

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: February 15, 2022

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Toni Esparza, Assistant Director
Parks and Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Youth Panel on Human Services Needs in Bellevue

The Human Services Commission has requested information about human services needs experienced by Bellevue youth. Human Services staff have invited a panel of Bellevue youth to share their observations on the human services issues most impacting their peers and their community. We will not be asking youth to share their personal experiences. Rather, youth representatives are being asked to share from a broad perspective.

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

1. What are the most significant human services needs impacting youth in Bellevue?
2. What systemic inequities exist in human services in Bellevue?
3. What other barriers exist for youth to access human services resources in Bellevue?
4. What human service agencies are reliable, accessible, and equitable sources of support for Bellevue youth and their families?

While we will be centering the youth voice, after youth have answered each question, we will extend an opportunity for any adult representatives of the respective groups to contribute as well.

Representatives from the following groups will be joining the panel:

[YouthLink](#): Bellevue Youth Link is a youth leadership and community service program co-sponsored by the City of Bellevue that works in relationship with the Bellevue School District. Since 1990, Youth Link has been giving youth in our community a voice and opportunity to create change.

[Latino HEAT](#): "Hispanos en Accion Together," is a leadership, community service and cultural empowerment group that was created by a group of Sammamish High

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School immigrant Latino students in 2004. Latino H.E.A.T. is committed to creating change, and aims to raise awareness about the diverse Latino culture, promote positive expressions of identity, and work with SHS and parents to promote success.

Bellevue School District Student Advisory Committee: The purpose of the district-wide student advisory group is to engage students in achieving our District's annual plan goals and in addressing systemic issues facing Bellevue School District youth by elevating student voice, soliciting diverse perspectives, engaging students in problem solving and decision making, and communicating key information to their peers.

In preparation for this meeting, please explore the linked information.