

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes as amended on June 22, 2010

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 8, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-120

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Huenefeld Gese, Commissioners Beighle, Bruels, Plaskon, Stout, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Hoople

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Commissioner Beighle who presided until the arrival of Chair Huenefeld Gese.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Huenefeld Gese, who arrived at 6:17 p.m., and Commissioner Hoople, who was excused.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Beighle said she attended the June 7 City Council meeting where Judy Bushnell was recognized. The Council also recognized World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with a proclamation.

5. DISCUSSION

A. Full Review of Human Services Applications Under Goal Areas #1 and #2

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano provided the Commissioners with updates to the

staff reviews for some of the applications in the first two goal areas.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie explained that the available funding are certainly not sufficient to cover the full request of each application. She said the projected increase over the previous funding level totals some \$68,000, or about 3.1 percent more. Funding new programs may have to be done at the expense of funding existing programs.

Commissioner Yantis suggested that in going through the various applications, it would be a good idea for the Commission to indicate whether the current funding level should be maintained, increased, decreased or eliminated. He added that if the conclusion for a given application is that the funding level should be kept flat, consideration will have to be given to whether that means literally the same dollar level or includes a cost of living adjustment to account for inflation.

Commissioner Beighle suggested the reviews should be done without consideration to including a cost of living adjustment. Commissioner Stout concurred with the notion that flat funding should be interpreted to mean the same allocation without an inflation adjustment.

1. Alpha Supported Living Services – Alpha Supported Living Services

The Commission preliminarily agreed not to consider funding the application because no Bellevue residents are served by the program, and because the program falls outside the Commission's specific focus areas.

2. Catholic Community Services – Emergency Assistance Program

Commissioner Stout proposed holding the funding flat for the program. She said her concerns primarily were lack of staff stability and depth of experience and their overall ability to manage the program.

There was agreement to preliminarily hold the funding level flat.

3. Catholic Community Services – Harrington House: An Expanded Care Model

Commissioner Stout suggested that the case management and family support proposed to be added to the program will be critical to the long-term success of the young families being served. She said she would be willing to see the program given an increase in funding over the previous allocation. Major improvements have been made in management, and the number of Bellevue residents being served has increased.

Commissioner Bruels said he would not object to an increase over the previous funding level, but would not agree to double the amount as requested by the

application.

There was agreement to preliminarily increase the allocation by the inflation factor and to highlight the application for some additional funding.

4. Eastside Baby Corner – Distribution of Basic Essentials for Children

Ms. Leslie outlined a few minor revisions to and clarifications of the staff report.

Commissioner Stout stated her support for increasing the allocation by the inflation factor at a minimum and considering additional funding beyond that.

Commissioner Bruels said the program directly affects the Commission's recession impact focus area and represents a cost-effective approach that leverages volunteer labor.

Commissioner Plaskon noted that the Commission has previously voiced concerns about the program being heavily dependent on one or two persons and their personalities. The proposed increase in funding is intended to bring onboard additional administrative people, a move that will increase the longevity of the program.

There was agreement to preliminarily increase the allocation by the inflation factor and to highlight the application for some additional funding.

5. Eastside Domestic Violence Program – My Sister's Home Emergency Shelter

Commissioner Stout indicated her support for fully funding the request.

Commissioner Bruels said he could support increasing the allocation by the inflation factor.

There was consensus to preliminarily indicate full funding for the application because the vital program addresses the focus areas and an increased need in the community.

6. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council – Congregations for the Homeless: Shelter

Commissioner Stout said in reading through the applications she reached the conclusion that some of the most compelling proposals were in the Goal 1 group. If additional funding can be identified, it should be allocated primarily to the Goal 1 applications.

Commissioner Beighle commented that the program is very cost effective. Commissioner Bruels agreed, noting that the program directly addresses the focus areas and represents a great partnership between the city and the faith communities.

There was agreement to preliminarily increase the allocation by the inflation factor and to highlight the application for some additional funding.

7. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council – Congregations for the Homeless: Housing

Commissioner Beighle recommended increasing the allocation by the inflation factor only.

It was agreed that the program directly addresses the focus areas and is a good partnership between the city and the faith communities. The program represents an excellent return on investment, is cost effective, has a low unit cost, and includes critically needed case management.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

8. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council – Congregations for the Homeless: Outreach

Commissioner Beighle expressed concern that the program is essentially being held up by one person.

Commissioner Yantis suggested the application should receive some level of funding.

Commissioner Stout said her concern was whether or not the small amount of funding requested is worth it for the agency given all the reporting requirements that go along with the allocation.

Commissioner Beighle said she would prefer to see the dollar amount put into case management.

Ms. Leslie commented that another jurisdiction previously funded the program and encountered reporting problems.

The Commissioners preliminarily agreed not to fund the application for the reasons voiced.

9. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council – Sophia's Home Housing Program for Single Women

Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the program is addressing a high need in the community.

Commissioner Yantis said the program is a fundamental part of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. It targets a very vulnerable and underserved population and represents a good collaborative effort in the community.

It was agreed to preliminarily earmark the application for funding if additional dollars are identified.

10. Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council – Sophia’s Place Program for Single Women

For the same reasons cited relative to Application 9, it was agreed to preliminarily earmark the application for funding if additional dollars are identified.

11. Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County – Hunger Relief Program

Commissioner Stout recommended holding the funding level flat. She noted that the application did not include any Bellevue data, and appears to charge the city for the value of donated goods in-kind in the unit costs. The program does address the food issue but does not address any of the secondary focus areas. She said she also did not see much in the way of coordination and effective linkages. She said her concern was not with the mission or the program but with its management.

Commissioner Beighle observed that the requested amount is not much higher than a cost of living adjustment and said she would be willing to fully fund the application.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the application does not indicate a uniform distribution of the unit costs among the various cities, with Federal Way and Renton being charged about half of what is being charged to Bellevue for the number of people served.

Ms. Leslie commented that the agency was a major player in the coordinated food drive that was conducted in the fall of 2009 and will be again for the effort in the fall of 2010.

Commissioner Bruels allowed that the cost per meal appears to be quite reasonable. Commissioner Beighle agreed and pointed out that the program offers specialty foods to clients.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application with a cost of living adjustment included.

12. Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County – Medically Vulnerable Low-Income Patients

Commissioner Beighle observed that the amount requested is small, which could make it difficult to manage administratively, and that the program does not address any of the focus areas.

Ms. O'Reilly said it was explained to her that many who are discharged from the hospital need items like Ensure and other supplemental foods.

Commissioner Bruels echoed the comments in the staff review about the need to measure outcomes beyond simply food items delivered; they should register the nutritional and health impacts as outcomes. Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that for many of the clients, the agency sees them only one time when they receive their bag of food. The agency cannot participate in follow-up with one-time users.

Chair Huenefeld Gese pointed out that the requested amount is very small and would be difficult to manage administratively.

Commissioner Beighle suggested the Commission should take a wait and see approach to see how the pilot program plays out through the next funding cycle.

Commissioner Stout said another approach would be to roll the funding for the pilot program into the other contracts with the agency.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application.

13. Food Lifeline – Client Services Support

Ms. Leslie pointed out that the requested amount was actually \$10,000 rather than \$40,500 as indicated in the application.

Commissioner Stout said the program directly addresses the Commission's focus areas.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application with a cost of living adjustment included and to consider additional funding if dollars are made available.

14. Friends of Youth – Homeless Youth Services

Commissioner Beighle said she found it interesting that the agency is not allocating any of its fundraising dollars for the specific program.

Commissioner Bruels said he was saddened to see the dismal results from the foster care recruitment efforts.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application with a cost of living adjustment and to consider additional funding if the money can be identified.

15. Friends of Youth – The Landing Young Adult Shelter

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the requested amount was less than the previous allocation.

Commissioner Stout said the great program maintains and sustains a vulnerable and underserved population in the community. Commissioner Beighle agreed and said it fills a large gap.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

16. Hopelink – Avondale Park Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter

The Commissioners concurred that the program fills a need and is in line with the focus areas.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

17. Hopelink – Emergency Feeding Services

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the requested amount was less than what was previously allocated to the program.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the decrease in funding sought is consistent with the decrease in the number of Bellevue residents served.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

18. Hopelink – Emergency Services Program

Commissioner Beighle commented that the program is very cost effective.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

19. Hopelink – Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter Program

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

20. Hospitality House – Hospitality House Women's Shelter

It was noted that during the first round of reviews the Commission had recommended not funding the application. The program operates in south King County and the

request is based on a projection of the possibility of Bellevue residents showing up seeking service.

21. KITH – KITH Transitional and Permanent Supportive

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the program is seeking a substantial increase.

Commissioner Stout commented that the agency is doing some good work and the program is serving a number of Bellevue families.

Commissioner Beighle said she would prefer to see the agency seek some funding from Redmond.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

22. National Council of Jewish Women Seattle Section – Furnishing Peaceful Homes: Shalom Bayit

It was noted that during the first round of reviews the Commission had recommended not funding the application. The conclusion reached was that the program is not cost effective and does not address the focus areas.

23. Refugee Women's Alliance – Basic Food Outreach and Assistance

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the application was seeking a substantial increase in funding.

Commissioner Beighle asked if any other agency provides a similar service. She also noted that the agency does no fundraising for the program. Ms. Leslie said Hopelink used to provide the service but they no longer do.

Ms. O'Reilly said during a recent site visit she gained a better understanding of what the program does, which is to serve people who do not speak English by helping them sign up for DSHS services. The part-time staffer stations herself at Crossroads Community Center once a week and talks to people and helps them sign up. Additionally, she spends one evening per week at the Hopelink food bank. It has been recommended that they coordinate their efforts with the cultural navigator.

Commissioner Beighle recommended holding the funding flat and ask the agency to work on developing partnerships. She observed that the number of persons served has been increasing.

Commissioner Bruels said the program appears to be the only one serving the specific population.

There was agreement to preliminarily hold flat the funding for the application and to encourage the agency to seek out local partners.

24. Senior Services – Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Beighle questioned why Bellevue residents should be charged \$12.61 per unit and Burien residents only \$1.15.

Commissioner Bruels suggested basing the allocation on the average per meal cost multiplied by the number of Bellevue meals served during 2010, which would come to just over \$4500.

Commissioner Yantis pointed out that according to the application the agency in 2010 provided 4500 units to Bellevue residents even though Bellevue funding covered only 1000 of those. Using the average cost per meal across all of the cities served, 4500 units would come to just over \$20,000. The agency is only seeking funding for 998 meals.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

25. Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County – St. Vincent de Paul in Bellevue

Commissioner Bruels said he had a number of conflicted feelings about the program. He said in light of the responses to the questions asked by the Commission, it appears the program is an arm's length charity. There is no follow-up conducted, and there is very little coordination of services.

Chair Huenefeld Gese said it is culturally appropriate for the agency staff to visit potential clients in their homes rather than to wait for the clients to come to them.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the program appears to duplicate a number of other programs, including those of the Salvation Army and Catholic Community Services.

Chair Huenefeld Gese agreed that the program would be a hard sell for the Council.

Commissioner Yantis suggested the real issue is whether or not the other programs are able to meet the need.

Commissioner Beighle said she would take a wait and see approach to see how well the program does until the next funding cycle.

Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the program does serve to leverage funds from other sources. Additionally, the main referral source for the program is 2-1-1.

It was agreed preliminarily not to fund the application but to hold open the possibility of funding should additional money be identified.

26. Solid Ground – Housing Stability Project

Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the application seeks only a small percentage increase.

Commissioner Stout noted her strong support for the program.

The Commissioners concluded that the program provides a vital service in the community by preventing evictions, and directly speaks to the recession impact focus area.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

27. St. Andrew's Housing Group – Andrew's Glen

Commissioner Beighle said she would like more information concerning the program's outreach efforts. She noted that nothing is said about Tent City or which food banks they work with.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that because the program is just being put together, there remain a lot of unknowns.

Ms. Leslie stated that the agency is part of the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Council and works very closely with other agencies.

Commissioner Bruels said he would like to know how their unit costs were determined. He said he also would like to see some of the outcome measurements be more specific, such as a specific vocational plan and decreased hospital days.

It was agreed preliminarily not to fund the program but to hold open the possibility of funding the application should additional money be identified.

28. St. Andrew's Housing Group – Resident Services

Commissioner Bruels said he would like to see more specific outcomes.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

29. Salvation Army of King County – Eastside Corps

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the application seeks a substantial funding increase.

Commissioner Yantis commented that the program has traditionally been very cost effective.

Commissioner Bruels stated that emergency assistance programs have a significant impact on preventing homelessness, and as such the program fits the focus areas.

Mr. Adriano pointed out that part of the proposal is to fund youth activities that are not currently funded by the city.

Commissioner Stout said it appeared from the application materials that Bellevue is to be charged in the unit costs for the cost of food donated by churches. The application also talks about providing food assistance and providing hot meals, but it is not clear if the two are the same thing.

Commissioner Yantis commented that over the years the Commission has expressed concerns that the agency appears to be disorganized and that the applications submitted are poorly written. However, the agency consistently provides a lot of service in exchange for the funding allocated.

Mr. Adriano said Bellevue currently funds rent and utilities support through the program, but the application appears to indicate that that has been folded into the emergency assistance application. The youth activities and cost of staffing and utilities for the meal program appear to be new.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that youth activities do not fit with the Commission's focus areas.

Commissioner Yantis suggested earmarking funding for Service Unit 1 only, which totaled \$11,250. He pointed out that Bellevue dollars would fund services for only 50 of the 356 Bellevue clients served. He proposed flat funding and restricting the use of the funds to emergency assistance only.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application at its previous level and to include a cost of living increase, and to restrict the funds to emergency assistance only.

30. World Impact Network – Renewal Food Bank

Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the application seeks a threefold increase over its previous funding level.

Commissioner Beighle said her concern with the program is the fact that no wage and residence information is collected from those served. Ms. Leslie commented that the agency has taken major steps to improve its data collection and seeks a photo identification.

Commissioner Bruels agreed with staff that the unit costs should be just under \$11 rather than \$13.26. He suggested reworking the numbers to better align Bellevue's allocation accordingly.

Commissioner Yantis pointed out that the Bellevue dollars will pay for only 2700 bags while a total of 28,000 bags will be handed out.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application at its current level and to consider additional funding if more money is identified.

31. YWCA of Seattle/King/Snohomish – Angeline's Eastside Women's Day Center

The Commissioners concurred that the program addresses an urgent need.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

32. YWCA of Seattle/King/Snohomish – Emergency Housing

Chair Huenefeld Gese observed that the program currently serves no Bellevue residents because it receives no funding from Bellevue. Bellevue funding will mean Bellevue residents will not be turned away.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that similar resources are offered locally for Bellevue residents.

It was preliminarily agreed not to fund the application.

33. YWCA of Seattle/King/Snohomish – Family Village Transitional Housing

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

****BREAK****

34. Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Youth Prevention and Mental Health Project

Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the application seeks a substantial funding increase.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that Bellevue residents account for 150 of the 1100 clients served, yet Bellevue funding totals nearly half of the overall budget.

Ms. O'Reilly explained that the services are offered around the county but the funding being sought from Bellevue is only for Bellevue clients.

Ms. Leslie said the program has been funded by Bellevue since 1990.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Beighle, Commissioner Bruels explained that the agency does conduct fundraising but because of funding cuts in other areas, the dollars are being allocated to other programs. The agency claims that some fundraising dollars will be allocated to the program at the end of the year.

Commissioner Yantis observed that the agency served 100 clients with the previous allocation of \$58,000 and is seeking only \$78,000 to serve 250 clients, which would seem to indicate the city will get more for its dollar.

There was preliminary agreement to keep the funding level flat for the application.

35. Assistance League of the Eastside – Operation School Bell

Commissioner Stout said it was still unclear what Fred Meyer was contributing other than publicity. She said the program is a good one, but with people going hungry it may not be a top priority.

There was preliminary agreement to keep the application funding flat.

36. Athletes for Kids – Athletes for Kids Youth Mentorship Program

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application because it falls outside the focus areas.

37. Bellevue School District – Human Services Specialist

Ms. Leslie explained that the Bellevue School District brings to the table the place and access while the application seeks funding for the staff persons.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

38. Bellevue School District – VIBES: Volunteers in Bellevue's Education System

Commissioner Bruels said the program is efficient and leverages Bellevue dollars very well. Commissioner Stout added that the program has had great outcomes over the long haul.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

39. Catholic Community Services of Western Washington – Volunteer Chore Services

The Commissioners concluded that the program is cost effective and efficiently run.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

40. Changes Parent Support Network – Parent Support Group Network

Commissioner Stout voiced concern over the program being run by a single person, and that fact that very few Bellevue residents are served by the program. Additionally, there appears to be a lack of cultural competency, and administration of such a small amount would be problematic.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application.

41. Chinese Information and Service Center – International Family Center Eastside

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the application was seeking a substantial percentage increase.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that Bellevue funding accounts for 50 percent of the total program budget but only 22 percent of the total clients.

Commissioner Stout remarked that the program appears to be going very strong as evidenced by the number of references made to the program by other applications.

There was preliminary agreement to fund the program at its current level and to include a cost of living increase.

42. Crisis Clinic – 2-1-1 Community Information Line

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the program is currently facing a funding crisis given the increased need. The program directly addresses the Commission's focus areas.

There was agreement to preliminarily fully fund the application.

43. Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Eastside Legal Assistance Program

The Commissioners concluded that there is a large need for the program, which addresses the focus areas.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the program.

44. ElderHealth Northwest – ElderFriends Volunteer Companionship

Commissioner Beighle suggested the program does not meet the focus areas.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application.

45. Friends of Youth – Healthy Start

Commissioner Stout indicated she would abstain from participating in making a recommendation for the application.

Commissioner Beighle noted that the outcomes for the program continue to be excellent.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

46. Hopelink – Family Development Program

Commissioner Stout suggested the program meets a growing need, provides long-term follow-up with clients, promotes family stability, and includes employment services. Commissioner Bruels added that the program helps with children and families at risk of homelessness, which is in line with the focus areas.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

47. Institute for Family Development – PACT (Parents and Children Together)

Commissioner Bruels said the program does not address an existing service gap, and suggested the city does not have the funds to start a new program.

Commissioner Stout pointed out that the program has no capacity to work with the Spanish speaking population.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application.

48. King County Bar Foundation – Community Legal Services

Commissioner Stout said there is an obvious need for legal services for low-income residents, but added that she would prefer to see the city continue to build the Eastside Legal Assistance Program.

Commissioner Beighle said she would prefer to consider funding the application. Commissioner Bruels concurred on the grounds that the program directly addresses the recession issue. The program does do some things that ELAP does not do.

Ms. Leslie pointed out that the program works cooperatively with ELAP.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the application but to consider it for funding if more money is identified.

49. Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center – Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center

Commissioner Stout said the only comparable program in Western Washington was lost due to funding cuts. The program has a two-year waiting list and uses a different kind of therapy from what Kindering Center provides. Bellevue dollars could likely be used for matches with foundation grants.

Commissioner Beighle said her concern was that the program does not address a basic need or a focus area.

Commissioner Bruels agreed with Commissioner Stout. He suggested the program does address a focus group, and if there is no action the program may simply be lost in its entirety.

There was preliminary agreement not to fund the program but to consider it again if additional funding is identified.

50. Youth Eastside Services – Early Intervention for At-Risk Kids

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the application was seeking a very small increase.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

51. Youth Eastside Services – Response to Youth

Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the application was seeking a very small increase.

Commissioner Stout commented that the agency, which is very valuable to the community, has suffered some significant funding losses from King County.

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

52. Youth Eastside Services – SUCCESS Mentoring Program

There was preliminary agreement to fully fund the application.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie announced that intern Cynthia Sessoms was attending her last Commission meeting. The Commissioners took a moment to thank her for her contributions.

7. NEW BUSINESS – None

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Huenefeld Gese adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date