

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Singh, Commissioners Gonzalez, Imfura, Hays, Phan, Rashid

COMMISSIONERS REMOTE: None

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Chair White

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Toni Esparza, Ruth Blaw, Saada Hilts, Gysel Galaviz, Department of Parks & Community Services

COUNCIL LIAISON: Not Present

POLICE LIAISON: Major Ellen Inman

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

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

At the roll of the call, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Rashid and Gonzalez, both of whom arrived at 6:02 p.m., and Commissioner White.

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Singh noted that in accordance Washington State campaign laws, specifically RCW 42.17A.555, speakers may not use the public forum to support or oppose ballot measures or candidates, including their own, and said any speaker who begins to do so will be asked to stop.

Mark Vermouth from Sophia Way provided the Commission with an organizational overview, stating that Sophia Way is the only organization on the Eastside that supports single adult women experiencing homelessness. The services include emergency shelter, transitional care and a day center, and the gamut of programs runs all the way from vehicle outreach to a two-year program for women experiencing homelessness. A recent housing success story was shared about an 83-year-old woman who had been living in a vehicle and who at age 80 accessed the day center services, moved into the Sophia Way emergency shelter, entered the two-year program at Lake Forest Park, and is now housed. The primary barrier to housing for that individual was an income gap and a delay in receiving a Section 8 voucher. For the women served by Sophia Way, it is all about a journey of stability. Escalating local and regional

pressures could increase the demand for services. The Commissioners were urged to consider the trends when planning 2027 funding. The Commissioners were invited to tour the Sophia Way facilities, and they were thanked for their past support. Currently more than a hundred women are receiving support through the organization.

Christina Mendieta, Director of Public Affairs at Kinderling, summarized the organization's history as a nonprofit founded approximately sixty-three years ago by five Bellevue parents of children with disabilities. Kinderling annually serves thousands of young children with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. The Commission was thanked inviting the community to provide input for the 2027–2028 funding priorities. Kinderling has over the years partnered with the city in regard to a number of different programs, including child care, preschool consultation, developmental supports, case management for families experiencing housing instability, and parent education. The Commission was urged to prioritize child care and early learning in the upcoming funding cycle. Early learning is essential for children with developmental delays, children of color, and children from low income families. The research indicates that approximately 85 percent of brain growth occurs in the first three years of life. Investments in high quality early learning yield high societal returns, sometimes cited as up to \$17 returned for every dollar invested owing to savings in special education, improved graduation rates, and better employment outcomes. The outcomes indicate that about 50 percent of children in Kinderling's early support program no longer need special education by age three, producing savings for Eastside schools. There are, however, disparities in the early learning system: children with disabilities are 14.5 times more likely to be expelled or suspended from preschool or child care, and Black children are about three times more likely than white children to be expelled. Losing childcare can force parents to scale back work, and early expulsions can predict later expulsions. Kinderling's childcare and preschool consultation program helped about 95 percent of children retain their childcare setting last year.

Sunny Luke described how Kinderling's early support services provided stability and hope after a daughter's diagnosis twenty years ago. The daughter is now part of the Evergreen Transition Program, which supports transitions from school to employment for students with disabilities. The daughter's medical condition involves tuberous sclerosis complex, a malady that affects multiple organs and neurological functioning, and is a heavy emotional and practical burden on families. Kinderling's persistent family counseling and support helped to restore hope and enabled daily functioning. The Commission was urged to prioritize Kinderling's services so that other families in similar situations can receive the same life-sustaining support.

Alex Tsimmerman began with a Nazi salute and called the Commissioners Nazi pigs and bandits before uttering a sequence of fragmented and interrupted utterances. Accusatory statements were made aimed at Mayor Robinson, the city of Bellevue, the government of King County, and at law enforcement.

Christy Murphy, Director of Grant Services for the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue, thanked the Commission for the increase in funding provided in the previous year and expressed appreciation for ongoing support. Despite the increased funding, significant unmet needs remain in education and childcare. Many families remain on waiting lists for afterschool care because they cannot afford it. Scholarships are limited due to federal requirements and other constraints, and

therefore not all families can be served. There is an ongoing gap between the demand and the available resources.

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None

Human Services Manager Ruth Blaw reported that Bellevue will be hosting a food and hygiene drive from October 1 through October 15, with collection bins placed around the city. All of the funded agencies have been invited to participate. Items gathered will be distributed to the agencies that opt in.

With regard to the Community Development Block Grant program, Ruth Blaw explained that the Commission had approved about \$1 million in funding for 2025 programs, but the contracts were never executed because the federal funds were paused by the federal government. The funded agencies included Porchlight, For Tomorrow, Indian American Community Services, Centro Cultural Mexicano, and the City of Bellevue. There is still hope that the money may arrive in 2025, but the future of CDBG funding for 2026 remains uncertain due to federal budget negotiations and the possibility of a government shutdown.

The Commission must proceed with the required five-year planning process. Applications for 2026 will be sent out, but only to agencies already approved in the previous cycle, since it is unclear whether funding will materialize. At the October 6 meeting the Commission will review the preliminary recommendations for 2026 funding. After a public hearing is held, the recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council. All is dependent on Congress passing the 2026 federal budget, but the city is still required to move forward for 2026. Congress has until the end of September to approve the budget, approve a continuing resolution, or shut the government down.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Phan, Ruth Blaw explained that if the money for 2025 comes through, the approved agencies will receive their funds on a reimbursement basis. For 2026, funds will not land until this time next year, so the agencies will again be on hold.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Affordable Housing Strategy Update

Senior Affordable Housing Planner Hannah Bahnmler from the city's Office of Housing reminded the Commission that Bellevue's affordable housing strategy serves as a short-term action plan to guide the city's efforts over the next five to seven years. The existing affordable housing strategy was adopted in 2017. In November 2024 the City Council directed that the plan be updated to reflect current conditions. The work to date has involved technical analysis and community engagement, and the process is entering its final two phases. Draft strategies and actions are being refined and prioritized. The anticipation is that the updated plan will be presented to the City Council for adoption in early 2026.

Hannah Bahnmitter noted that when launching the update the Council set an overarching production target. The 2017 strategy had a goal of producing 2500 affordable housing units, and that goal was met. With the update, the Council raised the target significantly, directing staff to build or preserve 5700 affordable units over the next ten years, with sub-targets for zero to 30 percent of area median income, extremely low income; 30-50 percent of area median income, very low income; and 50-80 percent of area median income, low income. Market-rate housing will also need to be built and the anticipation is that the market will bring online 8300 unrestricted units without direct city support.

Engagement is key to the strategy update. Surveys conducted over the last several months by various entities consistently showed that housing affordability and accessibility remains a top concern. The team established three overarching engagement goals as part of the project: 1) to improve public knowledge about affordable housing, both in terms of resources and the broader value of housing affordability to the community; 2) to create opportunities for direct public input so residents and stakeholders can express their perspectives and priorities; and 3) to elevate the voices of those most impacted by housing challenges, including diverse and representative communities. Engagement with the public was organized into three groups: 1) organizational partners such as developers, property managers and providers, which have technical and organizational expertise; 2) residents with lived experience of affordable housing needs; and 3) the general public including both residents and members of the Bellevue workforce.

The first phase of public engagement focused primarily on the general public. The city hosted several events that used interactive activities to gather input on values, priorities, and personal stories, emphasizing the importance of lived experience alongside statistical data. Nearly 300 people participated in the events, and the city's online engagement hub received more than 750 visitors. The themes that emerged included a recognition that affordability challenges cut across income levels; a strong desire for options that allow residents to age in place and benefit from universal design; and a sense of uncertainty about belonging in Bellevue, particularly among members of the workforce and families who contribute to the community but cannot afford to live there.

The second phase of engagement focused on organizational partners and individuals with lived experience. A survey was distributed to developers, providers and advocacy organizations, and 59 responses were collected. The survey identified three recurring themes: 1) the need to reduce the costs of building affordable housing, which continues to hinder project feasibility; 2) the need to improve navigation within the housing system, as it remains fragmented and difficult for individuals, particularly those experiencing trauma, to access resources; and 3) the need to balance trade-offs, with many respondents recommending that equity and values should guide decisions when competing needs cannot all be met.

The engagement effort also included a community facilitator program to reach individuals who might not attend city-run events. Community ambassadors with connections to various Bellevue communities were recruited, trained and compensated to conduct listening sessions within their own networks. The program created opportunities for input outside formal city structures, ensuring that marginalized voices and experiences were heard and considered. The program

concluded with a debrief that gathered stories and insights from the sessions.

Hannah Bahnmitter emphasized the importance of integrating the engagement results into the strategy's guiding principles, goals, and actions. The city's 20-year overarching Comprehensive Plan provides certain housing goals. From them, the team identified five focus areas: 1) housing stability; 2) housing for unique needs; 3) housing equity; 4) housing supply and diversity; and 5) affordable housing, defined as income-restricted housing. It is recognized that resources are limited and therefore it was determined that the primary priority for the strategy update should be income-restricted affordable housing in order to meet the ambitious new target of 5700 units in ten years.

Earlier in the year, the city established a new Office of Housing within the City Manager's office. The office is currently undergoing organizational development to define its role and identify sustainable funding sources. The Affordable Housing Strategy will explore new revenue streams and financing models, while the broader organizational work will assess how the city as a whole can fund housing efforts.

Hannah Bahnmitter provided examples of draft strategies and specific actions to illustrate the direction of the plan. The first was focused on acquiring and rehabilitating naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAA). The approach typically involves older multifamily housing that has become relatively affordable. There are often opportunities to acquire such properties and the city could do so and then apply affordability covenants on them. The approach is a cost-effective alternative to new construction. One related action is to partner with ARCH to provide short-term loans so that the city or its partners can quickly acquire market-rate properties and convert them into affordable housing.

A second strategy addressed the issue of navigating the affordable housing system. Community-based organizations described the difficulty residents face in maneuvering through a fragmented and complex system, especially when experiencing trauma. The proposed action is to provide funding for those organizations to expand their housing navigation services.

The third strategy outlined was focused on reducing housing costs through innovation, possibly by partnering with local universities to host design competitions that would encourage graduate students to develop innovative, efficient models of developing affordable housing.

The fourth strategy emphasized inclusive design, particularly the need for family-sized units. The proposed action under the strategy was to prioritize city funding for larger units, such as two-bedroom or larger apartments, in order to ensure that affordable housing does not consist solely of studios and one-bedroom units.

Hannah Bahnmitter said over the next couple of months the draft strategies will be refined and prioritized in collaboration with partners, and the focus will be on determining which actions should be implemented immediately and which should be postponed until resources allow. A draft of the strategies will be prepared for presentation to the Council, first as a presentation on the overarching goals and guidance in late October, and then for action in early 2026.

Public engagement is slated to continue as the update work proceeds. Targeted feedback will be sought from organizational partners, providers and affordable housing developers to ensure the draft strategies align with needs on the ground. A public information session is scheduled for November 6 at City Hall; it is anticipated to be via a hybrid format. Following that, a public survey will be opened to gather feedback from residents, and it will be shared through provider networks to broaden participation.

Chair Singh asked about efforts to reduce costs through the permitting process. Hannah Bahnmler indicated that the Development Services Department is implementing new state legislation to shorten permitting times. The city already has an expedited permitting program for affordable housing. Expanding eligibility for the program is under consideration, though it would remain limited to income-restricted projects.

Chair Singh remarked that there are aging sewer and water lines in older neighborhoods, and there are concerns about the capacity of existing systems to support growth. Hannah Bahnmler confirmed that infrastructure capacity was studied as part of the city's long-range planning. At the site level, such costs can be significant, but the state's CHIP grant program, which funds infrastructure tied to affordable housing, has been used successfully in Bellevue to support specific projects.

Chair Singh asked how the city will go about implementing equity in relation to family-sized housing and disabilities. Hannah Bahnmler explained that housing equity and housing for unique needs are treated as related but distinct goals. Housing for unique needs covers issues such as family-sized units, universal design and aging in place. Housing equity focuses on addressing disparities in outcomes among racial populations, promoting affordable homeownership, expanding language access, improving access to information, and ensuring transparency in reporting. The Commissioners were invited to suggest additional actions that could meaningfully advance equity within the strategy.

Commissioner Hays asked for clarification in regard to the number of affordable housing units needed in Bellevue compared to the city's current production goals. Hannah Bahnmler explained that the new target of 5700 units over ten years is based on a need-informed methodology. The target is intended to represent the scale of need that must be met in order to make measurable progress. There are other longer-range goals around affordability in Bellevue that would exceed the ten-year benchmark, but the hope is to build toward those over time.

Commissioner Hays asked how the work of the Planning Commission impacts the housing strategies. Hannah Bahnmler said the Affordable Housing Strategy is not a statutory plan and therefore does not go through the Planning Commission for recommendation to the City Council. Instead, the plan is presented directly to the Council for review and adoption. The Planning Commission does, however, play an important role since it will see issues connected to the strategy when implementation begins. For that reason, staff are providing the Planning Commission with regular briefings to keep it informed.

Commissioner Phan noted the high cost of construction in Bellevue and asked about incentives for developers. Hannah Bahnmler explained that there are two categories of housing

development: 1) market-rate development with set-asides for affordable housing; and 2) projects that are 100 percent affordable. For market-rate projects there are available incentives such as property tax exemptions and density bonuses developers can tap when they include affordable units. The Wilburton area was cited an example where requirements are being considered for affordable housing as part of new density allowances. Bellevue has been relatively successful at producing units for households earning 60-80 percent of area median income where the incentive tools are most the effective. For projects that are 100 percent affordable, financial feasibility is far more challenging. The city has both local and pooled regional funding sources, but it is exploring ways to expand the revenue sources. There is interest in new financing mechanisms, including using the city's strong credit rating to guarantee loans in order to reduce developer borrowing costs, similar to King County's Credit Enhancement Program. Bellevue is also monitoring existing incentive programs to ensure that they remain effective, with the intention of adjusting them as necessary.

Commissioner Phan asked if the findings will be presented to the focus groups that participated in the process so they can be informed about how their input helped to shape the strategies. Hannah Bahnmitter said the city plans to host an event in January that will bring community facilitators and participating individuals back together to present the draft plan and show how their feedback influenced the recommendations. Emphasized was the importance of not simply collecting feedback and ending the process, but demonstrating accountability and follow-through.

Commissioner Gonzalez added that during a Spanish-speaking focus group participants asked how they would know if their voices had been heard. Hannah Bahnmitter confirmed that the participants provided their email addresses, they will receive follow-up communications, adding that the upcoming event is designed to close the feedback loop.

B. Human Services Review of Funding Performance Data

Ruth Blaw focused on the first-year results of the city's six-year human services strategic plan. The Commissioners were reminded that prior to the pandemic the cost of housing, groceries and other necessities were rising. The pandemic brought temporary relief through federal ARPA funds, but it has always been understood that once those funds expired the community needs would continue. For that reason, the Council adopted a strategic plan in February 2024 to provide direction for human services funding.

The consultant firm HMA, which also conducted the human services needs update, was hired to help create the strategic plan. They utilized surveys, focus groups, and data analysis and developed four objectives. The first objective was to expand equity-focused and data-driven decision-making that prioritizes investments where disparities are greatest. The year one accomplishments included facilitating panels; participation in community network dialogues; conducting the Needs Update; holding public hearings before the Commission; prioritizing disparities in culturally specific services housing, food, childcare, and behavioral health; and implementation of a standardized evaluation rubric with disaggregated data analysis.

The second objective was to increase the capacity of Bellevue's human services system by

making funding opportunities more equitable and accessible to support organizations in meeting the needs of Bellevue's most marginalized residents. The objective is related to how to support the agencies that do the work. The accomplishments included conducting 89 site visits; participating in Eastside work groups to improve contracting; accepting applications and reports in any language; translating requests for proposals; providing one-on-one assistance to 43 agencies; creating a support library; and adopting the practice of allowing 20 percent indirect costs for all human services contracts.

The third objective was to expand access for Bellevue residents to culturally and linguistically specific human services. The accomplishments included supporting the Commission in prioritizing service gaps and providing a framework with allocation targets.

The fourth objective was to raise awareness among key stakeholders about the city's human services needs and disparities by community, and to serve as a catalyst to collaboratively address the needs. The achievements included presenting the Needs Update to 20 stakeholder groups; co-hosting shelter provider meetings with other Eastside cities; presenting to over 200 business leaders at the Chamber of Commerce; and helping the Chamber connect with smaller nonprofits.

Although significant progress was made in the first year of the city's first-ever human services strategic plan, more work remains to be done, particularly in regard to deepening outreach to stakeholders. The evaluation rubric is being improved for the next funding cycle to ensure a stronger alignment with the objectives.

Commissioner Perelman how the new 20 percent indirect cost allowance works within the funding agreements. Ruth Blaw explained that larger agencies often have their overhead covered through other sources and are able to use the city's funds entirely for services smaller agencies often lack that luxury. By highly recommending a 20 percent administrative overhead for every agency, the agencies are put on a more equitable basis. Commissioner Perelman asked if the 20 percent allowance might reduce the total number of agencies the city can fund, or result in fewer units of service being provided. Ruth Blaw acknowledged the concern but explained that the purpose is not to diminish output but to create a more realistic and sustainable way to support agencies. The approach ensures that agencies have the resources needed to deliver services effectively, especially where the desire is for the agencies to do the administrative functions well.

Commissioner Perelman said King County has a similar approach in identifying reasonable administrative costs and suggested that while supporting infrastructure is essential, the math may mean fewer direct services in some cases.

Department of Parks and Community Services assistant director Toni Esparza stated that many smaller agencies have been struggling to compete by underpaying themselves or their staff, which undermines sustainability. Larger agencies already have the capacity built in. By establishing the overhead standard, Bellevue seeks to ensure that staff are fairly compensated and that the contracts accurately reflect the cost of services. Commissioner Perelman agreed with the rationale and expressed support for it, acknowledging that a coalition of agencies had advocated for the change and that King County was also implementing related workforce stabilization measures. However, while the approach may strengthen agencies, it still may result in slightly

fewer direct service units.

Human Services Planner Saada Hilts offered a presentation on the human services dashboard, which is a critical accountability tool for tracking how the city's investments translate into services and outcomes for Bellevue residents. The dashboard consolidates funding data, program performance and community impact into a single framework, ensuring transparency, accountability, equity, and community engagement.

In 2024 Bellevue invested \$14 million in human services, including \$1.7 million in rental assistance. The funds supported over 159,000 residents across 188 programs, including 58 first time programs. The services included rental assistance, child care, legal aid, youth programs, and direct financial support. Notably, 99 percent of the programs met or exceeded their goals.

More than half of the investment was directed to housing and food security. Fifteen percent supported mentoring, legal aid and culturally specific programs. Five percent went to services for safety from abuse and violence. Fourteen percent supported mental and physical health, including counseling and medical care. Ten percent went toward education and employment, such as child care and workforce services. The distribution was reflective of both the urgent needs and long-term investments in the wellbeing of residents.

Saada Hilts shared that in 2024, providers delivered over 1.1 million meals, nearly 400,000 shelter bed nights, and thousands of hours of case management. The investments also strengthened mentoring, advocacy for survivors, mental health and dental services, as well as employment and childcare programs.

Commissioner Hays asked if the data in the dashboard reflects organizational outcomes from agency reports, or if it is tied directly to the city's financial allocations. Saada Hilts clarified that the data is directly tied to the dollars allocated by the Commission and added that Commissioners will be given access to the dashboard link, which will be updated annually to maintain accountability and transparency.

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland shared data with the Commission aimed at highlighting the areas showing progress in equity and funding, and to identify opportunities for improvement. The work of formally analyzing the funding recommendations in terms of equity began in 2021 and has continued since for each funding cycle. The Council has emphasized the need for the Commission to form recommendations that include both community-wide agencies and agencies providing culturally and linguistically specific services, which are services that are designated for particular linguistic and cultural communities that are delivered by individuals from the specific communities. That differs from culturally responsive which is a system that values diversity, understands differences and develops services and support to meet the unique needs of each community.

Christy Stangland said the 2025 funding sources included in the analysis were the Human Services General Fund, the Housing Stability Fund, the Community Development Block Grant funds, and the Parks and Community Services Fund. The Housing Stability OMS funds were noted but not included in the analysis.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Perelman, Christy Stangland stated that Bellevue's human services investment in 2024 was \$14.1 million, but for 2025 the amount is only \$9 million. The 2024 numbers included temporary ARPA funding as part of the pandemic response. With the ARPA funds phased out, the 2025 level reflects normal funding sources.

Christy Stangland shared with the Commissioners a chart comparing funding outcomes. It showed that culturally and linguistically specific agencies received about 63 percent of the funding they requested, while other agencies received about 45 percent of their requested amounts. Previously, the percentages for those categories were almost exactly the same.

Across all of the 2025 funding sources, 28 percent of funded agencies are culturally and linguistically specific. Twenty-four culturally and linguistically specific agencies applied and that 23 of them received awards, with five receiving City of Bellevue funding for the first time. A chart listing all of the funded agencies was shared with the Commission on which asterisks marked the first-time awardees. The chart also identified each agency's funding source or sources since some agencies were supported from multiple funds.

At the program level, 28 percent of the programs funded for 2025 are culturally and linguistically specific. Twenty-seven percent of the programs are funded for the first time. In another chart presented, all of the funded programs were listed and the first-time program awards were also marked with an asterisk.

Christy Stangland summarized the steps taken by staff and the Commission to improve equity in funding. The human services strategic plan guided both the staff and the Commission in focusing on equity. All of the Commissioners and staff received equity training, and the Commission meetings in recent years regularly featured panels from agencies serving marginalized communities. A standardized review rubric was used to evaluate applications and to align funding priorities and to highlight culturally and linguistically specific programs. The application review process and funding chart visually flagged culturally and linguistically specific proposals so the Commissioners could readily identify and prioritize them during deliberations. There was staff outreach to community-based organizations during and between funding cycles, including to agencies whose ARPA awards ended on December 31, 2024. Staff provided technical assistance during the application process; offered interpretation and translation upon request at funding sessions and city meetings; translated the request for proposals into Bellevue's top eight languages; and continues to accept applications and quarterly reports in languages other than English.

Commissioner Hays referred to the fact that 63 percent of the collective ask from culturally and linguistically specific agencies and asked if that percentage had been predetermined by the Commission and simply applied across all the asks. Christy Stangland said there was no predetermined percentage. The percentage figure emerged from the post-hoc analysis as one way to check alignment with the strategic plan's equity guidance. The percentage of request funded is influenced by many factors, including differences in what organizations choose to request. About 23 percent of the overall 2025 funding went to culturally and linguistically specific organizations, and 77 percent went to other organizations.

Chair Singh left the meeting and Commissioner Hayes assumed facilitation of the meeting.

Commissioner Phan suggested the Commission would benefit from again undertaking the implicit bias training; the new Commissioners especially would find it valuable.

Commissioner Hays referred to the Human Services Needs Update and noted common theme in the report regarding limited public awareness of available resources and a disconnect among providers. Improving navigation could be a cost-effective approach. A question was also asked about why the My Bellevue app does not include a resource directory, and the suggestion was made that community advocates with lived experience should be leveraged to help residents navigate services. Ruth Blaw described the difficulties associated with maintaining accurate, always-current public directories. Rental assistance is a good example where availability can change monthly or even more often. The city attempts to keep website information current but many agencies spend down assistance funds quickly, or open their phone lines only at the start of each month. The core challenge is reaching people who do not know what they do not know. Communication channels vary widely. The idea of utilizing peer support is good but there are concerns about placing additional burdens on individuals who are actively using services. The upcoming funding cycle will include a navigation category because the community strongly identified navigation as a need. The most effective solutions typically come from agencies embedded in their communities.

Commissioner Phan added historical context by explaining that requests for navigators have grown over multiple cycles but limited dollars force difficult trade-offs, with categories such as adult education and mentorship sometimes going unfunded despite a clear need.

Toni Esparza said one small but concrete improvement was the opening of Community Court, a weekly community resource fair that convenes at the Bellevue Downtown Library every Tuesday afternoon, generally from 1:00 p.m. to about 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.. It is open to anyone regardless of court involvement. The Community Court exists for the benefit of the court but also for the benefit of the entire community. Providers convene at the library and anyone can attend and access services.

Senior Administrative Assistant Gysel Galaviz offered to circulate program details by email.

Saada Hilts added that strengthening culturally specific agencies as trusted messengers remains a priority given that those organizations have direct relationships with residents who need services.

Commissioner Hays referenced the service guides that are available at the Crossroads Mini City Hall and suggested digitizing those materials for mobile access to bring resource information to residents where they are.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hays adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.