

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

DATE: January 19, 2022

TO: Human Services Commission Members

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
Issues and Trends for Individuals with Disabilities

## **Background**

12% of adults in Bellevue have a disability. 9% of students enrolled in the Bellevue School District are receiving Special Education Services. People with a disability are twice as likely to live in poverty and earn a median income one-third less than those who do not have a disability. 26% of nonfatal violent crimes in the U.S. were against people with disabilities, even though they only account for 12% of the population. Adults with a disability report experiencing frequent mental distress almost 5 times as often as adults without disabilities.

Funding for services for people with all types of disabilities continues to lag behind the growth of this population. The result is that there are wait lists for many programs, including subsidized supportive housing programs and family support programs. This trend is predicted to continue over the next several years due to higher life expectancy of the aging population with developmental disabilities and the increase of referrals of children with disabilities.

Commissioners have indicated that they want to learn more about the current human services trends and issues that are being experienced by residents with disabilities in Bellevue/East King County. To provide this information, staff have invited representatives from several agencies that provide services to this population to present to the Commission.

**Ginger Kwan, Executive Director, Open Doors for Multicultural Families**

**Isabelle Kalisa, Director of Community Partnerships, Hero House**

**Helene Wentink, Director of Administration & Vicki Isett, Executive Director, Community Homes Wally Tablit, Chief Mission and Diversity Officer, AtWork!**

**Dr. Lisa Greenwold, Executive Director, Kindering**