

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 7, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Ma, Commissioners Amirfaiz, Jain, Kline, Mansfield, Mercer, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, Department of Parks and Community Services;

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Ma who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present.

Chair Ma stated that because in-person meetings are prohibited by the Governor's emergency order, the Commission will be holding its meetings remotely for an unknown period of time. As a result, certain provisions in the Commission's bylaws needed to be suspended temporarily, including the provision concerning the ability of Commissioners to participate remotely, and the provision concerning the Commission's process for accepting communication from the public. In order to allow the Commission maximum flexibility to structure its agendas during the time period meetings are held remotely, the provisions in the bylaws related to the order of business also needed to be temporarily suspended.

According to the Commission's bylaws, if a procedure such as rule suspension is not addressed by the bylaws, the Commission may rely on the City Council Rules of Procedure, Resolution 8928. Section 13 of Resolution 8928 allows a City Council procedural rule to be temporarily suspended.

A motion to suspend, until such time as the Human Services Commission is no longer holding its meetings remotely, the provisions of Article V, Section G of the Commission's bylaws concerning remote participation by commissioners, in order to allow all Commissioners to participate fully in this meeting, was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

A motion to suspend for the July 7, 2020, meeting only the provisions in Article VI and Article VII of the Commission's Bylaws concerning oral communications from the public and to allow for public comment to be provided in writing and read during the Human Services Commission meeting, was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

A motion to suspend until such time as the Human Services Commission is no longer holding its meetings remotely the “Order of Business” provisions in Article VI, Section D of the Commission’s bylaws was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano informed the Commissioners that no written comments had been received.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

A. Discussion of 2021-2022 Human Services Commission General Fund Applications: Goals ~~2~~ and 3

36. Asian Counseling and Resource Service – Children, Youth and Families Program

Commissioner Piper said the program provides bilingual and bicultural health services for low-income Asian-American and Pacific Islander youth and families on the Eastside. The program provides prevention and intervention services related to dating violence, sexual assault and healthy relationships through support groups, counseling and leadership, as well as through peer advocacy training. A considerable number of Bellevue residents are served by the program. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she was not sure how people sought services for sexual assault.

Commissioner Jain noted her support for the agency. The Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities account for about 66 percent of the youth in the Bellevue school district.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

37. Assistance League of the Eastside – Operation School Bell

Commissioner Mercer said the program enables school children to purchase new school clothing by providing opportunities for the children to shop at a local Fred Meyer store. Some 96 percent of the students come from low- or very low-income levels. She recommended moving the application on to the second round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

39. Camp Kindness Counts – Youth and Family Wellbeing Program

Commissioner Piper said the program supports the wellbeing of youth and families by preventing some of the social and emotional behaviors faced, including stress, anxiety and loneliness. The program fosters wellbeing by creating a sense of belonging and purpose through community engagement. The program, which has not previously been funded by

Bellevue, served 205 Bellevue residents in the last reporting cycle. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer suggested the Commission would need to carefully consider the application in the second round against the other important things in the goal category. Commissioners Kline and Jain concurred. Commissioner Mansfield agreed as well and noted he had personal experience with the program relative to his kids at school.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

40. Catholic Community Services of King County – Volunteer Services

Commissioner Mercer said the program is primarily focused on older adults with fixed incomes and assists them in living in place for as long as it is safely possible by providing services such as housework, laundry, yard work and transportation. She urged the Commissioners to move the application on to the second round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

41. Chinese Information and Service Center – CISC Family Resource Support Program

Commissioner Piper said the program provides Chinese and Russian families on the Eastside, the majority of which are low-income and have limited English proficiency, a point of entry for information and referrals around health education training, legal immigration and naturalization benefits, and basic needs. He proposed moving the application on to the next round.

Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly pointed out that the program was formerly called Cultural Navigator and the city has funded it over the last ten years or so. While the program remains essentially the same, it was noted in the application that the program will not be serving the Latinx populations in light of the fact that Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition will be working with another group to launch a cultural navigator-type program specifically targeted at the Latinx community.

Commissioner Mercer noted that even though they have dropped their Spanish services, the application sought a 34 percent increase in funding.

Commissioner Kline asked why Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition had not submitted an application for their Spanish language cultural navigator program, or if another group would be offering a similar program. Ms. O'Reilly said she would seek an answer to that question. Commissioner Kline said she did not want to see the Spanish-speaking portion of the program lost.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

42. Chinese Information and Service Center – Russian Senior Day Program

Commissioner Mercer said the program provides services to the Russian senior population by providing them with a place to gain important community socialization and to make connections. In 2018, the only other adult day health center serving the Russian population, Circle of Friends, closed its doors.

Commissioner Mercer said her question was what things are currently being done during the

Covid-19 situation to prevent isolation for their clients. Ms. Catalano said she would follow up with the agency. She added that the Bellevue residents served in 2019 table in the application is incorrect. The program served no Bellevue residents in 2019 given that they had trouble getting up and running. The contract with the North Bellevue Community Center was not in hand until late into the fall months. The 18 Bellevue residents served noted in the application were actually served in the first quarter of 2020 prior to the Covid-19 shutdown.

Commissioner Kline noted that the Commission was very excited to fund the program during the last cycle to address the gap left by the closure of Circle of Friends. She said she was disappointed it took so long for the program to get up and running. The city should do all it can to support making the program successful given the needs of the population the program serves.

Commissioner Jain said she had questions around how the program would be carried forward if the Covid-19 situation continues, specifically whether or not anything could be done virtually. Commissioner Mercer said she was not sure the client base even has access to technology.

Chair Ma observed that the bulk of the increase in the program budget would primarily go to the Kent area and not really serve Bellevue residents.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

43. Community Homes, Inc. – Housing Education & Navigation

Commissioner Piper said the program is for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and is in response to an increasing demand from families. The new outreach program includes navigation services, education workshops and webinars, as well as networking opportunities. He noted there was no increase in the ask and he recommended moving it forward to the second round.

Commissioner Kline commented that the program meets a need that has not otherwise been addressed in the community.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

44. Crisis Clinic – King County 2-1-1

Commissioner Mercer said the program serves a number of residents with non-emergency information about a variety of available resources. She recommended passing it on to the second round.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked what capacity the program has to address various languages. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask the agency that question.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked how many Bellevue residents are served by the program. Commissioner Piper said the application indicates a total of 1698.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

45. Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Legal Assistance

Commissioner Piper said the program provides free legal services to low-income residents in King County. It is the only certified volunteer legal program in the area. The services

provided cover a wide range, including domestic violence, immigration and housing instability. The application indicates cases of domestic violence are being exacerbated by Covid-19. The vital service should be moved forward.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

46. Families of Color Seattle – Parent Groups for Families of Color

Commissioner Mercer said the program involves facilitated parent gatherings aimed at increasing parenting skills and building strong communities. The process involves having families meet over a ten-week period. The program has been run in Seattle as a pilot for a number of years and the intent is to launch the program on the Eastside as well. The target is to conduct three group sessions for a total of 30 residents. She said the concept is interesting and for that reason she was willing to see it moved to the next round. She voiced concern, however, about funding a program that is not yet established on the Eastside.

Commissioner Piper said he shared the same interest in the program and the same concerns outlined by Commissioner Mercer.

Commissioner Kline said the program would be a good fit for a separate pot of funds for small, early stage agencies. It is concerning that key to the program is meeting together in small groups, which under Covid-19 is not permitted. She said she would like to know what plans the program has in place for meeting in the Covid-19 environment.

Commissioner Kline suggested that in the next round of discussions, the Commission should consider how programs that include meeting in groups will or should impact funding decisions. Commissioner Mercer agreed and suggested the Commission may also want to explore being creative in funding programs at different levels in 2021 and 2022 to account for Covid-19.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she would like to know more about how the program is currently run in Seattle under Covid-19 circumstances. She said she would also like some information as to the program's success rate. Ms. Catalano said she would seek an answer to those questions. She added that the second quarter reports from funded agencies are due July 15. The agencies are being asked to explain in the narrative if they have been having any difficulties carrying out their programs due to Covid-19 and what plans they have for the rest of the year.

Chair Ma said he was intrigued by the program, in part because it focuses on African-American and indigenous population groups, which few other programs do.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

47. Hopelink – Family Development

Commissioner Piper said the program serves the homeless and those at risk of homelessness by offering case management. The families are helped to achieve housing stability and economic self-sufficiency. The program addresses an important need and should be moved to the next round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

48. India Association of Western Washington – Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Mercer said the program is offered through the North Bellevue Community Center and focuses on seniors and women with a specific focus on the Asian-Indian population. She suggested the program should continue to be supported by moving it into the second round.

Commissioner Mercer said she would like to know why there was an increase in the ask and yet a decrease in the expected number of Bellevue residents to be served. Commissioner Jain explained that the increase in the ask is to cover a full-time cultural navigator salary and benefits. Commissioner Mercer said she wanted to know why the numbers served were projected to decrease.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

49. India Association of Western Washington – Human Services

Commissioner Piper said the application seeks to fund a variety of services from legal clinics to Alzheimer’s association. The application included a note that all programming for seniors and youth have moved online. It is notable that the ask represented an increase of 93 percent, though the number of residents served was substantial at 835. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer agreed the application should be moved to the second round but said she had a number of questions about the program, particularly in light of the substantial increase in the ask and the drop in the projected numbers served.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she assumed all services were provided bilingually but noted that the form used to indicate emotions is similar to the faces used on the pain scale for kids and asked why that form was not translated into the language of the clients. Ms. O’Reilly said she would seek an answer.

Commissioner Jain commented that the projected Bellevue residents served was much lower than previously and wondered why in light of the large increase in the ask.

51. KidsQuest Children’s Museum – Sensory Access Programming

Commissioner Mansfield said the program provides services to children and families with sensory sensitivities, processing difficulties and those on the autism spectrum. The program provides play therapy for social, emotional and cognitive development at a certified sensory accessible venue. The program was not previously funded by the city, but it served 278 Bellevue residents in the previous year. He suggested moving the application forward.

Chair Ma agreed the program is good but said he was not inclined to move it to the second round. It does not meet the great needs of Bellevue, particularly during Covid-19. Commissioner Mansfield agreed that most of the activities are provided in person.

Commissioner Kline said she was disappointed that the agency had not sought funding from more cities. From the standpoints of the continuum of services and equity, she noted that the population served is large and the programming is needed. She said she would recommend moving it forward, though the provider should be asked about their response to the Covid-19 situation.

Commissioner Jain agreed the program is excellent but also questioned how much could be done in person during Covid-19. She said she was not convinced it should be moved to the second round.

Commissioner Mercer said it should be passed on to the second round. It addresses a growing population and the community is not necessarily addressing it through other programs, though in the next round it may not hold up against other needed services.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the application should be moved ahead. The program fits into the prevention category

Commissioner Piper said he shared the same concerns relative to Covid-19 but said he was not ready to just disqualify the program for that reason.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

52. Kindering Center – Families in Transition

Chair Ma said the program provides child development, early intervention and parent education for children experiencing homelessness. The evidence-based services are aimed at a critical time in the development of children. The program has not previously been funded by the city but it is worth considering in the second round. Families struggling with homelessness have a number of stress factors and issues and may outweigh the benefits of the services offered by the program if the families are homeless.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed the program should be moved forward, but he noted the program only served 23 Bellevue families in the last year.

Commissioner Kline questioned why the Families in Transition program is carved out as a separate program. She said it seems to fall within the traditional scope of services offered by Kindering Center. She said she would move it on but would want to review the program carefully in light of the other dollars going to the agency.

Commissioner Jain agreed to move the program forward. She noted that demand for the services has increased, and the agency reports having a lot of online resources for use by children and parents. She voiced concern over the fact that only a small number of residents is served while the ask is huge.

Commissioner Mercer said her concerns mirrored those of the other Commissioners. Commissioners Amirfaiz and Piper also shared those concerns.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

53. Kindering Center – Parenting Plus

Commissioner Mansfield said the program provides parents with education and specialized support, as well as counseling. The free ten-week course helps parents become engaged with their child. He noted the program has not previously been funded by the city and he said he had mixed emotions about moving it forward. The program serves only a small number of Bellevue residents, and due to capacity restraints the program is not actively advertised outside of referrals.

Chair Ma said his concern was whether or not the program reaches those who are most in need. The number of Bellevue residents served is quite low. He said he would recommend against moving the application forward.

There was consensus not to move the application forward to the second round.

54. King County Bar Association – Pro Bono Services

Commissioner Mansfield said the program provides free legal services in the areas of housing and debt, and includes rental assistance to landlords for back rent. The program addresses an important need in the community and should be moved ahead.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

55. MAPS/MCRC – Information, Referrals and Resources

Commissioner Mansfield said the program serves as a needs-based intake assessment with walk-in and call-in options. The program provides goods and services, gas and food cards, utility and rent assistance. The agency is looking to expand the services by adding a full-time case worker and an additional part-time case worker. He voiced concern that the program was awarded nothing by numerous cities last year but said he would like to see the application moved forward. The agency has indicated it will provide financial information by August 1.

Chair Ma recommended pushing the application forward and stressed that the work is important.

Commissioners Kline and Jain supported moving the application forward. Commissioner Mercer did as well but stressed the need to carefully review the agency's finances. From the application it is not clear what is actually being spent on direct aid to clients. There is no clear sense of how the program is run and how services are delivered. Commissioner Piper shared the same concerns but agreed to move it forward.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

56. MAPS/MCRC - Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Chair Ma said the program provides direct aid to refugees and recent immigrants in the form of rental assistance, furniture, clothing, food assistance, transportation assistance and vocational training. He noted that salaries and benefits had been added to the budget for the program.

Commissioner Mansfield said he was of two minds about moving the application forward. He said the ask is fairly substantial yet only six Bellevue residents were served last year.

Commissioner Kline noted the program matches refugees and immigrants with host families and asked if in fact during Covid-19 any new refugees and immigrants are actually coming into the area. She suggested the agency should be asked to indicate what their projections are during the pandemic. Chair Ma said he had not interpreted the program as providing services only to very recent refugees and immigrants. Those who have been in the area for only a few years likely still need the services. Commissioner Mercer said it was also her understanding that the program served only recent refugees and immigrants.

Ms. Catalano clarified that in 2019 the program served six Bellevue households comprised of 18 residents.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended against moving the application forward, noting that the services are offered by other agencies.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

57. Youth Eastside Services – Behavioral Health Care for Children and Youth

Commissioner Mansfield said the state-licensed mental health center provides bilingual mental counseling psychiatric services and specializes in working with the LGBTQIA community. Also provided is alcohol abuse treatment and services to youth ages six to 22. The ask represents an increase of 58 percent. He strongly suggested moving the application to the second round given the large number of Bellevue residents served each year.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

58. Youth Eastside Services – Community Based Outreach Services

Chair Ma said the program reaches young people at community and teen centers during non-school hours and provides counseling to individual and groups as well as referrals to other programs. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mansfield noted the agency has applied for additional funding from Kirkland and Redmond, which is why the ask of Bellevue was reduced.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

59. Youth Eastside Services – Early Childhood Behavioral Health

Commissioner Mansfield said the program provides early childhood intervention and seeks to improve parent/child relationships in social, emotional and cognitive development. The Needs Update showed that only half of kids entering kindergarten have the expected skills. The program addresses that need regardless of an ability to pay. The 70 percent increase in the ask is substantial but the application should be moved to the next round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

60. Youth Eastside Services – Latinx Programs

Chair Ma said the program specifically targets Latinx students and is intended to be a culturally responsive trauma-informed prevention service to increase a belonging in the school and the community. The program includes culturally relevant activities to connect kids with the community, the school and their own culture. He said he liked the focus of the program but had reservations about the scope of the program, though he recommended moving it forward.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed the application should be moved forward. The projection is that the program will serve 717 Bellevue students in 2021. The service is aimed at a population for which few applications are submitted.

Commissioner Kline said the vehicle cited for providing services in Bellevue is the Latino Heat program at Sammamish High School. She stated, however, that it was not clear to her what the delta is between what already exists with that program and what the agency seeks to provide. Commissioner Jain said she had the same question and said she wanted to know if the behavioral health and early childhood program covers the same target population under its umbrella, or if a separate program is needed.

Commissioner Mercer said she had the same concerns as well. She said her read of the application was that the agency is using Latino Heat as a way to identify the families, and that

the program itself actually provides case management to Hispanic students and their families. She indicated her desire to see more Latinx-focused programs and as such wanted to see the application moved forward, but added for a big organization like Youth Eastside Services she would prefer they take the risk by trying pilots before seeking funding from the city.

Ms. O'Reilly mentioned that the Latino Heat program, which is run by Youth Eastside Services, has been around for quite a while. She said she held some community conversations with the group that meets at Sammamish about eight years ago. The increase in the ask is substantial and seems to be tied to taking the staff at Sammamish up to full-time. Ms. Catalano added that the program has been funded by Redmond for several years under the name Latinos Unidos.

Commissioner Kline said she would like to know if the program is currently serving Bellevue students and if so how many. Ms. O'Reilly said she would follow up on that.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

61. Youth Eastside Services – Success Mentoring

Chair Ma said the program matches youth with volunteer adult mentors. The mentors are provided with training. The youth served are from the ages of six and 18 in the geographic boundaries of the Bellevue and Lake Washington school districts. The 68-percent increase in the ask is substantial and will be used to cover an additional support worker. He proposed moving the application forward.

Commissioner Jain voiced her support for moving the application forward but asked how youth will be paired with mentors during Covid-19.

Chair Ma noted the number of residents served last year was 14.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

62. Consejo Counseling and Referral Service – Domestic Violence Community Advocate Program

Commissioner Kline said the agency has been funded by Bellevue for a number of years. The projected number of Bellevue clients to be served is 20, up from 18 in the prior period. The program involves outreach and engagement, information and referral, advocacy-based counseling legal assistance and support groups. The services are provided in Spanish with an emphasis on immigrants and refugees. Governmental support for the program is down by 80 percent, an issue that should be followed up on. Service units are projected to be down fairly substantially in all three service areas, which should also be addressed. The application should be moved forward.

Commissioner Jain concurred. She pointed out that during the Covid-19 crisis, incidents of domestic violence have increased.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

63. Harborview Medical Center – Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress

Commissioner Kline said in addition to sexual assault, the program serves victims of violent crimes and accidents. It serves children, youth, adults and family members of victims with

intervention, therapy, medical and legal advocacy services, and information outreach. The program served 50 Bellevue residents last year and it should be moved forward.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

64. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center – Comprehensive Sexual Assault Advocacy Services

Commissioner Kline said the longstanding agency has been funded for many years by Bellevue. The program includes 24-hour crisis intervention and has a focus on homeless and trafficked youth with case management, criminal justice and legal system navigation, as well as support for the families of victims. She urged moving the application forward.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

65. LifeWire – Survivor Advocacy Services

Commissioner Kline said the agency has been funded for many years. There has been an uptick in domestic violence incidents during the Covid-19 pandemic. The program provides advocacy, safety, emotional support, planning, legal services, support groups, mental health counseling, and children and youth projects. Of those households served, 76 percent are low- to very low income. The agency is transferring its longtime help line to New Beginnings, but they are adding a housing advocacy service. She proposed moving the application on.

Commissioner Kline noted the application indicates an expansion of the delivery model and she said she wanted to know if that referred to adding the housing advocacy component.

Commissioner Jain agreed the application should be moved forward but she said she wanted to know the reason behind the large-percent increase in the ask. Chair Ma observed from the application that there has been an increase in compensation for salaries and benefits and the addition of one FTE worker.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

66. Refugee Women’s Alliance – Domestic Violence Program

Commissioner Kline said the program works hand-in-hand with LifeWire and focuses on the Russian/Ukrainian/Romanian populations. The program served 16 Bellevue residents last year. While there was no increase in the ask, the only request submitted by the agency was to Bellevue. The agency should be asked to clarify what it is doing during the pandemic.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

67. The One Love Foundation in Honor of Yeardeley Love – One Love Washington Cities Program

Commissioner Kline said the program is new to Bellevue and is an educational program aimed primarily at high school students to address and prevent dating violence. Educational outreach services are provided through schools and organizations. The application is clear with regard to the services provided but no detail is provided with regard to the vehicle for providing the services on the Eastside. The agency’s corporate gifts and fundraising is noted to be down 99 percent, totaling over \$400,000. That is an issue that should be followed up on. The program does address a population the Commission has not been focused on and as such the application should be moved forward.

Commissioner Jain said the program is important given its focus on building healthy relationships. She added that it includes an online learning program.

Commissioner Mercer agreed the application should be moved forward. She said she shared the concerns voiced by Commissioner Kline, particularly about the massive upscaling of the program.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she would like to look at the program more closely in the second round in light of the services offered by Asian Counseling and Resource Service.

Chair Ma said he would like to know more about how the program has changed in approach given the Covid-19 crisis.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

- 8. OLD BUSINESS – None
- 9. NEW BUSINESS – None
- 10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None
- 11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ma adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date