

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

DATE: April 02, 2024

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Andrew Ndayambaje, Human Services Planner  
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Panel Conversation: Trends and Challenges with Youth Services

## Background

The 2023-2024 update on Human Services needs [HS-Needs-Update-23-24.pdf](#) ([bellevuewa.gov](http://bellevuewa.gov)) has pointed out a significant increase in unmet needs and disparities in Youth Services. The data collected from Washington and King County reveal alarming challenges in youth mental health. The Washington Department of Health further stresses the heightened risk among certain demographic groups, such as sexually and gender-diverse youth and those with disabilities.

Academic achievement disparities are evident, particularly among students experiencing homelessness in the Bellevue School District. During the 2022-2023 school year, fewer than 20% of these students met benchmarks in district assessments for math, English/language arts, and science.

Human Services staff have brought together a panel of organizations focused on Youth Services to address these urgent issues.

Representatives from the following agencies will be joining the panel:

- Alonda Williams: Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound
- Jessee Franklin: Executive Director of Rainier Athletes
- Tim Motts: Executive Director of Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound | Youth Mentoring \(inspirebig.org\)](#): Since the 1950s, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound has operated under the belief that inherent in each of us is incredible potential and that good mentorship is the key to unlocking that potential. As Washington's largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and young people ("Littles"). Their mission is to create and support 1-to-1 mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

[Rainier Athletes \(RA\)](#): Rainier Athletes' mission is to affirm the youth's sense of purpose and belonging by intentionally connecting their core community of teachers, coaches, families, and mentors. Through RA's long-term mentoring program, each student is paired with a dedicated one-on-one mentor who meets with them every week, every year, from 4th grade through high school graduation and beyond. RA students are also fully sponsored to participate in extracurriculars and motivated to achieve on and off the field through RA's classroom engagement and self-advocacy model.

[Home - Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue \(bgcbellevue.org\)](http://bgcbellevue.org): For more than 70 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue has been committed to providing safe places for Bellevue's youth when they are not in school. Targeting the neighborhoods that need us most, Clubs ensure all Eastside's children and teens have equal access to life-enhancing programming focused on academics, health, and leadership.

Panel members will be asked round-robin style to answer the following questions:

1. What are misconceptions or misunderstandings about the Youth?
2. What are the most significant human services needs and barriers impacting the Youth?
3. Provide a brief overview of your program and the services provided that address these needs and barriers?
4. What challenges is your agency experiencing that the Commission should be aware of?

Commissioners will be invited to ask questions after the panel has completed answering all questions.