

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 19, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Piper, Vice Chair Amirfaiz, Commissioners Ma, Mansfield, Phan, Singh

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ma

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Toni Esparza, Leslie Miller, Asma Ahmed, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Piper who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Ma who was excused. Commissioner Phan participated remotely.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 7, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Amirfaiz, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. June 23, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phan.

Christy Stangland called attention to the last page of the minutes and noted that the paragraph under New Business should be deleted.

The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Piper noted for the record the receipt of nine written communications since the previous Commission meeting, all of which had been forwarded to the Commissioners.

Amanda Johnson, senior associate professor at Bellevue College, noted that the year marks the 25th anniversary of the partnership with the city. Twenty-five years ago, the college introduced an English as a Second Language program that focused on workplace skills to help

people prepare for work. Since then, the city has fully funded three workplace communication classes for immigrants and refugees living in Bellevue. The Preparing for Work program consistently reaches its targets in terms of unit hours and course outcomes, and student completion is between 96 percent and 98 percent. The program is unique with far-reaching implications and contributions that go beyond the classroom. The college's wraparound support systems help to lead the students through career and education planning and in getting them ready for jobs. The students are finding their way in a growing and diverse area where employers are actively looking to hire them. The program serves as a bridge for immigrant job seekers and for employers with a focus on foundation, communication and job skills that are essential for an increasingly competitive and complex hiring process. The program is vital to the community.

Julia Tai, a 14-year Bellevue resident who previously served on the Congregations for the Homeless Good Neighbor Advisory Committee, and who has served on the Community Advisory Committee since 2020, asked the Commission to recommend full funding for the Congregations for the Homeless grant request. The money will enable the organization to maintain its level of operations and expand its case management services. A new permanent shelter helping men experiencing homelessness has been a Council priority for years. The Council made a commitment to serve the unhoused men on the Eastside. The Eastgate campus will provide the space needed to provide 24/7 enhanced services. The success of any homeless assistance operation includes assisting clients in regaining their independence. To achieve that, support must be provided to help clients with things like overcoming personal challenges like addictions, obtaining mental health treatment as needed, and finding stable jobs and housing. Congregations for the Homeless is building momentum as it looks to open the Eastgate campus.

David Bowling, executive director of Congregations for the Homeless, shared that the shelters serve 175 men per day, and another 15 to 20 are being reached on the streets of Bellevue each day. The agency also has 90 units of housing. Altogether, some 300 people are being served daily with supportive services and shelter. Each year some 1500 unique individuals are served. Operation of the first-ever permanent shelter on the Eastside is fast approaching, which will allow for more effectively serving the men. Funding the program at a level that will allow for continued services is crucial. People are turned away every day and the reality is that if funding is not received, services will have to be cut and the number of men served will be reduced. That will mean more homeless men on the streets. The organization's Streets to Home model includes outreach, day center services and shelter services. Also offered is supportive services in the form of case management, mental health, housing navigation and housing.

Neil Olson, senior director of clinical operations for Crisis Center and an independent licensed clinical social worker, thanked the Commission for its funding over the years that has made it possible to have trained staff and volunteers available 24/7 to help Bellevue residents in times of crisis. Crisis Center links clients with mental health next-day appointments and connects with them mobile crisis teams. Client families are also provided with support. In the most extreme situations, staff stays on the phone with suicidal callers while contacting 911 and supporting active rescues. The city's funding also supports the training and educating of teens and young adults in reaching out to schools and community centers to provide peer-to-peer education on suicide prevention. Crisis Center has created and distributes paper and electronic booklets so that teens can find resources and services tailored for their needs. In 2021 alone Bellevue funding helped in the provision of more than 6000 services.

Kristina Brown with Kinderling Center said the agency offers some 23 different programs, one of which is child care and preschool consultation (CCPC). CCPC is designed to support child care and preschool providers that care for children ages birth through six by giving them on-

sight observations and teacher support, education training, and support for families by connecting them with appropriate resources and referrals. The Commission was thanked for its ongoing support. The needs of children, families and providers in the area are significant with Covid magnifying many systemic inequities. Throughout the pandemic, child care providers have been on the front lines. The demand for preschool and child care has become especially intense in that families that had removed their children from child care in 2020 and 2021 are seeking to re-enroll them, while preschool and child care programs are experiencing significant difficulties with staffing. There has been a resulting increased need among children for social, emotional and sensory support. Many young children often get expelled for behaviors that are deemed difficult or unmanageable. Research shows that expulsion disproportionately impacts children of color and children with disabilities. One provider has highlighted the fact that many children are showing signs of developmental delays and in general seem socially younger than their ages. Child care and preschool programming is a necessity for many families. When consultation services are utilized, children who may have normally been expelled from programs are instead retained; families learn about resources and support services sooner; and providers report feeling more comfortable supporting children with developmental delays, disabilities and other behavioral challenges in the child care and preschool setting.

Marlorie Schnyder with Kinderling Center said ParentChild+ is an early literacy and school readiness program for young children and their caregivers. The program supports family that lack access to high-quality early learning resources because of income. ParentChild+ empowers caregivers as teachers, helps parents prepare their children for school, and strengthens the parent/child relationship. The high-touch programs meets twice weekly with families over two years. Early learning specialists model caregiving skills, positive verbal interactions and play. Each child receives a high-quality educational toy or book every week to support literacy, STEM and all areas of development. In 2021-2022, over 60 percent of ParentChild+ families lived in Bellevue. Families that qualify typically make no more than \$50,000 annually for a family of four. The majority of families are immigrants and are Black indigenous and people of color; at least 50 percent are Spanish speaking households. Kinderling uses an equity framework to develop and implement services and there are ongoing discussions with families to make sure the curriculum fits cultural and religious needs as well as development. The staff are trained to use trauma-informed practices, which is essential given the experiences of many family members involved. ParentChild+ serves both children who are typically developing and those receiving early support. Developmental screenings are done with each family, and they are sometimes the first or the strongest referral to start in special education. Once old enough, the children are given a warm handoff to Bellevue School District colleagues for enrollment in ECAP preschool. The program operates on a national model and the research shows that the graduates are 50 percent more likely to be prepared for kindergarten than their peers, score 2.5 percent higher on social/emotional skills, and have 30 percent higher graduation rates.

Kyle Ward, director of the Youth Services Center in Redmond operated by Friends of Youth, thanked the Commission and the city for its past, present and ongoing commitment to the organization. The services provided by the Center include the only 24-hour drop-in center and youth emergency shelter for those aged 18 to 24 on the Eastside. Additionally, individualized wraparound support is provided which includes housing navigation, case management, life skills classes, employment support and behavioral health support. For more than ten years the Center has been the only shelter and drop-in center exclusively available for those aged 18 to 24 in East King County. More than a hundred unique individuals have been served already in 2022. The transitional bed program allows clients to secure a shelter bed for extended periods while working with providers on goal planning and connecting to resources. The program has proven to be very effective. The Commission was asked to continue funding the program.

Melanie Gonzalez, a special educator with Kinderling's Families in Transition program, expressed appreciation for the Commission's support of people experiencing homelessness. The program plays a critical role in supporting Eastside families experiencing housing instability by connecting families with wraparound services; by promoting healthy parent/child relationships through parent coaching; and by performing developmental assessments to determine what support each child needs to thrive. The multifaceted approach helps stabilize families in crisis. In 2020, King County identified more than a thousand homeless families with children, a 53 percent increase over the 2019 count. Most families experiencing homelessness are households headed by single women with children younger than six. Homeless children tend to have high rates of developmental delays. Early support is one of the most effective ways to support children in those circumstances. Kinderling Families in Transition staff meet families where they are at and refer children to life-changing early support services, and help parents develop the nurturing parenting skills which is so important to the long-term wellbeing of children. Only about half of the community's children with special needs receive critical support.

Nancy McEachran, senior associate professor at Bellevue College's ESL program, noted having been associated with the Preparing for Work/City of Bellevue partnership as a faculty member, a supervisor of interns in the program, and as ESL program chair. The mission of the ESL program is to serve students with excellence and equity. The Preparing for Work program exemplifies the mission by giving the students access to high-quality education and foundational workforce skills. The Preparing for Work classes are unique within the ESL program by specifically preparing students for work. The program offers a place for students to develop their competence and confidence as working professionals. The classes are in alignment with the city's Comprehensive Plan 2015 human services vision, which outlines the human services continuum of which the final stage is enhancement. One example cited as an enhancement activity is ESL classes. The classes offer workforce content that helps students and families to lead independent lives of community engagement and professional conductivity. The classes are very popular with the students. The Commission was encouraged to fully fund the funding request.

Mary Ellen Stone with King County Sexual Assault Resource Center also thanked the Commission for the work it does. Sexual assault has never been more widely recognized and the demand for services has never been higher. Just within the last 12 months there has been a 24 percent increase in the number of victims from Bellevue reaching out for help. Sexual assaults are up, reporting is up, and King County Sexual Assault Resource Center is the only organization in the county providing a 24-hour resource line solely dedicated to sexual assault victims. The agency is also the primary provider of trauma-focused therapy for children as young as six and for adults, and the services are provided at no cost and in Spanish. The real crisis is occurring within the criminal justice system. The agency works closely with the system and with law enforcement, including the Bellevue police department. Significant and widespread backlogs are being seen in all departments, including prosecutor's offices and the courts. A point in time study was conducted during the winter of 2021 and it was found that there were in the backlog 400 victims of sexual assault waiting for their cases to move forward. The average age of the victims was 16, and the average wait was more than two years.

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

6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Department of Parks and Community Services assistant director Toni Esparza reminded the Commissioners that two years ago the Council adopted a new source of revenue in the form of

a 0.1 percent sales tax. King County did the same and is using their revenues to fund its program of purchasing hotels for use as permanent supportive housing. In 2021 while a longer-term framework was being worked on the Council released an RFP for behavioral health and housing-related services and earmarked \$1.6 million for the Commission to review and make recommendations, which were ultimately approved by the Council. Also, in 2021 a capital RFP was issued, and the applications received were reviewed by a staff team and the Council approved the recommendation to fund Lifewire's capital project.

Continuing, Toni Esparza reported that on July 11 the Council approved a longer-term framework for the 1590 funds, now called the Housing Stability Program. The Council will be provided with quarterly updates. Three main areas of funding were approved in addition to funding from the revenue source for staff positions in three areas of the city to help execute the program. One of the positions will be in human services and that will result in adding a new staff person to the team. The other two staff positions will go to the Department of Community Development and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). Eighty percent of the funding as a whole will go toward the acquisition or preservation of properties or land for the development of affordable housing. HB-1590 targets capital projects toward specific populations. The framework approved by the Council breaks the total funding into two buckets, one to be leveraged with partners and the other with the potential for bonding to make significant up-front investments in identified projects. Fifteen percent of the funds were identified for issuing RFPs for behavioral health and housing-related services. The RFP will be released soon, and the resulting applications will ultimately come before the Commission for review and recommendations to Council.

Human Services Manager Leslie Miller reminded the Commissioners that the applications under review that would qualify for the new funds were highlighted. Following the Council's approval, staff reached out to each agency to let them know there will be a follow-up RFP.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

Human Services Application Review – Round 3 Continued

Chair Piper stressed the fact that the Commission has been appointed to be stewards of the human services funds and to distribute them. The Commissioners were asked to keep an open mind and to look at each application objectively and to the extent possible without emotions.

Goal Area 1

Application 5: Congregations for the Homeless - Outreach

Commissioner Mansfield noted agreement with the staff recommendation or higher. Chair Piper, Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Singh agreed. Commissioner Phan proposed fully funding the ask.

Application 1: Catholic Community Services – New Bethlehem Programs

There was agreement among the Commissioners to go with the staff recommendation.

Application 2: Congregations for the Homeless – Enhanced Shelter Program

Commissioner Mansfield noted that while the ask is very big, the city has agreed to help support the shelter. The funding level should be higher than the staff recommendation and closer to the full ask.

Toni Esparza allowed that at times in the past funding has been supplied from other sources within the city. Currently, there are no such other funds available.

Commissioner Singh recommended the full funding level.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz agreed with the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Phan recommended the full ask.

Chair Piper voiced concern over fully funding the application given the other needs but admitted to a willingness to go above the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Mansfield recommended funding at \$500,000 or \$550,000.

Commissioner Singh suggested that with construction under way, the Commission did not need to be overly concerned about funding that part of the project. Full funding would be in line with what was allocated during the previous funding cycle but should not be necessary.

Commissioner Mansfield was willing to go with even less than the staff recommendation.

Chair Piper indicated a comfort with something closer to \$400,000.

Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that giving more than the staff recommendation would mean having to cut somewhere else.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz commented that too often once funding has been awarded at a certain level, agencies often feel a precedent has been set. However, continuing to fund applications at their previous levels is simply not possible given limited funding and an increase in the number of applications each year.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed to go with the staff recommendation. Commissioner Singh agreed, as did Commissioner Singh.

Commissioner Phan commented that while that is true, the need is increasing. The fact that the agency is asking for more is indicative of the times. The Commission should not base its funding recommendations on fear that an agency might want the same next time around.

Chair Piper allowed that cuts would need to be made one way or another.

Toni Esparza reiterated the Council's general priority for ensuring that shelters for various populations exist across the Eastside. The establishment of a year-round 24/7 men's shelter is an adopted Council priority. There has not, however, been any stated direction in any form that can be interpreted as meaning the Commission must fund the full request.

Commissioner Phan agreed there are limited funds and agreed that the decision to be made is a difficult one. It is not, however, good policy to make funding decisions based on what might happen in the future. Whatever can be allocated above the staff recommendation would be great.

There was consensus reached to fund the application at \$400,000.

Application 8: Friends of Youth – The Landing Shelter and Resource Center

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended \$175,000, slightly more than the staff recommendation,

because of the degree to which youth in the community are struggling and need shelter and services. If possible, the allocation should be \$200,000.

Commissioner Mansfield indicated support for \$200,000. The youth are underrepresented in the homeless shelters overall, especially LGBTQ youth. Given the current climate in the country, the need is likely to increase over time.

Commissioner Singh agreed with funding at \$200,000. Commissioner Phan agreed as well.

Chair Piper noted having initially supporting the staff recommendation but agreed to go with \$200,000 given the importance of services to the youth.

Application 11: LifeWire – Emergency and Transitional Shelter

Leslie Miller explained that under direction from the Council there is to be no supplanting using Housing Stability Fund dollars. If a program was funded through the regular Human Services Fund, it would need to be funded at the same level with those funds. Anything above and beyond that level, however, could be considered for Housing Stability Fund dollars. That is why the staff framework included \$103,524, the amount the program is currently receiving. The agency can also apply for funds on the capital side to support operations and services for units created with Housing Stability Fund dollars.

Chair Piper agreed with the staff framework and the understanding that the balance could come through the RFP. Commissioner Singh agreed as did Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Phan.

Commissioner Mansfield refrained from discussing the application due to a conflict of interest.

Application 14: Sophia Way – Helen's Place

There was full agreement in favor of the staff recommendation.

Application 6: Congregations for the Homeless – Rotating Shelter

Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioners Mansfield and Singh agreed with the staff recommendation. Chair Piper noted support for funding at \$66,000, and Commissioner Phan recommended fully funding the ask.

Application 9: Friends of Youth – Youth Haven Shelter

Chair Piper and Vice Chair Amirfaiz went along with the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Mansfield recommended fully funding the application, as did Commissioners Singh and Phan.

Application 10: Hopelink – Housing

Leslie Miller said there are two parts to the application, which is why it shows up in two places. Application 10 is the shelter part.

Christy Stangland explained that staff looked at the total number of beds operated by the agency and divided them up based on shelter and housing. The amounts and the services are based on beds.

There was consensus in favor of the staff recommendation.

Application 13: Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services – River Street Shelter

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended funding at \$10,500 based on the proposed number of service units.

Commissioner Mansfield suggested \$10,000.

Chair Piper had recommended passing on the application but indicated being persuadable but at a level less than recommended by the staff.

Commissioner Phan pointed out that the program serves Bellevue and Eastside residents and thus needs to be funded, adding that \$10,000 was acceptable.

Commissioner Singh agreed to fund at \$10,000.

There was consensus to fund the application with \$10,000.

Application 15: The Sophia Way – Sophia's Place

Vice Chair Amirfaiz agreed with the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Mansfield questioned why the agency was seeking \$300,000 from Bellevue and only \$45,000 from Redmond, especially given that the service unit numbers for the two cities are not that different. Commissioner Mansfield agreed funding at the staff recommendation level would be acceptable.

Commissioner Phan noted that Kirkland has \$1.3 million to allocate to organizations that apply, and Bellevue has far more than that, which is likely where the discrepancy comes in. Commissioner Phan indicated a desire to see the agency funded higher than the staff recommendation but would be okay at \$75,000.

Chair Piper and Commissioner Singh agreed with the staff recommendation as well.

Application 4: Congregations for the Homeless – Housing

Commissioners Singh and Mansfield agreed with the staff recommendation, as did Chair Piper and Vice Chair Amirfaiz.

Commissioner Phan proposed fully funding the application.

Application 7: Friends of Youth – Transitional Living Program

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended \$28,500 based on the proposed number of service units.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed with the staff recommendation. While the number of service units are lower, it is an expensive program to run, and it does provide some permanence for the clients.

Commissioner Singh noted the application projected fewer clients served and agreed with the staff recommendation.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the application indicates four Bellevue residents will be served, which is quite low. That works out to \$89 per night.

Commissioner Phan was good with the staff recommendation. Chair Piper concurred.

Application 10: Hopelink – Housing

Leslie Miller noted that a higher percentage was recommended for the shelter beds than for the housing beds. The Commission preliminarily agreed to the staff recommendation for the shelter beds.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz referred to the total fundraising amount listed in the two applications and noted it totals close to \$3 million from fundraising. The question asked was if that is even possible. Christy Stangland clarified that there was in fact only one application that had been split by staff for purposes of separating the shelter element and the housing element. Vice Chair Amirfaiz commented that even \$1.5 million in fundraising seems like a lot. Christy Stangland said having served as director of the program in the past, the fundraising figure is accurate.

Leslie Miller agreed to reach out to Hopelink to doublecheck the fundraiser dollars across all their applications.

There was consensus among the Commissioners in favor of the staff recommendation, though some were inclined to go lower if in fact the fundraising figures are accurate.

Application 12: MAPS/MCRC – Housing for Single Women

Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Mansfield agreed with the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Singh recommended \$30,000 because the number of residents served is not high. Chair Piper agreed that with only eight clients projected to be served, funding at a level lower than recommended by the staff would be appropriate, adding that \$30,000 could be supported. Commissioner Phan concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted being swayed by that argument, as did Commissioner Mansfield.

There was agreement to fund the application at \$30,000.

Application 16: 4 Tomorrow – Rental, Mortgage and Move-in Assistance

Chair Piper recommended funding at the \$50,000 level given the big drop in residents served.

Commissioner Phan agreed with the staff recommendation as did Commissioners Singh and Mansfield.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz wanted to see funding lower than the staff recommendation and suggested \$50,000 would be okay.

Commissioner Phan commented that Centro Cultural Mexicano also refers clients to 4 Tomorrow but agreed that \$50,000 would be acceptable. Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

The consensus was to fund the application at \$50,000.

Application 17: Attain Housing – Stable Home Rental and Move-in Assistance

Chair Piper agreed with the staff recommendation, as did Commissioners Phan, Mansfield and Vice Chair Amirfaiz.

Commissioner Singh proposed either the staff recommendation or \$35,000.

The consensus was to go with the staff recommendation.

Application 18: Bellevue LifeSpring – Emergency Rent Assistance

Chair Piper recommended \$50,000.

Commissioners Phan and Mansfield agreed with the staff recommendation, as did Vice Chair Amirfaiz.

Commissioner Singh recommended \$70,000.

The consensus was in line with the staff recommendation.

Application 19: Catholic Community Services of King County – Emergency Assistance

Chair Piper proposed either \$20,000 or the staff recommendation.

Commissioners Mansfield and Singh agreed with the staff recommendation.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended only \$10,000 because half of the proposed budget is for salaries rather than direct services. Only 20 residents are proposed to be served.

Commissioner Phan voiced support for either \$20,000 or the staff recommendation.

Chair Piper agreed to go with the staff recommendation.

The majority approved the staff recommendation.

Application 3: Congregations for the Homeless – Housing Navigation

Chair Piper recommended going with the staff proposal. Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioners Singh and Mansfield agreed.

Commissioner Phan called for fully funding the application.

Application 24: MAPS/MCRC – Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Refugees, Immigrants and Low-Income Families

Chair Piper recommended the staff-recommended funding level. Commissioners Phan, Mansfield and Singh concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz raised a question regarding the budget, noting that for 2021 revenue is shown at zero while the expenses are shown at \$446,397. Christy Stangland said the agency's updated budget indicates that all funding for 2021 is from private fundraising and is equal to their expenses.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz agreed to go with the staff recommendation.

Application 25: Mary's Place Seattle – Flexible Financial Assistance for
Families Experiencing Homelessness

Commissioner Phan proposed fully funding the ask.

Chair Piper recommended the staff recommendation. Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioners Singh and Mansfield concurred.

Commissioner Phan pointed out that the family shelter is new. It serves a lot of families and at least 50 meals for kids each weekend.

Commissioner Mansfield stressed that the application is only for the flexible financial assistance.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted the application projects serving only six households and 20 residents which works out to \$3042 per household.

Commissioner Phan strongly advocated for the program.

The majority favored the staff recommendation.

Application 21: Hopelink – Financial Assistance Resiliency Program

Chair Piper proposed going with the 2021 award of \$44,000.

Commissioner Phan proposed \$40,000.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Mansfield agreed with \$44,000.

Commissioner Singh favored the staff recommendation but indicated a willingness to go with \$44,000. Commissioner Phan agreed.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz commented that according to the budget the staff salaries and benefits comes to \$471,926 out of a total request of \$541,926 from all cities. Only \$70,000 goes to direct assistance. For 2021 the agency's fundraising came to \$2.32 million, and in 2023 the projection is to raise \$2.34 million.

Leslie Miller commented that for many agencies, city funding is the most flexible funding. That is why they focus on staffing in the application, which other funding sources do not allow for. Christy Stangland added that Hopelink's 2019-2020 annual report lists \$11.4 million in contributions and grants.

There was consensus in favor of funding at \$44,000.

Application 23: LifeWire – Housing Stability Program

Chair Piper recommended going with the 2021 award of \$11,960. There was full agreement to go with that number.

Application 26: Solid Ground WA – Housing Stability Project

Leslie Miller clarified that the note indicating the agency does not provide direct services would be removed given that they do in fact provide some direct services. The agencies

provide funding to both Hopelink and Catholic Community Services for client services.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted the budget lists \$26,000 for subcontractor costs. Given that, it might be better for the city to support the subcontracting agencies directly.

Commissioner Phan commented that the program is low-barrier and cuts checks the same day for client families. Other organizations are not necessarily able to do that.

Chair Piper shared the concern voiced by Vice Chair Amirfaiz and noted having originally recommended passing on the application. With the new information that there are some direct services offered lends credence to funding at some level

Commissioners Mansfield, Phan and Singh agreed to go with the staff recommendation. Vice Chair Amirfaiz concurred. Chair Piper did as well but indicated a preference for going with only \$25,000.

Application 27: The Salvation Army – Eastside Social Services

Chair Piper called attention to the fact that the agency has faced challenges in spending down its rental assistance funds. Leslie Miller noted that following a recent staffing change there has been a steady flow of money going out the door for its intended purpose.

Commissioner Singh proposed passing on the application. Commissioner Mansfield concurred, as did Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Chair Piper.

Commissioner Phan asked if the application also covered the hot meal program and allowed not understanding the attached budget. Christy Stangland said the program overview indicates the hot meal program is included along with the hygiene bags and baby items.

Commissioner Mansfield noted the application indicated only 35 Bellevue residents to be served. Christy Stangland said the service units listed are only for financial aid. The application does discuss the other services. The expenses listed in the budget are all for rent and utility.

Chair Piper commented that there are a lot of programs offering rental assistance. Commissioner Phan agreed but noted that each one establishes its own barriers. Commissioner Phan expressed not feeling comfortable passing on the application.

Toni Esparza said another way to view the application is by focusing on the subtotals for each category. Given the continued issues related to housing stability, the Commission could choose to look at the issue as a whole to determine if the subtotal is adequately funded. Toni Esparza stressed that as recommended, the Commission had earmarked about \$330,000 total for rental assistance.

Chair Piper proposed doing that subtotal exercise at the end as part of an overall balancing function.

Commissioner Mansfield said part of that review should include looking at programs earmarked for funding cuts to determine if their funding should be increased.

A motion to extend the meeting to allow for completing the review of Goal Areas 1 and 3 was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Amirfaiz, and the motion carried unanimously.

****BREAK****

Application 20: Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Housing Stability

Chair Piper agreed with the staff recommendation. Commissioners Phan and Singh concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said it appears the application is similar to Application 53 by the same organization. Leslie Miller said Application 20 addresses a different set of services. Application 53 covers domestic violence and a range of seminars that cover everything from immigrant rights to wills. The Housing Stability program is focused on supporting people to remain housed.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz pointed out that the budget is blank in terms of the 2021 actual for residents served. Additionally, the outcome for Application 20 is almost identical to Application 53. Leslie Miller reiterated that the programs are different. The Housing Stability program started in Kirkland.

Commissioner Mansfield commented that because the program is unique, funding it at higher than \$70,000 is warranted. Residents facing eviction are certainly not in a position to hire an attorney to fight the legal battle. Commissioner Mansfield recommended funding at \$85,000.

The Commission agreed to move on to the next application to allow staff to seek an answer to the number of actual clients served in 2021.

Application 22: Imagine Housing – Resident Services

Leslie Miller reminded the Commissioners that while the program is eligible for 1590 dollars, the amount previously funded cannot be supplanted with those funds. The staff recommendation was to fund the application at the current level and ask the agency to apply to the RFP for additional funds.

Chair Piper agreed with taking that approach and funding at the staff recommended level. There was agreement to take that approach.

Application 30: Backpack Brigade – Backpack Brigade

Commissioner Singh said the review team recommended passing on the application and to fully fund Application 31, which is linked.

Leslie Miller said there was a lack of community between the two programs. The agency has agreed to back away from Application 30 and have all funding go to Application 31 instead.

There was agreement to pass on the application.

Application 31: Backpack Brigade – Backpack Meals for Kids

Chair Piper noted the need to be recused from considering the application due to a conflict of interest.

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

Application 20: Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Housing Stability (Continued)

Christy Stangland informed the Commission that in 2021 the program served 102 Bellevue residents, which exceeded their goal of serving 70 residents.

Given that moratoriums are ending, Commissioner Mansfield stressed the need to fund the program at more than the staff recommendation. More than the projected number of clients may need to be served, especially given that the pandemic has clearly not ended.

Commissioner Singh agreed with the staff recommendation. Chair Piper, Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Phan concurred.

The majority position was to go with the staff recommendation.

Application 32: Bellevue LifeSpring – Food Assistance for Children

Commissioner Singh said while the program is good, the number of clients served is not increasing. The recommendation was to fund the application with \$100,000. The other Commissioners agreed.

Application 36: Essentials First – World Food Program

Commissioner Singh recommended passing on the application in favor of funding Application 35 instead, which is similar.

Chair Piper commented that Applications 34 and 35 are linked as well. Commissioner Mansfield said they address non-food items.

Commissioner Phan pointed out that the majority of the non-food items are feminine hygiene and general hygiene kits, which they are constantly giving away.

There was agreement to pass on funding the application.

Application 37: Hopelink – Food Programs

Commissioner Singh recommended going with the staff recommendation and the other Commissioners agreed.

Application 38: MAPS/MCRC – Food and Gas Cards Distribution Program

Commissioner Singh recommended funding at \$10,000.

Commissioner Phan proposed going with the staff recommendation. Chair Piper, Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Application 39: Renewal Food Bank – Renewal Food Bank

Commissioner Singh recommended going with the staff recommendation. Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioner Mansfield agreed.

Commissioner Phan recommended fully funding the ask. The program involves a small local community food bank that continues to see an increase in the number residents served. The program operates on a very low budget and relies heavily on community donations of non-perishable goods.

Commissioner Mansfield allowed that the service unit cost is very low and agreed to go with

full funding. Chair Piper and Commissioner Singh concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz pointed out that the revenues for 2021 were \$818,00 and the expenses were \$583,000. While non-profits should be allowed surpluses, they should be within reason. In 2023 the projected revenues are \$751,000 and the projected expenditures are \$707,000.

Christy Stangland read from the application that due to the pandemic, 2020-2021 saw a significant increase in corporation and private fund donations, which accounts for the discrepancy. Donations have since returned to pre-pandemic levels and is expected to continue in that vein into 2023.

Commissioner Singh proposed fully funding the request.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz asked if the surplus will carry over into 2023. Christy Stangland said the agency would need to answer that question. Typically, agencies put any surplus into their reserves.

Commissioner Phan noted the agency just recently put out an ask to the community for non-perishable foods as their supplies were running low. About three weeks ago Bellevue fire dropped off two truckloads of non-perishables and canned food items to the food bank. There is a clear need.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz agreed the need is great and supported fully funding the application. Chair Piper concurred.

The consensus was to fully fund the application. There also was agreement that the agency should be asked if the 2021 surplus funds were carried over.

Application 40: Sound Generations – Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Singh recommended full funding. Commissioners Mansfield and Phan concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the number of residents served and what constitutes a service unit is not clear in the application. Christy Stangland said service units are defined in terms of meals delivered to homebound seniors. The application indicates 2593 meals delivered to eight Bellevue residents.

Leslie Miller added that some people depend fully on the program for all their meals. Commissioner Mansfield noted that for some the delivery person is the only one the homebound seniors see at all.

Chair Piper agreed with full funding, making that the consensus position.

Application 41: YMCA of Greater Seattle – Food Program at 30 Bellevue

Commissioner Singh proposed going with the staff recommendation. All the other Commissioners agreed. All of the Commissioners agreed.

Application 42: YMCA of Greater Seattle – Food Trucks at Bellevue YMCA

Commissioner Singh recommended funding of \$15,000.

Commissioner Phan supported the staff recommendation at a minimum. Commissioner

Mansfield concurred as did Chair Piper and Vice Chair Amirfaiz. Commissioner Singh agreed with the staff funding as well.

Application 29: Babies of Homelessness – Diaper Bank Program

Commissioner Singh observed that the program primarily serves the south King County region and proposed going with the staff recommendation. All other Commissioners agreed.

Application 33: Eastside Baby Corner – Meeting Basic Needs for Children

Commissioner Singh proposed not funding the application.

Commissioner Phan argued that the program is great and suggested going with the staff recommendation or more. Commissioner Mansfield agreed, and Chair Piper and Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended the staff recommendation.

Application 34: Essentials First – Community Kits Program

Application 35: Essentials First – Just Essentials Volume Distribution Program

Commissioner Singh recommended the staff recommendation.

Leslie Miller noted that the program is linked to Application 35. One program makes volume purchases while the other puts together kits.

Commissioner Mansfield wanted to see funding higher than the staff recommendation. The program provides some items to people that no other program does.

Chair Piper agreed with going a little higher than the staff recommendation and then allocating the total funds across Application 34 and Application 35 on a weighted basis.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz expressed some confusion why Application 35 applies the full amount requested to salaries. Leslie Miller said there has been a request from city staff from multiple cities concerned about their capacity and focusing on making sure they have staffing levels to support their work. That could have played a role in their decision.

Christy Stangland added that their updated budget does show \$90,000 going for equipment/supplies/office; \$8000 for professional services, dues and fees; and \$8000 for rent and utilities. The remainder of the request across all cities is for salaries, wages, benefits and indirect administration costs.

Commissioner Singh proposed \$50,000 under that scenario, with 40 percent for Application 34 and 60 percent for Application 35. All of the Commissioners agreed.

Goal Area 3

Application 89: Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking

Leslie Miller took a moment to explain that Goal 3 is a high-priority area with a limited number of applications. Accordingly, the recommendation of staff was to assign flat funding as the framework. Within that context, the full ask for Application 89 is a good fit.

Commissioner Singh and Commissioners Mansfield and Phan agreed with full funding.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended \$5000. The budgeting for staff is \$46,863. It says they

will create posters and raise awareness but there is no line item for that. It also indicates they have no data per city, but the human trafficking hotline calls from Washington state totaled only 35 calls. Grant Coordinator Asma Ahmed explained that the goal of the agency is to increase the number of calls to the human trafficking hotline from the state of Washington by 15 percent over the current numbers. The outreach campaign is aimed at achieving that goal.

Christy Stangland suggested the professional services, dues and fees line item includes hiring a consulting company to help create the materials. It could also include the printing as well.

Commissioner Mansfield argued in favor of fully funding. The program is new and addresses a growing problem that is not addressed by any other program.

Chair Piper noted the need to be recused from considering the application due to a conflict of interest.

The consensus was to fully fund the program.

Application 90: Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

Commissioner Singh recommended the staff recommendation and all the Commissioners agreed.

Application 91: Harborview Medical Center – Sexual Assault Counseling

Commissioner Singh recommended the staff recommendation and all the Commissioners agreed.

Application 92: King County Sexual Assault Resource Center – Comprehensive Sexual Assault Advocacy Services

Commissioner Mansfield noted the need to be recused from discussing the application.

Commissioner Singh recommended fully funding the application. Chair Piper and Commissioner Phan agreed.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz recommended funding at \$50,000. The application states that 43 percent of the clients come from south King County, 20 percent from east King County and north King County, and 37 percent from Seattle. The application lists 6076 hours of service. Full funding does not seem reasonable.

Chair Piper's inclination was to go with the staff recommendation. Commissioner Singh noted a willingness to go along with that given that the difference is not that great.

There was agreement to fund at the staff recommended level.

Application 93: LifeWire – Survivor Advocacy Services

Commissioner Singh agreed with the staff recommended and Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz suggested that based on the service units the application should be funded at \$91,000.

Chair Piper and Commissioner Phan agreed with the staff recommendation.

Application 94: Refugee Women's Alliance – Domestic Violence Program

Commissioner Singh recommended fully funding and Chair Piper and Commissioners Mansfield and Phan agreed.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted the need to be recused from discussing the application.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A motion to amend the June 23 meeting minutes to reflect that no Commissioner asked to participate remotely at the next meeting was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Amirfaiz, and the motion carried unanimously.

Leslie Miller reminded the Commissioners that the makeup meeting for the meeting missed on June 7 would be held on July 26.

A motion to approve allowing Commissioner Ma to participate remotely at the July 26 and September 8 meetings was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Singh left the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mosen Hoksar spoke representing the Crisis Connection as the director of recovery and peer services. The agency is seeking support for two programs. With regard to the peer-supported and run Warm Line program, it was explained that the program works with folks with emotional mental health challenges. Everyone who volunteers or works on the Warm Line lives with their own mental health challenges. The program provides a safe and confidential space for those who wish to connect and talk with someone who understands the struggles of mental health. Warm Line provides space for volunteers to work toward building a community of support among themselves and gain experience toward pursuing a career as a certified peer counselor. The program in 2021 received 102 calls from Bellevue citizens. The low-barrier program allows for anonymity, so the actual number of calls from Bellevue was likely higher. The ability to remain anonymous can be a lifeline for the callers. The Teen Link program is also confidential and is designed to support teenagers. It is run by teen volunteers.

Dan Fey, director of the Center for Career Connections at Bellevue College, allowed that the Commission is faced with making some very difficult funding decisions. The Center for Career Connections provides state-of-the-art job search, resume development, interviewing skills, social media, job placement and job advancement skills. Bellevue's funding makes it possible to serve more than just Bellevue College students, thus the program is open to the community free of charge. The program is all about jobs, self-sufficiency and economic development for residents, which makes it an upstream investment for the city. Investing in the program can help to alleviate some of the downstream consequences of poverty, homelessness and crime. The staff-recommended 45 percent cut will make things difficult when it comes to continuing to serve the community.

Lisa Leitner, a former 23-year resident of the city and a former employee of Congregations for the Homeless, said the fact that the Commission received 136 applications is reflective of the diverse needs of the community and the greater Eastside. The decisions made by the

Commission will ultimately have a huge impact on all of the applicants. It takes dedicated staff to manage day-to-day agency operations, not just for Congregations for the Homeless but for all non-profits. Just like any other business, agencies are facing increased costs in terms of salaries and benefits. Burnout in social services is real and when turnover occurs Congregations for the Homeless, and all other agencies, compete with one another to recruit employees. It takes special people to be willing to work with vulnerable populations. The city and Congregations for the Homeless cannot just rely on those with good hearts and a willingness to volunteer or work for low wages. Experienced professionals must be hired, and they expect living wages and competitive benefits. The amount requested by Congregations for the Homeless represents approximately 27 percent of its overall operating budget. The agency is seeking to avoid burdening any one funder by seeking funding from multiple sources. In 2014 the Council made addressing homelessness a key priority and since then the Council, city staff and Congregations for the Homeless have spent countless hours engaging with the community to garnish support for the shelter. Common ground was found with the formation of a community advisory group in 2020, and with the more recent good neighbor process. The result has been formal safety, security and operational plans.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Piper adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.