overlake facility were Microsoft employees. Child Care Resources has been hired by Hopelink to help the parents find other childcare and half of the families have already done so. The King County Housing Authority is looking for a new provider for the Overlake site. The plan is to turn the Adelle Maxwell building into a family learning center with case management and other kinds of services.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Stout, Ms. Leslie explained that the Adele Maxwell center is still operating but with far fewer children. They have not pulled the program cold turkey. Commissioner Stout said it is disturbing to think that an organization the size of Hopelink cannot subsidize childcare.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Preliminary Review of Goal #2 Human Services Funding Applications

26. APLS Learning Center - Early Learning Outreach to Multicultural Families

Commissioner Beighle explained that the program is an early learning outreach to multicultural families. The focus is on providing high-quality child care for children and parenting education. All of the teaching teams are STARS certified. The agency has made application for funding to the city twice in the past but has not been funded.

Commissioner Beighle said 82.5 percent of the clients are moderate income, though no proof of income appears to be required. There are no real measurements with regard to outcomes.

Commissioner Hoople said the program is essentially a reverse ESL in that it teaches children a foreign language in a private school format. The need is simply not highlighted by the Needs Update.

27. Asian Counseling and Referral Service - Peer Advocacy and & Counseling for Children and Youth

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides bilingual and bicultural youth prevention and intervention services, victims counseling, case management and mental health services for students and families in elementary and middle schools.

Commissioner Hoople said the program is a valuable one in that youths of other cultures often find it difficult to find someone they can talk to, especially females.

Commissioner Beighle noted that the program has added an on-sight youth counselor. The program operates as part of the wrap around project.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the application indicates that program costs have gone up 12 percent, yet the requested amount represents a 19 percent increase.

28. Assistance League of the Eastside - Operation School Bell

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides new clothing to students who are selected by school personnel. The selected students attend a shopping event at Fred Meyer with oversight by a volunteer. Additionally, each student receives a \$120 certificate and ten percent discount good at Fred Meyer. The program is open to students in grades K through 9. Funding from Kenmore and Woodinville is being sought for the first time, and the program intends to collect demographic information for the first time.

Commissioner Hoople added that the agency does participate in fundraising activities for the program, receives a lot of grants, and garners in-kind contributions.

Commissioner Beighle said one caveat is that the currently funded program has only served 57 percent of the students identified by the school system. Another drawback is the fact that a \$120 certificate does not go all that far.

29. Athletes for Kids - Athletes for Kids

Commissioner Beighle explained that the youth mentorship program has been around for some time but has not previously applied to Bellevue. The mentors are all high school athletes who spend six to eight hours each month serving as positive role models for children in grades 1 through 8 who have a wide variety of special needs.

Commissioner Hoople said the fact that the program operating in Bellevue is located at a private school gives him some pause. There is no sliding fee scale.

Commissioner Lazetti pointed out that the program is operating in the red.

Commissioner Stout observed that the previous application indicated FTEs, whereas the current application does not.

30. BCC Head Start

Commissioner Beighle said Head Start has a program at BCC focused on early learning and family childcare that has some 60 slots in two classes.

Commissioner Hoople said there is some question about how the agency separates the Head Start money from other monies.

Commissioner Beighle added the children are from low-income families with culturally diverse backgrounds. The program has repeatedly received the highest possible ratings from local, state and federal partners and funders.

The program costs are expected to increase by one percent, but the application seeks a 3.5 percent increase.

31. Bellevue School District - Early Childhood Program

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides childcare and preschool scholarships to low-income families that are working or in school. The services are provided on the school campuses.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that program costs are projected to increase by six percent, but the requested amount is a 21 percent increase, though the application text indicates the increase is only 17 percent.

32. Bellevue School District - Human Services Specialist

Commissioner Beighle said the services provided at Lake Hills, Stevenson, Phantom Lake, Sherwood Forest and Ardmore Elementary schools include support for children and families that nurture relationships, provide constructive and engaging activities, and establish links to the broader resources of the community. The increase asked for is based on the free and reduced lunch numbers.

Commissioner Hoople said the detailed information in the application was very helpful.

33. Bellevue School District - VIBES

Commissioner Hoople disclosed for the record that he serves as a VIBES volunteer.

Commissioner Beighle said the program recruits community volunteers to mentor and tutor students who need individual attention to keep pace. There are currently some 400 volunteers associated with the program. The one-on-one mentoring sessions take place in the classrooms, library and common areas. The volunteers spend a minimum of one hour per week, though some spend more. The program outcomes are excellent and the students are positive about the program.

Commissioner Hoople said the program does not conduct any fundraising. It does receive funding from the Bellevue Schools Foundation.

34. Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue - Project Learn

Commissioner Beighle said the program serves 250 at-risk youth in grades 2 through 6 at Ardmore, Phantom Lake, Stevenson, Bennett and Cherry Crest Elementary schools who are economically or otherwise disadvantaged. The kids helped are usually identified by teachers or parents as most at-risk for truancy leading to youth crime and juvenile violence. The program, however, is open to all children in the participating schools. The program staff participate in regular training.

35. Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue - Summer Camp

Commissioner Beighle noted that the requested amount represents a 40.9 percent increase even though total program costs are shown to increase only 3.9 percent. Commissioner Hoople said it works out to an \$8,000 increase to serve four more kids, according to the information in the application. In all likelihood, the shown units costs are incorrect; it would be helpful to know the correct numbers.

Commissioner Stout said the organization does a great deal of fundraising and most of its members are upper income. It is disturbing to see the application shows no agency resources going to the program.

Commissioner Beighle said the application notes on page 7 that the program does not require clients to provide household incomes. However, on page 11 it states that the household income for campers is looked at. That point should be clarified.

36. Catholic Community Services - Volunteer Chore Services

Commissioner Lazetti said the programs serves elderly, disabled and low-income persons. The program supports two of the three focus areas. The application indicates there are about four employees or so. Recent staff turnovers indicate a need for increased funding in order to get and keep qualified staff.

37. Child Care Resources - Child Care Financial Assistance

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program administers child care scholarship funds to assist eligible families. The program outcomes are good, but the application does not specify how the program partners with others in the community.

Commissioner Lazetti said the agency does not conduct much fundraising. Fundraising accounts for only ten percent of the total program budget. She said she was also concerned by the fact that 56 percent of the recipients are moderate-

income, which is outside the focus of funding. The application indicates salaries and benefits will be increased by 50 percent in 2009.

Ms. Leslie said King County government used to have a child care program for the working poor above the DSHS subsidy level. When the County got out of the business, Child Care Resources took on the responsibility. That is why they have more moderate-income clients than low-income clients.

Commissioner Stout noted that there are eligibility requirements that must be met before the subsidies can be given.

Ms. O'Reilly cautioned the Commissioners against trying to compare the program to other child care programs because it is quite different; it fills a very different niche.

38. Child Care Resources - Child Care Resource and Referral

Commissioner Lazetti said the program has been in operation for 18 years. The program meets the funding program areas and accomplishes the desired results.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Lazetti, Ms. O'Reilly said the providers to which the agency offers referrals must be licensed by DSHS. If there are problems with any particular provider, they will be pulled from the web site.

Commissioner Lazetti said part of the increase in the budget request is because salaries are set to increase six percent in 2009.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program has a lot of credentials among the staff and the unit costs appear to reflect that to some degree.

39. Child Care Resources - Homeless Child Care Program

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program provides comprehensive child care services to homeless children and helps families create a sustainable future. The program outcomes are acceptable. She questioned why the agency was not applying for funding from Kenmore and Bothell.

40. Chinese Information and Service Center - International Family Center Eastside

Commissioner Lazetti said the agency is not new but the program is. The ask is for \$123,000, which is considerably more than the \$70,000 they received in the last funding cycle. She noted that the agency has been doing cultural work for more than ten years, but there is no evidence of how they have tracked the service population in the past. There is also nothing said in the application about how the agency plans to track the measurable for the new program.

Commissioner Lazetti noted that the program is fairly small and emphasizes the use of volunteers. However, 56 percent of the proposed budget will go for salaries and benefits with only one full-time employee. Some clarity would be beneficial.

Commissioner Lazetti said she would also like to know if the agency has any future plans to increase fundraising.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the program is exciting because it has come out of the work with ERIC.

Commissioner Lazetti expressed concern that the clients are not asked to pay anything for the services or cultural events. Commissioner Stout noted that 80 percent of the clients are at the low-income level. Commissioner Lazetti said a number of the numbers in the application are confusing.

Commissioner Hoople agreed the Commission should have some information to substantiate a 76 percent budget increase. Commissioner Lazetti said the application contains a very large gap between the requested and identified funding.

41. Crisis Clinic - 2-1-1 Community Information Line

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the program connects people to services for no charge. The service is available 24/7 and the agency handles its funds very well. She said she would like more information about how the program intends to market itself to the community; the program is critical, but if no one knows it exists, it will not fulfill its intended purpose.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that 2-1-1 is seeking Veterans Levy funds.

42. Eastside Legal Assistance Program

Commissioner Lazetti said the application is impeccable. The program serves low- and very low-income clients with legal services. The financials will increase by only one percent.

43. Friends of Youth - Healthy Start

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese said the volunteer home visitation program supports healthy child development. She said she had no questions when reading through the application. The application is seeking a ten percent increase.

44. Hopelink - Family Development Program

Commissioner Lazetti said the program provides long-term case management to low-income families in North and East King County. Forty-five percent of the budget is from fundraising.

Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese noted some confusion over the actual number of clients served.

45. Institute for Family Development - Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Commissioner Stout noted that the program has not previously been funded by the city. The request is to fund the in-home counseling and skill-building program for low- and moderate-income high-risk children and families who are not participating in other community services. The program is based on Federal Way and currently only serves North and East King County in Kenmore.

Commissioner Stout observed that the application provides no data concerning any specific Bellevue need, demonstrates no alignment with any of the three focus areas, and does not indicate any access to families in Bellevue. There is no indication of local linkages or referrals from or to providers. The only funding from other sources appears to be from United Way; there is no indication of income from grants, foundations or fundraising. The focus of the program is on major family issues, yet the program works with clients for no more than 90 days to avoid forming dependencies.

46. Kinderling Center - Early Childhood Consultation

Commissioner Stout said the application sets forth a compelling need with supportable statistics. The outcomes are appropriate and measurable, and the program is filling a definite need. The program is well connected with other providers. The budget enjoys very broad development base.

47. Refugee Women's Alliance - After-School Youth Tutoring Program

Commissioner Stout said the application includes a statement of need, but suggested the same services are being provided in the community by Jewish Family Services, Asian Counseling and Referral, and the Chinese Information and Service Center. The organization has had some spotty work in North King County, but it has not been consistent. The program is not closely linked to the school district. The ability of the agency to sustain the services listed in the budget is questionable; there is no evidence of any fund development capacity or funding committed by other sources. There is also no evidence of skilled volunteers to help the agency sustain an effort in Bellevue.

48. Refugee Women's Alliance - Developmental Disabilities Program

Commissioner Stout said the application contains a very general statement of need about refugees and immigrants having difficulties understanding or accessing services for special needs populations. The advocacy and referral program does not fit any of the focus areas, and the outcomes appear to be overly optimistic for the first

year. There is a lack of indication that the agency has the organizational and staff competency needed to deal with the target population. There is no indication of any current partnerships in the community, and no mention of any other funding source.

Commissioner Hoople said he found the stated outcomes in the application to be inadequate.

49. Refugee Women's Alliance - Parent Education Program

Commissioner Stout said the program is intended to provide workshops and individual advocacy to remove language and cultural barriers so refugee and immigrant parents can fully participate in their children's academic success. The needs statement is not compelling. The service could be provided by existing agencies. There is no evidence of any current coordination with other agencies or groups, and there is no evidence of funding by other funders.

50. YMCA of Greater Seattle-Lake Heights - Lake Heights Child Care Programs

Commissioner Stout said the program is apparently accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, though that is not indicated in the application. The need is clearly outlined in the application, including the fact that there is a waiting list for the service. The outcomes are not particularly specific. No one on the staff has any early childhood or early learning training, nor is there any indication of childcare training by the administrative staff. There is no indication of linkages in the community, and little is said about program quality improvement over the years. The budget has no line item for training and travel, and it would be good to know how training and staff development are being handled if they are not shown in the budget. The budget numbers, in fact, are unclear; the application shows income from United Way for scholarships, yet the total amount shown for scholarships is the exact amount being requested of Bellevue.

Commissioner Stout said she would be interested in knowing if anyone on the staff has any Early Childhood Education or other current elementary education experience. The application says the question of whether or not the program falls under any of the systemwide strategic plans is not applicable, though the program is focused on early childhood. The program does not participate in FACES.

51. Youth Eastside Services - Early Intervention for Youth At-Risk

Commissioner Stout said the application builds a very good case for the need for the mental health program. The proposed outcomes are appropriate. She said she would be curious to know why the Bellevue School District dropped its drug, alcohol and substance abuse contract with YES.

Commissioner Stout said YES is well integrated into the system. The budget

numbers appear to be okay, and the funds come from a broad array of sources.

52. Youth Eastside Services - Response to Youth

Commissioner Stout said the crisis intervention counseling and information and referral services are offered on-site at the Boys and Girls Club. YES also trains Boys and Girls Club staff. Services are provided at Ground Zero and Spiritwood Manor. The program is very well crafted and operated. There is good collaboration and coordination. The budget numbers are reasonable.

53. Youth Eastside Services - SUCCESS Mentoring

Commissioner Stout praised the program, calling it the gold standard. She said her one question regarding the program was no funds were being requested from Redmond and Kirkland.

Ms. Leslie said she received a call earlier in the day from Commissioner Seltzer who voiced the opinion that the funds allocated to the Adele Maxwell program be continued in some fashion for child care, if possible.

- 7. OLD BUSINESS - None
- 8. NEW BUSINESS - None
- 9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None
- 10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stout adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date