

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Singh, Vice Chair White, Commissioners, Hays, Phan, Rashid, Perelmen, Gonzales

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Shiosaki, Toni Esparza, Donna Adair, Ruth Blaw, Gysel Galaviz, Saada Hiltz, Department of Parks & Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COUNCIL LIAISONS: Mayor Robinson

POLICE LIAISON: Not present

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gysel Galaviz

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Singh who presided. Chair Singh called roll. All commissioners were present except Commissioner Gonzalez and Phan, both arrived after roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
July 7, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Hays. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair White and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Singh took a moment to note public comment will not be taken, but members of the public are still welcome to observe.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Robinson noted that Council was off for the month of August. In that time off, Mayor

Robinson reflected on the question, “How do we keep our community whole?”. They came to the conclusion that the most basic thing is to retain our community whole and invited the commission to think this way when thinking about community needs. The Mayor ended their remarks by thanking the commission for all the important work they are embarking on as they enter the Human Services Funding Cycle.

## 5. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Vice Chair White visited Porchlight Men’s Shelter and took a tour of the facilities. Vice Chair White noted that Porchlight staff is doing a lot of important work and in the coming months Porchlight would appreciate food donations.

Commissioner Phan attended a meeting regarding shelter in Bellevue. Mary’s Place closed its shelter in Bellevue and has been relocated outside of the city. Commissioner Phan is wondering how to support families in the absence of this shelter, as well as finding a new location for the Safe Parking Program, which has also closed its location in Bellevue. Where do we fill the gaps for families that are looking for shelter now that these services are moved and at capacity?

Human Services Manager, Ruth Blaw, provided context on the Safe Parking Program’s building being condemned and forced to close and noted there is a planned relocation currently in the works. Parks & Community Services Assistant Director, Toni Esparza, will follow up with the Bellevue Office of Housing on updates regarding Mary’s Place and the Safe Parking Program.

## 6. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

Senior Administrative Assistant, Gysel Galaviz, welcomed the commission back after the August recess and informed commissioners they are receiving new name tags that can be worn when attending community events related to Human Services.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Launch Funding Cycle

Human Services Manager, Ruth Blaw requested introductions from the commission and staff before they kick off the Human Services Funding Cycle. Parks & Community Services Director, Michael Shiosaki provided opening remarks emphasizing the importance of the work the commission is about to embark on and thanking them for this work.

Ruth Blaw prepared an activity where commissioners were asked to match funding cycle tasks with the correct month between September 2025-January 2027. Ruth Blaw then went through the changes to this funding cycle as noted on the funding cycle graphic. Chair Singh asked when the commission will begin reviewing funding applications. Ruth Blaw noted this review will occur

from May 2026 - July 2026 as needed.

B. Needs Update Presentation

Ruth Blaw presented the 2025 Needs Update from data collected by Zilo International group through a community survey. The survey ran from April 2025 - May 2025, 6 focus groups were conducted during this time, and several subject matter experts were consulted.

Commissioner Hays noted it would be good to see year after year percentages and how they compare to current needs update to see if we are making progress. Toni Esparza noted our level of funding is intended to mitigate immediate harm rather than to create overall system change.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Singh reminded the commission that the next commission meeting will take place on September 15, 2025. Chair Singh adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.