

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: November 7, 2023

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Asma Ahmed, Human Services Planner, Parks & Community Services
Julie (Heeyun) Kim, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Panel Conversation: Trends and Challenges in Community Health

Background

Ensuring the physical and mental well-being of our community is paramount, and access to healthcare plays a pivotal role in achieving this goal. According to [21-22 Human Services Needs Update](#), it was revealed that 45% of community members say lack of affordable medical care is a top issue for the Bellevue community. Furthermore, U.S. Census data has shed light on the disproportionate impact of this issue on specific demographics in Bellevue, including people of color, individuals with lower levels of education, and those living in poverty. The demand for quality health services is on the rise, particularly as many residents continue to grapple with a range of health-related challenges, including access to dental care, substance use disorders, and mental health issues. The Human Services department has convened a panel of organizations dedicated to health equity within the Bellevue community.

Representatives from the following agencies will be joining the panel:

- Dr. Deepa Yerrem: Chief Medical Officer at International Community Health Services (ICHS)
- Sherry Williams: VP Community Engagement and External Relations at Health Point

[International Community Health Services \(ICHS\)](#): provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health and wellness services and promotes health equity for all. ICHS advocates for health as a human right and welcomes all in need of care regardless of health, immigration status or ability to pay. In Bellevue, ICHS has a Medical and Dental clinic.

[HealthPoint](#): HealthPoint is a community-based, community-supported, and community-governed network of non-profit health centers dedicated to providing expert, high-quality

care to all who need it, regardless of circumstances. They have 20 locations in King County offering a broad array of services.

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

- 1) Give a 2-3-minute overview of your program/services.
- 2) What are misconceptions or misunderstandings about community health needs or services in our community?
- 3) What are the most significant human services needs and barriers impacting community health access and services?
- 4) Provide a brief overview of your program and the services provided that address these needs and barriers?
- 5) What challenges is your agency experiencing that the Commission should be aware of?

Commissioners will be invited to ask questions after the panel has completed answering the above questions.

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