

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 30, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Ma, Commissioners Amirfaiz, Jain, Kline, Mansfield, Mercer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Piper

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, Toni Esparza, Michael Shiosaki, Department of Parks and Community Services; Councilmember Nieuwenhuis

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ma called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He noted that the meeting and future Commission meetings would be held remotely in order to comply with the Governor's emergency order concerning the Open Public Meetings Act, which prohibits in-person meetings.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present virtually with the exception of Commissioner Piper who was excused.

A. Temporary Suspension of Bylaws

Chair Ma stated that because in-person meetings are prohibited by the Governor's emergency order, the Commission will be holding its meetings remotely for an unknown period of time. As a result, certain provisions in the Commission's bylaws needed to be suspended temporarily, including the provision concerning the ability of Commissioners to participate remotely, and the provision concerning the Commission's process for accepting communication from the public. In order to allow the Commission maximum flexibility to structure its agendas during the time period meetings are held remotely, the provisions in the bylaws related to the order of business also needed to be temporarily suspended.

According to the Commission's bylaws, if a procedure such as rule suspension is not addressed by the bylaws, the Commission may rely on the City Council Rules of Procedure, Resolution 8928. Section 13 of Resolution 8928 allows a City Council procedural rule to be temporarily suspended.

A motion to suspend, until such time as the Human Services Commission is no longer holding

its meetings remotely, the provisions of Article V, Section G of the Commission's bylaws concerning remote participation by commissioners, in order to allow all Commissioners to participate fully in this meeting, was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

A motion to suspend for the June 30, 2020 meeting only the provisions in Article VI and Article VII of the Commission's Bylaws concerning oral communications from the public and to allow for public comment to be provided in writing and read during the Human Services Commission meeting, was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

A motion to suspend until such time as the Human Services Commission is no longer holding its meetings remotely the "Order of Business" provisions in Article VI, Section D of the Commission's bylaws was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 4, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Jain. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried unanimously.

B. February 19, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mercer and the motion carried unanimously.

C. March 3, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and the motion carried unanimously.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

Chair Ma switched the order of Agenda Items 5 and 6 to accommodate staff.

6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Community Services Toni Esparza introduced the new Department of Parks and Community Services Director Michael Shiosaki. She noted that Mr. Shiosaki took over his new role on May 4, having previously served with the City of Bellevue for 11 years leading Park Planning and Development. Mr. Shiosaki subsequently served eight years as Director for Planning and Development for Seattle Parks and Recreation. He also led Seattle's \$200 million pro-parks levy, and served for a time as Deputy Director of the Parks and Recreation Department in Sammamish.

Mr. Shiosaki said he had heard nothing but good comments about the work done by the Commission, particularly in terms of reviewing funding applications and making informed recommendations. He thanked the Commissioners for the work they do on behalf of the city.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the Council kicked off its budget workshop process on July 22. He said the city is looking at a budget gap ranging from \$12 million to \$16 million for 2021-2022 budget cycle. As a result, some difficult conversations and planning needs to happen. The Council is looking at a number of scenarios aimed at making the ride as smooth as possible. Covid-19 and the ensuing economic slowdown certainly is a challenge for the city.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the city is doing an excellent job in terms of helping businesses and non-profits during the phased reopening, which is currently in Phase II. One thing being done for restaurant owners is allowing them to expand their patio dining onto sidewalks and parking areas. Additionally, arts and culture non-profits are being allowed to use parking lots for drive-in events, and retail businesses are being allowed to use parking areas for curbside pickup of online orders.

The City Council has committed to a new review of public safety practices. There are four parts to the pledge made by the Council. Similar to President Obama's mayors pledge, it involves reviewing police use of force policies, engaging the community by including a diverse range of inputs and experiences, reporting on those findings to the community, and then launching any necessary reforms.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis noted that the city raised the rainbow flag in honor of LGBTQ+ Pride Month on June 10.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

A. Discussion of 2021-2022 Human Services Commission General Fund Applications – Goal 1

Chair Ma introduced the first round review of applications in Goal 1, Food to Eat and a Roof Overhead. He noted that funding amounts would not be discussed during the first round, rather each program would be briefly summarized and any strengths or weaknesses would be highlighted.

1. Attain Housing – Stable Home Program

Commissioner Mercer said the rental assistance and case management program provides services to low-income Eastside residents. Each caller is afforded a personal conversation, resources to pursue, and potentially rental assistance. The program was not funded during the last cycle. The program does focus on families below 30 percent of area median income all the way up to 80 percent of area median income. One of the program's board members is a refugee from Rwanda; the board also has a business member and pastor. The agency made a recent change to serve only families with minor children and to increase the limits of their financial assistance, which will mean overall a decrease in the number of households funded. It will, however, potentially mitigate the issue of groups hashing together packages among different organizations. The agency has asks in with a variety of different cities and has a substantial fundraising structure.

Commissioner Mercer questioned why their fundraising income dropped, though allowed that organizations across the board have experienced a similar trend, which means it could be Covid related. She said she would like to hear from the agency comment about whether or not upping their limits for each time assistance is provided has proved to help reduce the number of times they have had to pool money with multiple organizations.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that the average assistance amount shown in the application is

for the 630 people assisted was \$219. Also mentioned was that they had a housing stability success rate of over 90 percent. She said she would be curious as to how that level of success was achieved and what the minimum amount of assistance was. The application states that 18 percent of those served are refugees and immigrants, but nothing is said about how the agency addressed language barriers.

Commissioner Mercer suggested it would be helpful to fold into a single spreadsheet all the applications that involve rental assistance showing the various programs, their limits and what their particular focus is. Commissioner Kline agreed it would be helpful to have such a spreadsheet showing funding limits and how often they can fund clients a second time. Ms. O'Reilly said staff would work on that.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

2. Babies of Homelessness – Basic Needs Services for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Commissioner Amirfaiz said her concern with the application was that it was not clear in regard to how many Bellevue families had been served, and if the program is a supplier to Eastside Baby Corner. The requested amount is \$5000 but it is not clear whether that amount is based on demand. Given the low amount of funding requested, the fact that Eastside Baby Corner does a very good job dispersing diapers in the community, and the general lack of specific information, she recommended against moving the application forward to the second round.

Commissioner Mercer said her reaction was similar, noting that the program primarily serves Seattle families. She also agreed the service is already covered by Eastside Baby Corner. It was interesting that the application indicated the agency could use CDBG funds. She concurred with the recommendation of Commissioner Amirfaiz.

There was consensus not to move the application into the second round.

3. Bellevue LifeSpring – Emergency Rent Assistance

Commissioner Mercer said the organization is not new but is new in seeking funding from Bellevue. The program provides one rent payment per year to cover first month's rent or to prevent eviction. In order to qualify, families must live in the Bellevue School District and have children living in the home. The program serves families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty line. The service is very Bellevue focused and serves some 100 families annually.

It was noted that due to Covid, the program had increased its assistance up to cover a maximum of three months per year instead of just one month.

Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that according to the application, 90 percent of clients retain their housing after receiving assistance prior to the pandemic. She said she did not see anything in the application indicating if that is still true.

Chair Ma commented that the program is very restrictive in terms of eligibility and only providing assistance for rent. It is not clear how much a program can really help in the grand scheme of emergency assistance when it is too restrictive.

Commissioner Mercer said it was her understanding that the restrictions apply primarily to rental assistance, not eviction prevention. Ms. Esparza clarified that the program has separate

programs for food assistance, but that is not addressed in the emergency rent assistance application. Prior to Covid, the program required clients first be served with an eviction notice before receiving rental assistance, but that requirement has at least temporarily been suspended.

Commissioner Kline noted that Attain Housing never required an eviction notice and in fact tried to keep clients from getting to that point to reduce their stress.

Commissioner Mercer said she liked the notion of paying a full month's rent. She suggested the agency should be asked to clarify their procedures.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

4. Bellevue Lifespring – Food Assistance for Children (Breaktime-Mealtime)

Commissioner Amirfaiz explained the program provides food assistance for low-income students when school is not in session. The program provides \$25 vouchers that can be redeemed for food purchases. The application does not mention if the vouchers are given out weekly or monthly. Human Services Planner Christy Stangland clarified that the vouchers are for \$25 per week per child.

Commissioner Mercer suggested the application should be moved forward to the second round but commented that the ask of \$115,000 is quite large for a new program. She said she would like to know if the agency could make use of funding of a much lower amount.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the vouchers handed out only cover two weeks in August. The ask is based on the need and an 85 percent redemption rate, but there is a need to cover the last two weeks of August as well. The \$25 vouchers are a decent amount. Commissioner Mercer added that the vouchers are only good for food at Safeway, and they are only good during the summer break.

Chair Ma said he likes the flexibility allowed by the vouchers. He said he would like to know what happens to the 15 percent of the vouchers that are not redeemed. Ms. Catalano said vouchers that are not used before they expire are returned to LifeSpring.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

5. Catholic Community Services – Emergency Assistance

Commissioner Mercer noted the program has previously been funded by the Commission. She said she liked the program because it funds things like utility assistance, bus tickets and potentially emergency motel vouchers. They also cover seniors as well as families.

Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that nothing is said in the application about how many Bellevue residents were served by the program in 2019, or what the average assistance amount was. The application was also vague about the demographics of the agency board and staff.

Ms. Catalano pointed out from the residents served table that the agency served 136 unduplicated Bellevue residents in 2019.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

6. Catholic Community Services – New Bethlehem Place

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the 24/7 year round shelter and essential day center provides a safe place for families in a centralized location, allowing access to supportive programming aimed at getting families into permanent housing. The facility is in Kirkland.

Commissioner Mercer said the program will replace the rotating shelter model that previously was in place. It will provide private space for up to 18 families. She noted that according to the application 65 percent of the clients will exit to permanent housing, but nothing is said about the other 35 percent. She said it was her understanding that the agency received some 2020 funding for Covid but was not clear if those funds were used for the New Bethlehem Place program. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that Catholic Community Services did not receive any funding for the shelter, only for emergency financial assistance.

Commissioner Mercer said she would like the agency to address how Covid is changing their plans for 2020 and the application in question.

Chair Ma pointed out that the shelter is the only one on the Eastside that serves families and keeps them together.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

7. Community Homes – Community-based Housing for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Commissioner Mercer said the program was not funded by the city in 2019. The funding sought by the application appears to be going primarily toward case management at four hours per client per month at \$30 per hour. The organization owns and operates seven licensed adult family homes across the Eastside and also has some shared living homes. She said most of the funding the program takes in is from room and board and it is not clear exactly where Bellevue funding fits in and who it will benefit.

Commissioner Amirfaiz agreed. She added that according to the application, the requested \$5000 would serve between three and five families.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the Commission had previously passed on the application, though Redmond did fund the program at the \$5000 level. The agency does operate a house in Bellevue, but said she was not clear about whether a financial need must be demonstrated before a resident can receive funding, or if the requested funds would simply go to overhead costs. She proposed not passing the application on to the next round. Commissioner Mercer concurred, as did Chair Ma.

There was consensus not to move the application into the second round.

8. Congregations for the Homeless – 25/7 Enhanced Shelter Program

Commissioner Amirfaiz said in addition to shelter, the program provides meals, showers, laundry, case management, eviction prevention, mental health services and employment support to 200-plus men annually. The program is seeking a large increase in its ask.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the shelter program transitioned to 24/7 during the winter months at Lincoln Center, a property owned by the city. The remodeling work carried out there was necessary in order to permit the shelter for 24/7 use. The City Council elected to provide additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the remodeling work. The \$355,000 awarded during the last funding cycle does include the additional one-time funds

provided by the City Council that allowed the shelter to operate 24/7 October to December 2019.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she could not determine from the application how many men exit out of the shelter program into permanent housing, or what the average length of stay is.

Commissioner Mercer commented that Congregations for the Homeless has submitted six applications. In 2019, the organization was awarded \$517,542. Their 2021 ask is \$1.365 million, a 264 percent increase, and it accounts for 35 percent of the full 2021 allocations budget. The Commission will need to be very careful in discussing its strategy for addressing homelessness and in deciding how to distribute the available funds across the various goal areas.

Commissioner Kline agreed with the need to look at Congregations for the Homeless as a whole and in the context of how much money should go to homelessness in general. The Commission needs to be cognizant of other areas along the continuum of services. Commissioners Jain and Mansfield agreed as did Chair Ma. Chair Ma pointed out that while the percentage increase in their ask for just the one program was 153 percent, and noted that the agency projects a 50 percent increase in the number of men the program will serve.

There was consensus to talk about the balance of the Congregations for the Homeless applications as a group.

9. Congregations for the Homeless – Housing
10. Congregations for the Homeless – Housing Navigation
11. Congregations for the Homeless – On and Up Housing
12. Congregations for the Homeless – Outreach
13. Congregations for the Homeless – Rotating Shelter

Commissioner Mercer said after reviewing the applications and comparing them against what was funded last time around, she concluded the same approach should be used for each. She recommended against funding Applications 10 and 11. Ms. Catalano pointed out that Application 10, Housing Navigation, is a new program for which application was not made last time.

Commissioner Amirfaiz commented that much of what is outlined in the Outreach application is embedded in things the agency is already doing. Additionally, much of the Housing Navigation elements are involved in other programs aimed at addressing permanent housing.

Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the Outreach program involves specialized staff who focus on people who do not typically come into the shelter on their own. Housing Navigation has not previously been funded and it may have some overlaps with the Outreach program.

Commissioner Mercer proposed keeping the Outreach program in the mix, though she pointed out the ask for that program is significantly higher at 175 percent, an increase that is not reflected in the agency's asks to other cities. She reiterated the need to look at the Congregations for the Homeless applications carefully given that they represent a very large percentage of the collective application asks.

Commissioner Kline agreed with the need to carefully consider each application. It is a given that the city will not be able to fund each application at the ask level. The shelter program is of prime importance but it is a regional program that should be funded from regional sources. Outreach and Housing Navigation is more local to Bellevue and it may be easier to justify funding those programs.

Chair Ma held the view that all of the Congregations for the Homeless applications should be passed on to the second round of review. On and Up Housing and Housing Navigation both are part of the continuum between homelessness and stable housing and as such is very important. Actual funding levels will need to be addressed going forward.

There was consensus to move Applications 8 through 13 forward to the second round.

14. Eastside Baby Corner – Meeting Basic Needs for Children

Chair Ma said the agency provides products for children and serves an underserved population in the low-income category of from 30 to 50 percent of area median income. They also serve a lot of people of color. Their ask is moderate.

Commissioner Mansfield noted that the agency served 1477 Bellevue residents in 2019 and the number is expected to increase in 2020. Rather than serving children directly, the agency partners with some 50 agencies around the area that do provide direct services to clients.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

15. Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Housing Stability Program

Chair Ma said the program is new to the well-established agency. He said there is a clear need for the service, though he allowed that the ask is quite large.

Commissioner Mansfield recommended moving the program on to the second round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

16. Friends of Youth – Drop-in Services for Homeless Youth and Young Adults

Chair Ma said the program is for youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness, particularly for those in the age range between 16 and 24. The program includes outreach on the streets. He recommended moving the application forward. Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that Friends of Youth experienced a decrease in fundraising due to having to cancel its fundraiser event. In some ways that is being seen in their applications. Ms. O'Reilly mentioned that the applications were due on May 5 after many agencies had been forced to cancel their spring fundraising events. Many have been rescheduled for the fall but it remains to be seen if they will in fact occur. Many agencies have been conducting virtual fundraisers but the Covid situation is clearly having a financial impact on the agencies.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

17. Friends of Youth – TLP Housing for Homeless Young Adults and Young Families

Chair Ma said the program experienced a reduction in public funding in addition to seeing a reduced level of fundraising. The program provides transitional housing and supportive services to single youth from 18 to 21, and supports young families with young adult parents between the ages of 18 and 24. He recommended moving the application to the next round.

Commissioner Mansfield concurred but said his only concern was that according to the application the program only served five Bellevue residents in 2019. Ms. Stangland pointed out that the program must fill all of its units through coordinated entry, which means it has no control over what residents move in.

Chair Ma said the fact that the agency consolidated New Ground Kirkland and New Ground Totem Lake is evidence that they are trying to be as efficient as possible in response to a decrease in funding.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

18. Friends of Youth – Youth and Young Adult Shelter

Chair Ma commented that Youth Haven is located in Kirkland and The Landing is in Redmond. They provide shelter beds for youth and young adults, and has a service to take clients to doctor and dentist appointments along with some other basic services, including counseling. The ask increase of 200 percent is admittedly substantial, but the application should be carried over into the second round. Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Commissioner Kline asked if Youth Haven was separate from The Landing in the last funding cycle. Ms. Catalano said they were not. Commissioner Kline said it is good the younger kids will be separated from the older kids and suggested the split may account for the increased ask.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that the agency lost a \$100,000 grant and suggested that is part of the reason for the larger ask.

Commissioner Mercer said her understanding after reading the application was that the increased ask was tied to combining the asks for both Youth Haven and The Landing.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

19. Hopelink – Emergency Food

Chair Ma said the emergency food program has four components: home delivery, emergency food bags, the food bank, and the mobile market. The latter was launched to increase accessibility to food for a lot of people. Food is a clear need and food banks are very much in demand.

Commissioner Mansfield added that the agency is looking to expand the food bank program by extending the open hours and adding more locations for the mobile markets.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

20. Hopelink – Financial Assistance Resiliency Program

Chair Ma said the program extends beyond just offering financial help in the form of rent and includes car repair, medical issues and other issues that trigger a financial shock. He stressed the need for the Commission to carefully consider together all of the financial assistance programs.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

21. Hopelink – Housing

Chair Ma said the program provides housing for people experiencing homelessness and other emergencies. The units are distributed around the Eastside. He said he was concerned to see in the application materials that some of the families were increasing their length of stay, meaning they have not been able to transition out to permanent housing. If there is a specific reason for that, the Commission should seek to know what it is. The program is certainly important.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

22. Humanize Homelessness – Humanize Homelessness Connected Hub (CoHub)

Ms. Catalano pointed out that the application had not met the minimum qualifications and would not be considered.

23. Imagine Housing – Imagine Housing Supportive Services

Chair Ma said one thing he really likes about Imagine Housing is the way in which the agency actively and systematically promote diversity among its staff and the programs it runs. They do a lot work in the area of information and referral, offer basic needs supplies, and offer trainings and workshops as well as community events.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

24. Kits for Peace – Providing Kits for the Homeless in Puget Sound

Ms. Catalano said the agency has agreed to supply all requested financial information by August 1. If they do not, they will not be considered for funding.

Chair Ma said the program encourages volunteerism in the community and encourages youth to lead in volunteer services.

Commissioner Kline said the new organization is fully operated by volunteers. The ask is for funds to hire an administrator or director. The program raises awareness of homelessness by working with volunteer groups to pack kits for distribution directly to persons in the community who are experiencing homelessness. The kits include things like a \$5 food card, a granola bar, a blanket, some hot packs and hand sanitizer. They can be customized based on size and the target audience. One key thing included in the kits is a resource card with information about available services, including shelters and other emergency services. The organization was founded by the same person who founded MCRC, though it is not known why it was spun as a separate organization rather than operating under the MCRC umbrella. The feedback on the program to date has been very positive. With regard to an audit or review, the organization has basically no budget with which to pay for a review so it will be interesting to see what they submit.

Commissioner Mercer asked what came of the interface with the Youth Link Board. Ms. Esparza said participation on behalf of Youth Link has been hampered due to the pandemic. The body is not convening during the summer months. Their involvement will need to occur in the future.

Ms. Catalano agreed to ask why the program was operating separate from MCRC.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

25. LifeWire – Emergency Shelter (MSH)
26. LifeWire – Housing Stability Program

Commissioner Kline said the Commission has in the past funded both of the LifeWire applications. My Sister's Home is the emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors. It is confidential and helps survivors get on their feet and connected to services. The Housing Stability Program is more of a financial assistance approach to help keep those who have already gone through the initial phases of the domestic violence journey gain financial stability and rebuild their lives. She proposed passing both applications on to the second round.

Commissioner Jain pointed out that the increase in the ask for the Housing Stability Program is substantial. Commissioner Kline agreed and allowed that the reason for it is not fully covered in the application. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency also suffered the loss of a major grant and it is safe to assume that is a factor in the increased ask.

Chair Ma noted that domestic violence is increasing in light of the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.

27. MAPS/ MCRC – Food and Gas Card Distribution Program
28. MAPS/MCRC – Housing for Single Women

Commissioner Kline said MAPS is a subsidiary organization of MCRC. The two applications were considered by the Commission in the previous funding round. The organization did not submit financial information along with the applications but has promised to provide it by September. She said she was personally disappointed in that the Commission had in the previous funding cycle wanted to fund at least one of their programs but was unable to do so due to there being no independent financial review, and in the fact that the agency had not by the time of submitting the application taken steps to get that done. The Food and Gas Card Distribution Program includes disbursements for car repairs and the purchase of used cars. All of the funding is passed through to clients according to the application. The service, while excellent, is very narrow.

Commissioner Jain said she was inclined not to pass the applications through to the second round. She said she did not see in either program anything substantial or different. There are other agencies providing the same services.

Commissioner Mercer noted that the Commission spent a considerable amount of time on the MAPS applications in the previous funding cycle. She said the agency addresses a population that is not necessarily served by other agencies and programs. She said she was willing to pass the applications on to the next round but was concerned about the claim that all funding is passed through to the clients, which would seem to indicate there is no overhead. In the second round the Commission will need to seek specific answers to the question of how the expenses are being handled.

Ms. O'Reilly said there are two additional applications from MCRC in Goal 2.

Ms. Catalano said the agencies have been given a deadline of August 1, which is before round two begins.

Commissioner Mansfield said his concerns were the narrow scope of the program and the lack of financial information.

Chair Ma agreed the applications should be moved into the second round. He said MCRC has

been able to show that it provides valuable services to the community. The agency has shown a certain level of flexibility. All of their applications should be looked at together in light of the financial questions.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the housing program currently has 15 beds and the agency is looking to add three additional units having ten more beds for a total of 25 beds. They also offer case management. Some of their units are used by Sophia Way and there is coordination between the two agencies. In 2019, however, the program only served four Bellevue residents and the projection is that in 2021 eight women will be served. It is not clear whether or not they are filling their beds through the coordinated entry system. No cities awarded funding to the agency in 2018, but asks have been made for a wide distribution of funding.

Ms. Stangland confirmed that MAPS is not filling its beds through coordinated entry.

There was consensus to move the two applications forward to the second round.

29. Mary's Place Seattle – A Place to Call Home: Mary's Place

Commissioner Kline said the application is new to Bellevue but the organization has a long history with a focus on Seattle. The application encompasses some financial assistance and a family diversion shelter opening in June. During 2019 the program received 24 calls from Bellevue, nine of which were helped. The program works closely with New Bethlehem and it is worth moving into the next round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

30. Renewal Food Bank – Food Bank

Commissioner Kline noted the city has funded Renewal Food Bank for many years and pointed out that only a minimal increase is sought. The organization is one, however, that did not provide a financial review or audit information, though they have agreed to provide something by August 1. Thirty percent of their clients are over the age of 55. With the requested funds, the agency wants to provide a half-time staff person. The application indicates that currently the program is fully run by volunteers, yet there is an FTE listed in the budget section; that is something that should be clarified.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

31. Solid Ground WA – Housing Stability Project

Commissioner Kline said the request represents a 12 percent increase. The budget shown in the application is 16 percent higher from the last funding cycle. The agency is different from others in the financial assistance category in that it operates as a passthrough entity to other agencies. In the roundtable, it was learned the program fills a gap in funding that cannot be met otherwise. She proposed moving the application through to the next round.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

32. Sound Generations – Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Kline said the longstanding agency has traditionally been funded by the city. Their increased ask is minimal and the program enjoys broad city support in that it provides not only meals but social interaction.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

33. The Salvation Army – Eastside Social Services

Commissioner Kline said the application involves the provision of financial assistance. She noted the application included no indication as to why a 65 percent increase in the ask is needed. The agency does provide services that are a bit broader than those provided by other financial assistance programs. The city has funded the agency for a long time, though there have been some deep questions brought forward in the past.

Commissioner Jain said she would like the agency to explain the 65 percent increase in the ask.

Commissioner Mercer said she was also concerned about the large increase but pointed out the agency does have a transportation element that is interesting.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

- 34. The Sophia Way – Helen’s Place: Day Center and Emergency Shelter
- 35. The Sophia Way – Sophia’s Place Extended-Stay Shelter and Resource Management

Commissioner Kline explained that the applications represent a reconfiguration of the current services in light of the day center opening at the church in Kirkland. Helen’s Place is a low-barrier higher-needs shelter and day center at the new facility in Kirkland. Sophia’s Place remains at the old location and serves what the agency terms committed clients that are working toward self sufficiency. Funding is being sought to include a resource center to help their clients further their journey out of homelessness. The asks for both programs are large.

Commissioner Jain said her concern was the large increase in the ask. Commissioner Mercer concurred and suggested the Commission would need to have an in-depth discussion about the shelter programs in the next round. She added that the Goal 1 applications typically represent a very large percentage of the overall asks.

Chair Ma agreed but pointed out that there are extreme needs outlined in Goal 1.

There was consensus to move the application forward to the second round.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that intern Devin Konick-Seese recently graduated from the University of Washington and is currently job hunting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Ma asked if staff had a projection for how long the meetings would need to be held virtually and if the virtual meetings could be scheduled to run for more than two hours, or if additional meetings could be added. Ms. Catalano said additional meetings could be tacked onto the back end of the schedule.

Ms. O'Reilly said when the Commission will be allowed to once again meet in person is unknown and beyond the control of the Commission. Adding another meeting may be a way to give the Commission more time to engage in some of the deeper discussions.

Chair Ma pointed out that the Commission actually lost two or three meetings during the shutdown. Ms. Catalano agreed but noted that two meetings had been added to the schedule in August and another in September.

Commissioner Mercer suggested just adding half an hour to each meeting would prove to be helpful.

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mercer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ma adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date