

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 21, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Mansfield

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

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. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present Commissioner Mansfield who was excused.

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 July 21, 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 – None
4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None
6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Jain shared that her last day on the Commission will be October 6. She explained that because of the pandemic she had not had the opportunity to spend time with family and would be resigning in order to do that.

Human Services Manager Alex O’Reilly said that timeline will allow Commissioner Jain to serve as part of the Commission through the entire funding cycle and the final vote. At the right time the city will begin the process of advertising for a replacement.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano reported that she has been contacted by applicants who indicated they have enjoyed listening to the meetings, though not necessarily live. The comments received have all been positive and appreciative of the thorough discussions.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION
 - A. Discussion of 2021-2022 Human Services General Fund Applications: Goals 4 & 5
 68. Alpha Supported Living Services – Alpha Health Services Program

Commissioner Jain said the program focuses on persons with disabilities, 40 percent of which have autism. The program provided comprehensive services for 419 residential clients in 2019. The agency has not previously been awarded funding from Bellevue. She recommended moving the program forward to the second round of review.

Commissioner Kline added that the agency has only a five percent managerial and fundraising overhead expense, which means it is very efficient. The focus population could use some additional resources. She also supported moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer said the population served is very vulnerable, especially during Covid-19.

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

69. Alpha Supported Living Services – Community Projects Program

Commissioner Jain said the new ask is for a program that includes a lot of social activities for people with disabilities. The program serves clients in both north and east King County as well as Snohomish County. All of the activities support positive behaviors and gives clients a

sense of purpose and connection. Clients are not charged, and all employees are trained relative to cultural competence and American Sign Language. She said she would like to move the application forward but indicated she had concerns about how the program could be carried out during Covid-19.

Commissioner Kline said she also had reservations about the application. She noted the programs appear to only be open to their existing clients, and the same service units are listed for applications 68 and 69. The program does not rise to the same level as Application 68.

Commissioner Mercer agreed with the reservations expressed by Commissioners Jain and Kline. She recommended not moving the application forward.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended moving the application forward. Commissioner Piper said he could support moving the application forward but stated that in the next round it would need to be reviewed in the context of the broader ask.

Chair Ma recommended against moving the application forward given that it addresses only one end of the spectrum. During the pandemic, there are needs in other areas that need to be addressed.

The consensus was not to move the application forward.

70. Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Whole Health Oriented Mental Health Program

Commissioner Jain said the Asian/Pacific Islander community make up about 20 percent of the population of King County. Bellevue has about 35 percent of the Asian/Pacific Islander community and there is a high prevalence of mental illness within the community stemming from trauma and other factors. The community is underserved due to cultural issues and language barriers. Half do not speak English and during the pandemic they have become a target for racism and discrimination. The grant would support and expand culturally competent mental health services for the Asian/Pacific Islander community. She recommended moving the application forward.

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

71. Bridge Disability Ministries – Meyer Medical Equipment Center

Commissioner Mercer said the agency has applied for funding a number of different times without being funded. The program provides refurbished medical equipment to anyone in need without charge. While interesting and useful, the service has not in the past risen to the level of funding it. This cycle, however, the application indicates people are being sent home from the hospital because of Covid-19 with needs for medical equipment. She recommended passing the application on to the next round.

Commissioner Piper concurred. He said the program serves a critical community of low-income individuals who often fall through the cracks.

Commissioner Kline noted that the Commission had previously been intrigued with the program but it has always been on the bubble. If it were not for the Covid-19 situation, the agency likely would get funding and for the sake of normalcy the application should be moved on to the next round and be seriously considered for funding.

Chair Ma said in his professional capacity he makes frequent referrals to the program.

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

72. Bridge of Promise – Bridge Academy

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the new application services adults 21 and older who have various disabilities and who have graduated from high school but have no or limited employment opportunities. The request seeks funds to enhance the program by offering expanded community participation opportunities and provide one-to-one engagement. The application indicates that 63 percent of the members increase their social skills, 54 percent increase their knowledge of recreation opportunities, and 38 percent increase their life skills. She recommended moving the application to the second round.

Commissioner Piper concurred and said the program provides activities that historically have not been available to the specific population. The ask is commensurate across the cities, and the service units are projected to double in 2021.

Commissioner Mercer agreed the application should be moved forward, adding that she likes the fact that the program operates through Highland Community Center and fits well with the mission of the community center. She said she questioned how the real increases in service units will be accomplished during the time of Covid-19. The population is certain vulnerable and in-person activities may not work well. The agency should be asked about their Covid-19 plans. Ms. O'Reilly said she would be glad to ask that question of the agency.

Commissioner Kline asked if the agency pays for use of the Highland Community Center or if the city donates the space. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask that question as well.

Chair Ma said the program is good, particularly for those who are aging out of the education system but still need support. The one-on-one approach is very resource intensive. He agreed it should be moved forward.

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

73. Crisis Clinic – Crisis Line

Commissioner Piper said the free crisis intervention and information referral service directs individuals to appropriate resources and emergency behavioral health. He said the need for the service has increased drastically in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and increased volumes are anticipated through 2021. The highest number of residents served are in Bellevue. The critical service should be moved forward.

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

74. Crisis Clinic – Teen Link

Commissioner Mercer said the program is similar to the crisis line but focuses on teens and providing them with confidential peer-to-peer help. The program recently added a chat text service to its offerings and the ask seeks sustained funding for that feature. The focus is on suicide prevention training as well as information and referral in addition to the crisis line. She said the application should be moved forward. She added that while the narrative in the application mentions an increase from Covid-19, it represents only about a ten percent jump. However, the projected increase for the Crisis Line is closer to 25 percent and she said she was interested to know what lies behind not expecting more volume for the Teen Link program. Ms. O'Reilly said she would put the question to the agency.

Commissioner Piper said one thing that jumped out to him was the statistic that nearly 60 percent of King County 12th graders report not being able to stop or control worrying in the previous two weeks. He agreed the application should be moved forward.

Chair Ma concurred with moving the application forward. He pointed out that at the last gumbo night, before the pandemic hit the United States, there was already a lot of anxiety on the part of teens in regard to the prospects for the future in light of issues such as global warming. The pandemic has added to their level of anxiety, increasing the need for the program.

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

75. Easter Seals Washington – Eastside Adult Services Center

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the program provides affordable adult day health and care programming for aging adults and adults with disabilities. Their services include skilled nursing, occupational therapy, social and behavioral therapy, community access and integration, nutritional meals and snacks, respite care and referral services to support family caregivers. The agency closed its center in Des Moines and moved everything to its center in Bellevue where there is still space available for additional clients. She proposed moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer agreed but said she found it interesting the agency closed the Des Moines center, transitioned everyone to Bellevue, and still has room for more and is actively marketing their service, all while seeking an increase of \$7500. Other organizations are overflowing and cannot meet the need, and that should be taken into account when discussing the application in the second round. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask the agency why they closed their Des Moines center and why they have so much space available in Bellevue. She said she would also ask about the agency's Covid-19 plans.

Commissioner Kline commented that Easter Seals took over the former Eastside Adult Day Service at a critical time. She said she would like the agency to indicate what changes they have seen and how the business has evolved since they took it over. She added that she would like to know what other similar programs are available. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask those questions.

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

76. Healthpoint – Dental Care

Commissioner Piper said the community centered dental care program offers diagnostic, preventive and emergency service. Only about 22 percent of low-income adults in King County have access to dental care and it is very difficult to find providers who accept Medicare. The program served 687 Bellevue residents in 2019 and the ask is flat. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer agreed with the recommendation. She commented positively on the fact that the agency diverted dental staff to their Covid-19 response but said she would like to know what effect that has had on actually providing dental care, if any. Ms. O'Reilly said she would seek an answer to that question, adding that at the time the application was written there was an emergency only order in place as part of the Governor's order. Things have changed since then and dental offices are being allowed to do preventive care.

Commissioner Mercer said it was her understanding that most dental service programs for low-income clients focus on non-preventive care over preventive dental services. She asked what, if any, discounts for preventive services are offered by the agency. Commissioner Kline pointed out from the application that the program and International Community Health Services offers restorative services. Commissioner Mercer agreed but said she was unclear if those services are offered on a sliding scale basis. Ms. O'Reilly said she would put that question to the agency.

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

77. Healthpoint – Medical Care

Commissioner Mercer said the program focuses on preventive, urgent, acute and chronic health conditions. The program serves a diverse patient population, including racial and ethnic disparities. They utilize in-person interpreters. The application should be moved forward. She said she questioned why their projected numbers did not show an increase given Covid-19. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask that question.

Commissioner Piper agreed the application should be moved forward. He pointed out that the program serves a disproportionately high number of refugees and immigrants.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she found it interesting that the only outcome referenced in the application was in regard to controlled blood sugar for adult patients with diabetes. Ms. O'Reilly said she would ask the agency why that outcome was selected.

Chair Ma noted from the application that direct aid to clients fell by nearly half. He suggested that could be a typo. Ms. O'Reilly said she would seek clarification.

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

78. IKRON of Greater Seattle – Behavioral Health Services

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the program provides integrated behavioral health services to low-income individuals and families in east King County. She commented that low-income clients usually get Medicaid assistance. Ms. O'Reilly allowed that agencies usually try to get clients enrolled in Medicaid if they meet the income standard. She added that agencies urged to apply the Bellevue dollars they receive only after trying to enroll their clients in any other federal or state programs that are available to them. Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Piper noted the program has a very diverse patient profile, with 85 percent below the poverty line, 30 percent homeless, and 80 percent having experience with the criminal justice system. The increased ask is wanted to support two full-time clinicians. The program enjoys partnerships with Imagine Housing and Shoreline Community Court. He agreed the application should be moved forward.

Commissioner Mercer said she noticed from the application that some of the program's revenue actually comes from Imagine Housing and Shoreline Community Court. She said she wondered if Bellevue funding for those organizations flows back to the program. Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that Imagine Housing recently received a grant from Symetra to provide mental health services for their residents, and they chose to use that grant with IKRON.

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

79. India Association of Western Washington – Mental Health Support Program

Commissioner Piper said the program provides culturally nuanced mental health support services to Asian Indian families. The requested funds are intended to pay for hiring a therapist to serve a projected 40 Bellevue residents. He proposed moving the application forward but stressed the need to look at the request in light of all the other India Association of Western Washington asks.

Commissioner Mercer agreed. She pointed out the application contains no numbers for 2019 in terms of service units. Ms. O'Reilly said she would check on that. Commissioner Mercer added that the ask is quite large given that the program has not previously sought funding from Bellevue.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the program is good but added her concern about the lack of credentialed clinicians. The application highlights the fact that the program engages the youth in separate conversations, but in terms of therapeutics that is not enough. She said her concern was the qualification of the staff. Ms. O'Reilly said she would seek more detail on the qualifications of the staff.

Commissioner Kline said she could go either way on the application.

Commissioner Jain agreed the questions raised by Commissioners Mercer and Piper needed to be addressed. She added that the application does not provide substantial information on service outcomes. She said she would support not moving the application forward in light of the fact that India Association of Western Washington has some other good programs that should be looked at collectively.

Chair Ma proposed moving the application forward to allow for looking at the India Association of Western Washington programs collectively.

Commissioner Kline said her read was that the preponderance of Commissioners was not to push the application through to the second round. Chair Ma asked who strongly felt the application should be moved ahead and no voices were raised.

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

80. International Community Health Services - Dental

Commissioner Mercer said the program provides preventive and restorative dental services at sites across King County. There is a sliding scale for low-income patients and no patient is denied service based on inability to pay. She pointed out that the ask is substantial and that the agency is seeking funding only from Bellevue, and that the overall agency budget is huge. She said she likes the idea of providing dental services but voiced concern that Bellevue's dollars would not make quite the impact it could if used elsewhere. Five times more Seattle residents are served than Bellevue residents. She recommended against moving the application forward.

Commissioner Piper said he was on the fence relative to moving the application forward or not. He pointed out that 88 percent of the Bellevue households served were low- or very low-income, and 74 percent were persons of color. He agreed that in broader terms the concerns raised by Commissioner Mercer are valid. Dental services play a crucial role in overall health and funding decisions made should avoid just simply writing off the service. The bigger picture that includes all similar requests for dental services should be viewed collectively.

Commissioner Mercer recalled that the same concerns were raised during the last funding

cycle but the decision to fund the request was based on the desire of the Commission to see dental services funded.

Commissioner Amirfaiz called attention to the outcome in the application that sets as a goal having 25 percent of those who come for medical appointments also make appointments for dental. That is not a huge number. She said she could go either way in terms of moving the application forward.

Commissioner Kline said she could recall the time when there were no dental services available to low-income clients on the Eastside. The city even put out an RFP seeking a provider to provide the services and was elated with ICHS built their facility in Bellevue. They have since then been the go-to agency for dental services. The community strength they have provided deserves from support from the city.

Commissioner Jain agreed with Commissioner Kline. She said the application should be moved forward to allow for a fuller discussion of how much the agency should be funded.

Commissioner Mercer agreed to move the application forward.

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

81. International Community Health Services – Medical

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the medical program provides a number of services to adults and children, including pediatric medical care, family planning, suboxone treatment and medical nutrition therapy. She said the agency has other dollars with which it can provide the services and she recommended against moving the application forward.

Commissioner Piper said it appeared to him the figures in the budget section of the application were incorrect. Commissioner Kline said she believed the budget numbers for both the applications for the agency were incorrect. Ms. O'Reilly agreed to ask the agency to clarify and confirm the numbers.

Commissioner Piper said the ask is quite large but allowed that the program clearly has some strengths in terms of the populations served. The projected number of Bellevue residents served is impressive at 2500.

Commissioner Mercer noted the city did not previously fund the program. She agreed the ask is high, especially for a program not previously funded by the city. The application lists no requests from other cities, though that could be an error. During the last funding cycle Issaquah and Kirkland each gave the program just a token amount. In the context of the agency's overall budget, the requested funding would not have the same impact it could have on other agencies. She allowed that healthcare is important, but said her preference was not to move the application forward unless all the other Commissioners wanted to.

Ms. Catalano pointed out that according to the second quarter report filed by the agency with all of the ShareOne app cities, the program is currently funded by Issaquah with \$4000 and Kirkland at \$5000. Ms. O'Reilly added that while reading over the application she reached out to the grant writer to ask about why funding was not sought from other cities. The reply was that the dental grants from other cities totaled only \$21,000 and the medical grants totaled only \$9000. The thinking was that the administrative burden for such small grants was too large, so the decision was made not to request grants from the smaller cities.

Commissioner Mercer observed that the program serves far more Seattle residents than

Bellevue residents.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the medical services agency is the only one with an actual location in Bellevue. She said she was not necessarily set on funding the application but was not prepared during the first round to match up the program against other similar medical services applications. Ms. Catalano said the Commission chose not to fund the program during the last funding cycle because their budget showed a surplus. The request in 2019 was also \$200,000. The current application does not show a budget surplus and in fact shows a deficit.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the program provides substance abuse disorder services. Commissioner Kline said they also include general mental health services. She said she likes the services provided by the agency but would like to know what level of funding is too small for their administrative burden, and suggested the agency should be asked directly if they can do more with Bellevue dollars than the other options available for funding.

Commissioner Mercer commented that big non-profits are used to asking for grants and so they carve off programs that focus on certain elements that allow for evaluating how the dollars are being used. Because the application is so general, it cannot be said with any certainty how Bellevue dollars would be invested in specific people doing specific things.

Commissioner Jain suggested moving the application forward to allow for a deeper discussion later. Chair Ma agreed. He said he understood the arguments but said a vehicle is needed to be able to recover from the pandemic which International Community Health Services could be.

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

82. Kin On Health Care Center – Healthy Living Program

Commissioner Piper said the program is designed to inform and empower older Asian adults to stay active, and to educate and equip them to manage health and wellbeing and increase social integration. The focus is largely on recreation and programming. He said while the program appears to be interesting, he had some concerns about moving forward with it in terms of the best allocation of dollars toward critical needs.

Commissioner Mercer agreed with the concern voiced by Commissioner Piper but said she would move the application forward.

Commissioner Amirfaiz also agreed with Commissioner Piper and said the application should not be moved forward.

Commissioner Kline said she liked the application and noted that much had been heard in the past about the lack of services for older Asian adults. She agreed, however, that the time was not right to move it forward. Commissioner Jain concurred, as did Chair Ma who said while the program is good and has a good focus, during the pandemic when there are other needs, the application should not be advanced.

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

83. NAMI Eastside – Individual and Family Support, Education Programs and Resource and Referrals

Chair Ma said the mental health program includes peer-led support groups for people or family members with mental illness. Training is offered to people without any previous

awareness of mental illness. In many ways the program functions as a navigator within the mental health world. The city has funded the organization in the past. It is one of the big organizations dealing with mental health and the application should be moved forward.

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

84. NAMI Eastside – NAMI In The Schools

Chair Ma said the program involves giving presentations in schools that educate about various mental health issues. The presentations are given to both middle and high school students. He said he questioned how the agency would be able to deliver the services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The program is important and should be moved to the second round.

Commissioner Mercer said she had the same concerns but agreed it should be moved ahead.

Commissioner Kline agreed as well but said she was curious as to why the ask was increasing from \$2000 to \$10,000 given that the number of students served was dropping. Ms. Catalano pointed out that the \$2000 was a typo and should be listed as \$5000. Commissioner Mercer suggested the drop in the number of those served should be explored in the next round.

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

85. Sound Generations – Volunteer Transportation Program

Chair Ma said the program connects volunteers to drive those who do not otherwise have access to driving or someone to take them to things such as medical appointments. The program has been funded by the city in the past and the increase is flat. Transportation continues to be an issue, particularly for the aging community. He recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Piper said the program is the missing link for many people. It should be moved forward.

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

86. Therapeutic Health Services – Alcohol/Drug Treatment

Chair Ma said the program primarily serves those who are addicted to opioids though it also addresses alcohol, meth and marijuana addictions. There is a need for the outpatient treatment program and the application should be moved to the second round.

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

87. Washington Poison Center – Emergency Services

Chair Ma said the application addresses a help line for poison information. It provides support and education to residents in regard to poisoning and toxicities. In addition, the program provides assistance to King County cities in emergency responses. The city has not funded the program in the past, but as a vehicle for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic there may be some value in funding the program. He proposed moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer said she would move the application forward only if the other Commissioners wanted to. She pointed out that the agency projects a budget surplus and the program is not critical at the current time.

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

88. AtWork! – Community Inclusion

Chair Ma said the inclusion program provides coordination support for people with disabilities to actively engage in the community. It provides one-on-one assistance to individuals and their support teams to develop personalized plans. Those who are served have disabilities and are of retirement age or older, many of whom have retired out of their community jobs. Also served are people who have not reached retirement age but whose needs preclude them from pursuing or maintaining employment in the community. The number of residents served is very small and the program is resource intensive. The city has supported the program in the past and Chair Ma suggested moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer agreed the program should be advanced. The program is Bellevue-focused and serves a unique population. Commissioner Piper concurred and noted the small number of residents served. Commissioner Kline said the agency has been carefully looked at in the past because of the intensity required for the population, but always the Commission has concluded the service is valuable.

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

89. AtWork! – Community Liaison

Chair Ma said the program secures and supports individuals with disabilities with their full career paths. The program matches qualified candidates with the needs of an employer. It is a good program for both the clients and the companies who are willing to include diversity into their workforce. The application should be moved into the second round.

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

90. Bellevue College – Head Start

Chair Ma said the full-day program allows families the time to work or go to school. The program can serve 180 students. Half of the current parents are enrolled at the ELC and Bellevue College classes, and over 80 percent qualify for reduced tuition due to low income. Childcare is needed in the community and the application should be moved forward.

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

91. Bellevue College – Center for Career Connections

Chair Ma explained that the application involves two components: service contacts and career advancement classes. The service contacts element involves individual sessions with career specialists relative to job searches and mock interviews, the career advancement classes cover several topics in regard to building career skills. The program is open to the general public at no charge. The application should be advanced.

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

92. Bellevue College – Preparing for Work

Chair Ma said the program addresses the language employment needs of refugees and immigrants. It is focused on recruiting, counseling, improving job skills, and providing

individual career counseling. It also tracks student success and targets non-native low-intermediate to low-advanced English speakers living in Bellevue. The program serves a population that needs the service and the application should be moved forward.

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

93. Bellevue School District – Early and Extended Learning Program

Chair Ma said the program provides full-day/full-year early learning and childcare for children and youth ages three through twelve. The preschool programs are currently located in 16 elementary schools, and the before- and after-school centers are located in all 18 elementary schools. The need is clear and the application should be moved to the second round.

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

94. Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue – Project Learn, Summer Camp, Preschool and Athletic Programs

Chair Ma explained that the program involves after-school, summer camp, preschool and athletic programs. The agency provides affordable programming for youth from two to eighteen years old. Included is half-day preschool classes from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. five days per week for youth two to five years old. Project Learn is offered five days per week following school dismissal until 6:30 p.m. It is not known how programming will shift due to the pandemic and the question should be asked of the agency, but the childcare need and activities for kids are important. The application should be advanced.

Commissioner Mercer agreed it should be moved to the second round and said she wanted to know what the agency plans to do in terms of working with the schools during the pandemic and how that will change their programming.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the city previously funded only Project Learn. The application outlines the fact that the agency is looking to significantly increase the activities offered.

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

95. Child Care Resources – Child Care Financial Assistance

Commissioner Jain explained that the program offers childcare subsidies for low- and moderate-income families that do not qualify for state subsidies. With Covid-19 there has been an increased pressure and many parents have lost jobs because they cannot afford to pay for childcare. The Needs Update identifies childcare as a big need. The application should be moved forward.

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

96. Child Care Resources – Homeless Child Care Program

Commissioner Jain said the program caters to homeless children and aims to give them the stability and care they need for cognitive development. It provides parents the opportunity to seek employment and housing. The program also provides training for childcare providers in adapting care to the needs of children and families. She recommended moving the application into the second round.

Commissioner Kline observed from the application that the agency is changing its treatment relative to refugees and immigrants by extending the program to six months from four, which will consequently cause them to reduce the number of families served. She said she would like to hear their rationale as to why that should be seen as a good move given the need to serve as many as possible. Ms. Stangland said the agency could be asked about that. She added that the changes in the Working Connections eligibility extends the time people are able to access childcare.

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

97. Child Care Resources – Information and Referral/Technical Assistance

Commissioner Jain pointed out that the ask for the previously funded program was reduced by 18 percent. The program assists families in their search for childcare and provides providers with resources and training. She recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Kline said the program is the agency's original core program and she agreed it should be moved ahead. She noted the application indicates fundraising will be dropped to zero and she said she would like to know how they allocate their fundraising revenues and what their overall fundraising picture is. Ms. Stangland said she would put the questions to the agency.

Commissioner Mercer said she did not fully understand why the agency was dropping its fundraising activities. She agreed the program should be moved into the second round.

Commissioner Kline said her speculation was that the agency had such a big push on the education piece to meet the recent new regulations implemented by the state that they are just now moving back to a more normal level.

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

98. Global Social Business Partners – ISEED: Innovation for Social Entrepreneurship and Environmental Development

Commissioner Jain said the new ask is for a program that is primarily run by youth. The focus is on solving food insecurity and other food system issues in light of building a green economy. She said she was not convinced the program is needed and said she would not recommend advancing it.

Commissioner Kline said the program is good but very complicated. It is in startup mode and the Commission should wait until there is more of an operating history.

Commissioner Mercer concurred. She said it is a big jump for a new program to jump right into 20,000 residents served. There is no information about the level of experience the agency has in running such a program. A more complete picture is needed before the application can be funded.

Commissioner Piper said he was inclined to fund such programs but agreed that more information and an understanding of their track record is needed first. He said he hoped the agency would seek funding again in the future.

Chair Ma said he wanted to push the application into the second round. While the organization is new and small, the program does address issues of equity. In the second round

the Commission could ask specific questions about how the agency intends to operate in the current Covid-19 environment, and what could be done if the full requested amount is not awarded.

Commissioner Jain said she could be convinced to move the application to the second round in order to get some questions answered. Commissioners Kline and Mercer suggested that if only one Commissioner wants to see the application advanced it should be moved forward.

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

99. HERO House – Supported Employment

Commissioner Jain said the program operates on the clubhouse model and provides its clients with supported employment services. Lack of employment can lead to isolation and depression. She proposed moving the application forward.

Commissioner Kline said the program is good and serves a necessary population. It should be moved forward.

Chair Ma agreed but reminded the Commissioners that a representative of HERO House previously visited the Commission and noted that the agency is struggling to provide their services as a result of their clients struggling with basic needs, including affordable housing.

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

100. Hopelink – Financial Capabilities

Commissioner Jain said the program provides coaching and education to help clients set financial goals and plans. She proposed moving the application forward but also recommended looking at the Hopelink applications in total.

Commissioner Kline said Hopelink has applied for funding for the program in the past and she questioned why they have chosen to break it out as a separate program given that it seems like a component of other services they provide.

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

101. Hopelink – Adult Education

Commissioner Jain said the program provides classes in north and east King County to help clients graduate high school, and English classes to immigrants and refugees to prepare them for employment. During Covid-19 the classes will be conducted online. She recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Kline said the program is one of the key ESL programs on the Eastside. She agreed it should be moved to the second round.

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

102. Hopelink – Employment

Commissioner Jain said the program assists homeless and low-income clients improve their employment skills so they can seek and secure employment. The program includes assistance in writing resumes. The program serves about 75 Bellevue residents and it should be moved

into the second round.

Commissioner Kline noted that the program is key and should be moved forward even though the increase in the ask is substantial.

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

103. IKRON of Greater Seattle – Integrated Employment Services

Commissioner Jain said the program focuses on employment sustainability. According to the Needs Update, one of the top reasons for homelessness is joblessness. She urged the Commission to move the application into the second round given the current high levels of unemployment.

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

104. Jewish Family Service – Refugee and Immigrant Services

Commissioner Jain said the program serves a large number of refugees and immigrants annually with resettlement, job placement, the naturalization process, English proficiency, life skill workshops and job training. The program should be moved forward, though the agency should be asked the flow of immigrants and refugees coming into the country during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Catalano reminded the Commissioners that the program is also funded with CDBG public services dollars, which is why the ask is so big. In 2020 the program was awarded \$143,871 in CDBG funds and \$58,166 in general funds. The general fund allocation cannot be reduced in conjunction with an increase in the CDBG allocation.

Commissioner Mercer urged the use of CDBG funds first for any sort of increase before taking from the general fund.

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

105. Kindering Center – Child Care and Preschool Consultation

Commissioner Jain said the program provides critical care and services to improve the health and wellbeing of children in the community. The program steps in to support providers in meeting the needs of early identification of development disabilities. During Covid-19 services will be provided via phone and video. She recommended moving the application forward to the second round.

Commissioner Kline said while she questioned the increase in the amount asked she also recommended moving the application forward.

Commissioner Mercer agreed and noted the agency's other applications included some large increases in their ask. She said they should all be considered as a group.

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

106. YWCA Seattle/King County – Eastside Employment Services

Commissioner Jain said the program addresses gaps in housing and job training needs in Bellevue. The need is clear and the application should be advanced.

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

- 8. OLD BUSINESS – None
- 9. NEW BUSINESS – None
- 10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None
- 11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Ma adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary of the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date