

*The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on June 5, 2012*

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

May 15, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Bruels, Commissioners Beighle, McEachran, Plaskon, Stout, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Perelman

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Bruels who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who was excused.

Chair Bruels took a moment to welcome new Commissioner James McEachran.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 20, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Yantis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stout and the motion carried without dissent; Commissioner McEachran abstained from voting.

B. April 17, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Plaskon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beighle and the motion carried without dissent; Commissioner McEachran abstained from voting.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Beighle reported that she attended the Issaquah Schools Foundation successful fundraiser.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Qualitative Data on Messaging for Alliance of Eastside Cities & Eastside Human Services Forum

The agenda item was postponed to the May 22, 2012, meeting.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Preliminary Human Services Application Review (Goal 1)

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie explained that during the first round of reviews the Commission should keep its questions to those that really need to be answered in order to make a decision. Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano added that the first round is also the opportunity for the Commission to remove applications from consideration altogether. Specific dollar amounts for each application will be discussed in the second round of reviews.

Pointing out that the applications received total a little over \$4 million, Commissioner Stout highlighted the need for the Commission to be critically discerning right from the start. Ms. Leslie said the total available funding, including CDBG, is roughly \$3.5 million.

1. ABSOLUTE Ministries – Discipleship & Housing

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the agency is based in Auburn and currently is serving no local clients. She said she had questions about their professional qualifications. Commissioner Plaskon added that the agency is not set up to measure any outcomes.

Commissioner Stout recommended removing the application from consideration.

2. BAS Foundation

Commissioner Stout said the application lacks good data and includes only sketchy details. Determining the agency's client data requires guesswork. While the food crisis line idea is a good one, it is not ready for funding.

Commissioner Stout recommended removing the application from consideration.

3. Catholic Community Services of King County – Emergency Assistance

Commissioner Stout said the review team raised questions about the differences between the projected numbers served in 2011 and their proposal for 2012 and 2013.

Chair Bruels noted that the application indicates a significant drop in the number of Bellevue clients served and wondered why. He said he would like to have that question answered. He commented that the fact that the agency is seeking a substantial increase in funding; coupled with fewer Bellevue clients served, the facts raise a red flag.

4. Catholic Community Services of King County – Harrington House

Chair Bruels said the transitional housing program for women and children is seeking a \$5000 increase. He said in his view the program is highly aligned with jobs training. The agency has lost its United Way funding, but it has good contract performance.

Commissioner Stout said there continue to be questions about the number of Bellevue residents served.

5. Congregations for the Homeless – Drop-in Center

Commissioner Stout said the proposed men's drop-in center would be located at the First Congregational Church in the space currently used by Sophia's Way as a women's shelter. She said the application is well written and raised no questions for her.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Plaskon, Commissioner Stout explained that Sophia's Way is moving to St. Luke's Lutheran Church at the northern end of Bellevue Way where they will have more space. Angelina's operated by the YWCA is also moving and will continue its partnership of offering day programs.

Chair Bruels observed that while the program is new, it is in line with the goals.

6. Congregations for the Homeless – Housing

Commissioner Stout said the review team had no questions concerning the well-established men's housing program.

Ms. Leslie noted that both Congregations for the Homeless and Sophia's Way have split off from Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council. Both are now separate 501(c)(3) organizations, which is why they are applying separately for the winter shelter and separate programs.

7. Congregations for the Homeless – Eastside Winter Shelter

Commissioner Stout asked what pot of money was used to fund the men's and women's winter shelters for the 2011-2012 winter season. Ms. Leslie said they were part of the budget and the contract was with Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council.

Commissioner Stout said the review team had no questions about the application.

Commissioner Plaskon asked what the TLH county grant is. Ms. Leslie said the money is from King County and the acronym stands for Time Limited Housing. Mr. Adriano added that he had been told by Congregations for the Homeless that when the county gave them the award they subtracted funding from their regular grant to the organization.

8. Congregations for the Homeless – Shelter

Commissioner Stout said the application is for the well-established men's shelter. She said the review team had no questions about the application.

9. Eastside Baby Corner – Meeting Basic Needs for Children

Commissioner Stout commented that the agency is making the shift from all volunteers to a staffed organization. She noted that the review team had no questions about the application.

10. Eastside Domestic Violence Program – My Sister's Home

Commissioner Stout said the review team had no questions about the application.

Chair Bruels asked why there was a decrease in the number of service units, and noted that the agency has increased its ask. He said he would like that clarified.

11. Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle King County

Commissioner Stout noted that the program was only seeking a slight increase in funding. She said the team generated no questions concerning the application.

12. Food Lifeline

Commissioner Plaskon said the review team concluded that the application meets all of the criteria and raised no questions about the application.

Chair Bruels observed that there had been a decrease in the number of service units and a decrease in the ask without an accompanying explanation. Commissioner Plaskon pointed out that the ask from Bellevue decreased by \$5000 and the ask from

Redmond was increased by the same amount. He agreed the question about the reduced number of service units should be answered.

Commissioner Beighle asked why the professional services line item had doubled.

#### 13. Friends of Youth – Homeless Youth Services

Commissioner Beighle said the team had no questions about the well-established program.

Commissioner McEachran commented that the agency's new executive director is having lots of cooperative conversations about the youth shelter, including conversations with Grace Lutheran about their space.

Commissioner Plaskon said a comparison of the number of beds the program has available against the number of bednights seems to indicate that over half the beds are empty, yet they indicate they have a long waiting list. The application lists 5676 bednights. Dividing that total by 365 days yields a total of 15 beds occupied, yet the application also states the program has 33 beds.

#### 14. Friends of Youth – The Landing Shelter

Commissioner McEachran said his congregation is involved in funding the program. He said he personally is enthusiastic about the program and the interrelationships with other organizations that provide space for homeless kids.

There were no questions about the application.

#### 15. Habitat for Humanity of East King County

Commissioner Plaskon said all of the money goes directly to home improvements. He said he had no questions about the application.

Chair Bruels said his only concern was that the application is new and the city is already funding home repair services.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said Habitat staff asked to meet with city staff to talk about how cross referrals could be made. They did not mention during the meeting that they had plans to apply for funding from the city. She said while the program does a good job, there are some issues to consider. For one thing clients are asked to pay back all home repair loans before selling their homes. Their loan eligibility rules match those of the city's program, but there are questions about how a low-income family could afford to pay back a \$10,000 loan for a roof repair. Additionally, many potential clients are upside down with their mortgages; in those cases the city program cannot make loans, but Habitat was not able to say how they would handle the risk for their funding.

Chair Bruels pointed out that the application was seeking only \$5000 from the city. He suggested that would not make or break the program and suggested removing the application from further consideration.

16. Hopelink – Emergency Food

Commissioner McEachran said the review team generated no questions regarding the application.

Chair Bruels said he would like an explanation for why the number of service units is falling.

17. Hopelink – Emergency Services Financial Assistance

Commissioner Plaskon said the program seeks to prevent evictions and provides vouchers for meals. He said they raised no questions about the program.

18. Hopelink – Housing

Commissioner Beighle said the application involves the housing offered at both Kenmore and Avondale. She said she had no questions about it.

19. Imagine Housing – Francis Village

Commissioner McEachran said his congregation started Imagine Housing 25 years ago.

Commissioner Beighle said the application is very well written. She said she had no questions regarding the application.

Ms. Leslie noted that the program received funding for Andrew's Glen two years ago. The Francis Village application is for a different property.

Mr. Adriano said the program received \$285,000 from Bellevue in CDBG funds and as such is required to serve Bellevue residents.

Commissioner McEachran said the services added creates a better climate for moving transitional homeless veterans to the next stages.

20. Imagine Housing – Resident Services

Chair Bruels noted that the application includes no discussion of program outcomes. He said he would like some comment from the agency about that.

Commissioner Plaskon questioned how the application fits under Goal 1. Ms. Leslie said it was housed under Goal 1 because it involves services for the formerly homeless persons who live on the property.

21. Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing Transitional Housing Program

Chair Bruels said that half the housing units are transitional and half are permanent.

Commissioner Beighle noted her support for the program.

22. Refugee Women's Alliance – Basic Food

Commissioner Beighle questioned why the program is not seeking funds from other cities, particularly Renton. Chair Bruels said he had the same question but suggested it is because the application is specific to the Bellevue case manager position.

Commissioner Plaskon questioned the cost-effectiveness of spending more than \$21,000 to pay someone to fill out 66 applications. Commissioner Stout said the same questions about management were raised during the last funding cycle.

Chair Bruels pointed out that the case managers do more than just fill out the applications. They help the clients apply for all manner of benefits and then provide follow up.

Commissioner Beighle said she would like to know if the case manager would also serve non-Bellevue clients.

23. Salvation Army – Eastside

Commissioner Beighle expressed concern with regard to the mission statement, which appears to be a strictly defined Christian mission for which public monies may not be appropriate.

Chair Bruels questioned the 95 percent effectiveness rate mentioned in the application.

Commissioner Plaskon commented that the application includes no outcomes for youth enrichment.

Commissioner Stout said she is very uncomfortable with the mission statement, particularly in such a diverse community.

Commissioner Yantis said the question is whether or not the agency in the delivery of services preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the stated mission of the

organization. He stressed that meeting needs in the name of Jesus Christ without discrimination is not the same as proselytizing.

Mr. Adriano commented that the mission statement cited is that of the national organization. He said there are a couple of other organizations whose national or overarching organization is the Catholic Church, and suggested that their mission statement would be pretty similar. To elect not to fund the Salvation Army based on their mission statement would mean having to pull funding from every organization with a similar mission statement.

Chair Bruels pointed out that the Council has specifically asked the Commission to do more by way of partnering with faith organizations.

Commissioner Beighle argued that the program offers handouts and does not try to address the long-term issues of the clients. Chair Bruels agreed but countered that that is no different from the emergency services program offered by Catholic Community Services.

Commissioner Stout said the agency was asked previously if they serve persons of all faiths or no faiths and their answer has been yes. Commissioner Yantis pointed out that that is in fact part of their mission statement as well.

There was agreement to ask the agency if it does any proselytizing of clients.

Commissioner McEachran commented that Catholic Community Services, Sophia Way, Imagine Housing, the Emergency Feeding Program and many other groups work under specific mission statements, but none have placed conditions on their clients of having to be card-carrying members of their faiths. The focus is always on meeting the needs of the community, and the faith-based element is only an undergirding.

#### 24. Senior Services – Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Stout noted that in the past she has had concerns about the organization. She said she would like to know what the agency is doing to improve its cultural competency in providing food options for its ethnically diverse clientele. She also pointed out that the statistics cited in the application regarding the people to be served are consistent from year to year. She stated, however, that the program is exceedingly effective and those delivering the meals are oftentimes the only persons to have contact with the isolated clients.

#### 25. Solid Ground – Housing Stability Project

Commissioner Stout questioned why the application seeks funding only from Bellevue. Ms. Leslie said that is because the rest of their funding comes from a

CDBG contract that covers the rest of the county and the other cities. Bellevue is the only city that directly funds the program in that it is not part of the CDBG consortium.

26. Sophia Way – Eastside Winter Shelter

Commissioner Stout said she had no questions regarding the program or the application.

Chair Bruels asked if the increased ask is tied to the fact that the program is moving locations. Ms. Leslie allowed that it does. The agency is currently looking at two potential locations, both of which will allow the program to increase its capacity.

Commissioner Plaskon said he did not see a lot of meat in the outcomes reports for each of the Sophia Way applications. Ms. Leslie said the outcome for the program is tied to the number of persons served and kept safe, which is the purpose of a winter shelter. While the staff do attempt to move the clients into more permanent housing, that is not the goal of the shelter program.

27. Sophia Way – Sophia's Home

Commissioner Stout said the housing program is focused on getting women off the streets and into a shelter. She said she had no questions about the application.

28. Sophia Way – Sophia's Place

Commissioner Stout said the program is the same as Sophia's Home but in a separate location.

29. Sophia Way – Sophia's Shoppe

Commissioner Stout suggested the agency needs to spend a little more time flushing out the proposal. She said the review team was recommending to remove the application from additional consideration.

30. St Vincent de Paul – Bellevue Conferences

Chair Bruels said the review team had a very long and detailed discussion about the application but suggested the details should be explored during the next round of reviews. He pointed out that the program was previously funded with one-time dollars, so the agency should not be surprised if the Commission decides not to fund the application.

Ms. Leslie noted that other programs, including Food Lifeline and the Cultural Navigator program, were previously granted one-time funds. That fact does not prevent them from applying during the next funding cycle.

Commissioner McEachran disclosed that the program is operated out of his church.

31. World Impact Network – Renewal Food Bank

Commissioner Stout said the review team did not have any questions about the application, but did note that the amount of funding being sought represents an increase of one-third.

32. YWCA Angeline's Eastside Homeless Women's Center

Commissioner Stout said no questions were raised regarding the application. She reiterated that the program will be moving to St. Luke's.

33. YWCA/Seattle/King/Snohomish – Family Village

Commissioner Stout said the program is located in Redmond and has been funded for a long time by the city. She said her review team had no questions about the application.

Commissioner Yantis noted that a few years ago the Commission gathered applications by category in an attempt to get a cost per unit across the board to assist in making comparisons. He said he was not making the suggestion that the same approach should be followed again, but urged the Commission to leave aside the question of who has been doing the job longest in favor of who is doing the job most effectively where applications for similar programs are up for discussion, even if one of the applications is new. By the same token, the Commission should be clear with regard to how much funding is earmarked for each category as a whole in comparison to past years. In the final analysis more funding should go into those areas identified as important.

Ms. Leslie said the Commission selected two focus areas for the current round of funding. The overarching funding strategy is to fund the broad scope, which is all five goal areas. The primary focus area is prevention and intervention programs for residents still affected by the recession, including but not limited to basic needs and services that directly affect employment, and services that were threatened by significant funding reductions from other sources.

Commissioner Beighle noted that in the last funding cycle some recession programs were funded. She suggested that the programs that were new to Bellevue funding but which are again seeking funding should be treated as new applications. Mr. Adriano pointed out that only two programs fit that category: St. Vincent de Paul and Food Lifeline.

Commissioner Stout said she and Chair Bruels had a discussion recently around Food Lifeline during which the suggestion was made that Food Lifeline should be

encouraged in the future to come out with a much larger program in order to achieve efficiencies.

Commissioner McEachran said the various food programs each have met with individual successes because of the focus they have, and most work collaboratively. Renewal Food Bank appears to be the exception, at least where collaboration is involved. He noted his support for reviewing the programs with an eye on the overall function of meeting the food needs of Bellevue residents.

Commissioner Beighle commented that Renewal Food Bank serves the immigrant and refugee communities without asking any questions about residency status. The police also know the program and often take people there to receive food. Hopelink does seek information and refugees who are afraid because of their status will not seek help from that organization.

Chair Bruels agreed that funding several different agencies to provide essentially similar services relative to food delivery does not appear to be the most efficient approach. However, the programs in place are the ones on the front lines getting the food delivered to those in need and as such their programs should be valued.

There was consensus not to consider funding four applications: ABSOLUTE Ministries, BAS Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of East King County, and Sophia Way – Sophia's Shoppe. Mr. Adriano noted that the asks for those applications totaled a little over \$70,000.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that the Food Lifeline application had been submitted after the deadline and could for that reason be rejected.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was consensus to begin the May 22, 2012, Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

The Commissioners took a few moments to introduce themselves to new Commissioner McEachran.

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bruels adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

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Secretary to the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

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Date