

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 18, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Mercer

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 with the exception of Commissioner Mercer, 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 August 18, 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 – None
7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION
 - A. Shelter and Day Center Funding for 2021-2022

Human Services Manager Alex O’Reilly informed the Commissioners that there had been conversations over the past few months related to the cost increases for staffing and other operational matters at shelters and day centers given the increased need. Requests for additional funding have been submitted to all Eastside cities as a result. She said the staff developed a proposal based on an analysis of data gathered over time, and based on a conversation with other Eastside cities relative to how to be responsive to the great work the shelters are doing and their need for increased funding, while also being supportive of the entire continuum of services.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano shared with the Commission a spreadsheet showing the programs for emergency shelters and day centers by agency with a column showing the amount awarded by Bellevue in 2020, a column showing the 2020 allocation with a 3.23 percent COLA added, a column showing the percent of the total human services 2020 budget, and a column showing the requested 2021 amounts. She noted that the total allocation for 2020, not including the one-time Council allocation, was just over \$550,000, or 15 percent of the total human services budget, and that for 2021 the total requests totaled \$1.7 million, or 44 percent of the total human services budget.

Ms. O'Reilly proposed taking an approach different from the one taken in the past. In order to have frame of reference for how to proceed with setting aside money for shelters and day centers. The proposal was to look at the potential of allocating either 20 percent or 25 percent of the total human services budget for 2021 for shelter and day center services. There is a clear need to gain perspective on how to have enough budget available for other services, many of which the shelters and day centers rely on, including the alcohol and drug treatment programs, the medical programs, food and employment services. She noted that 20 percent of the total human services budget would total \$781,720, while 25 percent would total \$977,150.

Ms. Catalano clarified that the special allocation from the Council in 2020 included \$332,854 for the shelter to facilitate operating 24/7, and \$95,869 for the day center to expand the total hours and the number of days per week the center is open. Those allocations were deemed to be one-time funds.

Commissioner Kline stated that by increasing the allocation to the shelter and day center category as proposed by staff, the one-time Council allocation would be continued within the

human services budget, without there being any increase to the human services budget. Ms. Catalano allowed that the one-time funding was not included in the 2021-2022 budget, so a way would need to be found to increase the amounts allotted to the shelter and day center category.

Commissioner Kline asked if the Council was on board with cannibalizing the rest of the human services budget to facilitate giving more to shelter and day center. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said he believed there was an appetite on the part of the Council for increasing the overall human services budget, but he stressed there had not been any discussions at the Council level as to exact numbers.

Ms. O'Reilly said in the conversations to date there has been a certain level of surprise at how much more money has been requested by the agencies. She agreed that the Commission would need some specific guidance from the Council as to how to proceed.

Commissioner Kline said it would be helpful for the Commission to understand how staff came up with the proposed 20 percent or 25 percent. Ms. O'Reilly said the percentages are largely estimates. She said allocations in the 2020 budget to shelters and day centers equaled 15 percent of the total human services budget, so that became the baseline. She noted that even at 25 percent of the total budget, the allocation would fall below the total requests for shelters and day centers, and adding that she did not know what funding strategies all the other Eastside cities will take. Everyone is cognizant of the importance of having a regional shelter system operating 24/7.

Commissioner Kline commented that if the other Eastside cities decide to fix their allocation as a percent of their human services budget, it will need to be kept in mind that their total human services budgets are not the same percentage of their city's budget. She said she was skeptical about using a percentage approach for the sake of consistency for that reason. Ms. O'Reilly said the percentage approach has been discussed but not finally determined. She said Kirkland staff have been looking at between 28 percent and 32 percent of their total human services budgets.

Commissioner Kline said she was not convinced that the Commission should dedicate a percentage.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked what other funding the shelter agencies have received. Ms. O'Reilly said she did not have data in hand for the individual organizations. She said much of the additional Covid-19 funds received are to be spent in 2020. It is not known what additional funding will be made available in 2021. Many agencies are actively fundraising. Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that the total human services budget for 2021 is fixed, and thus any increase to shelter programs will require cutting in other areas. She said she was not comfortable making cuts to safety net programs.

Commissioner Jain agreed with Commissioners Kline and Amirfaiz and said she was open to discussing the degree to which funding for shelters and day centers should be increased.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed that shelters and day centers need additional funding, but noted that because of the pandemic agencies providing services in other areas will also need additional funding. He said he was not comfortable with simply throwing out a percentage.

Commissioner Piper said he also recognized the vital role shelters play but said he also shared the concerns about having to rob Peter to pay Paul. He said he would be willing to entertain the notion of approving a modest percentage allocation.

Chair Ma said his belief was that a full 25 percent of the total human services budget should be allocated to shelter and day center programs, at least for 2021-2022. The fallout for homelessness is going to be huge going forward and groundwork must be done to meet the need. The stimulus plan will by October allow a lot of companies to lay off employees. The pandemic is making the wealth inequality gap even bigger. The services in Goal 1 are going to explode. That likely will mean cutting some areas of funding in order to concentrate funding where it will be most needed.

Commissioner Kline said she did not disagree that there will be an explosion of need in Goal 1, but she suggested there would be an increase in need even if Covid-19 had not happened. The shelters were built and were committed to come online before Covid-19. It is good that the Council chose to give the one-time funding, but there seems to be an expectations on the part of the agencies that the funding would continue. Taking money away from other programs that will more acutely help during the pandemic is not the right thing to do. The shelter category certainly needs more funding, but the Council needs to provide some additional funding. Without it, a ten percent increase in funding for shelters will represent a greater than ten percent decrease for other agencies across the board.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said her experience has been that many who end up in shelters have many issues, including mental illness and various addictions. She said she would be very uncomfortable cutting those services in favor of giving more to the shelters. Joblessness is not the only reason people end up in shelters.

Commissioner Jain agreed with Chair Ma's assessment but stressed that the Covid-19 situation is also hitting the other areas of need. She cautioned against giving more to shelters at the expense of the other organizations and programs, particularly during the pandemic.

Commissioner Mansfield echoed Commissioner Kline's comments and said he fully agreed with her. It will be important to give more to the shelters, but he said he was not comfortable in earmarking an flat percentage without any guarantees of extra funding from the Council.

Commissioner Piper said the impact of Covid-19 has been blunt and widespread across the continuum. While it has exacerbated homelessness, it has also had impacts on mental health and addictions. He said he had concerns about establishing a flat 25 percent to shelters.

Chair Ma allowed that during Covid-19 there have been and will continue to be a number of issues in need of funding. With any economic fallout there is always going to be an increase in mental health issues and domestic violence. If resources are allocated to be able to provide some level of stability, they will go a long way toward preventing drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and mental health issues. Not all of the other programs, however, are equally affected by Covid-19. It is currently difficult for programs to find jobs for those who are looking for work due to the fact that there is an overabundance of worker owing to the pandemic. He said he continued to believe 25 percent of the total human services budget should be earmarked for shelter and day center services.

Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Community Services Toni Esparza said during the last funding round the Commissioners gave feedback about how to continue evaluating funding requests from the shelters due to their climbing costs associated with providing 24/7 services. The proposal staff has put together should be looked at apart from the impacts of the pandemic. It is intended to serve as a tool to not have to go through every shelter request and evaluate it against the whole, but to instead evaluate it against an identified percentage of the human services fund, and within that recognize the evaluation of the shelter funding requests. The 20 or 25 percent approach is just an idea. A set percentage was not previously set but the allocations worked out to 15 percent. The percentages were intended to

take into account the increase that will happen to the human services fund by nature of the formula used by the city. The percentage approach is intended to be a tool to guide the conversations about how to evaluate the requests from each of the shelters without having to evaluate them against all the funding requests in Goal 1.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that the conversations about what percentage of the total human services budget should be spent on shelters and day centers started prior to Covid-19, and in fact only about an month after the last funding cycle allocations were announced. More shelters are coming online and in a 24/7 format, and certainly there will be Covid-19 related impacts. The percentage approach is simply intended to serve as a way of having a defined amount of money dedicated to shelter services. None of the percentage amounts come near the total shelter funding requests.

Chair Ma agreed that homelessness was an issue before Covid-19, but the pandemic has served to truly highlight the issue.

Commissioner Kline said the increase in the 2021 budget over the 2020 budget is \$122,000. She said she would be comfortable setting aside an additional \$125,000 or \$150,000 from the existing budget for the shelters, and adding an ask for additional funding from the Council to bring the percentage up closer to what has been proposed. She said she continued to have some discomfort in designating a specific percentage.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said people who have lost their jobs or are about to will need more rental assistance to stay in their homes. The population that traditionally has used day center services needs wraparound services. She said she would not be comfortable earmarking additional money for the shelters.

Commissioner Jain said she was okay with 18 percent as a set percentage for the shelters. She agreed with Commissioner Amirfaiz, however, that money will need to be given to other programs.

Commissioner Mansfield said he would be comfortable going with 20 percent, which is just a percent and a half above COLA. He said he hoped additional funding will be forthcoming from the Council.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the COLA applied to everyone, not just the shelters.

Commissioner Piper said he would not be comfortable allocating 25 percent but would be okay with 15 percent.

Commissioner Kline commented that had the percentage discussion not been brought forward, the Commission likely would have chosen to allocate funding to the new day shelters, which would have resulted in a higher percentage overall to the shelter category. She said her preference would be to wait to see how much the Commission was willing to give to the new day shelters and focus on an additional ask to the Council.

Chair Ma said his concern was that the focus on the shelters was considering the status quo rather than the projected needs. The discussion of applications so far has primarily resulted in COLA increases and now reducing any of the allocations. While there is a responsibility to fund the continuum, there is also a clear need to address the projected needs, which will require bold and specific actions.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested there might be some wisdom in going through each of the applications and identifying an amount to allocate to each, rather than looking at a percentage for the

whole grouping of shelter applications. It could be that that approach would add up to 20 percent. She pointed out that the shelter applications, which are in Goal 1, were slated to be addressed again the first meeting in September.

Commissioner Kline suggested the discussion was helpful in pointing out that there is not a lot of extra money to allocate to new agencies or programs given the needs of the two new day shelters. The applications that require the most attention are in Goal 1.

Ms. O'Reilly proposed putting the percentage designation discussion on hold and come back to it later after all the applications have been discussed.

There was agreement to table the percentage discussion.

B. Endorsement of CARES Act Funding Recommendations for Food Scarcity

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that on August 3 the Council elected to allocated \$500,000 from CARES Act funds associated with Covid-19 response to human services needs. Of the total, \$300,000 was allocated to food scarcity, and \$200,000 was allocated to emergency financial assistance. She sought from the Commission an endorsement of the staff recommendation to fund the Bellevue School District Family Connections Program at \$160,000; Hopelink Bellevue Food Bank with \$127,000; the Salvation Army Hot Meal Program with \$10,000; and Renewal Food Bank with \$3000. She said the recommendation was developed based on data from and conversations with the agencies. She added that the restrictions on the federal funds require them to be spent by the end of the year.

A motion to accept the staff recommendation for the CARES Act funding distribution was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion of 2021-2022 Human Services Commission General fund Applications – Round 2, Goals 3 and 4

Ms. Catalano reminded the Commissioners that early in the application process it was noted that some smaller agencies that do not require audits had not submitted the financial review documents requested in the supplemental. Each agency was given the opportunity to submit by August 1 a financial review done by an outside party. She said five agencies submitted the requested financial information and four chose not to.

Ms. O'Reilly said staff reviewed the documents submitted from the five agencies. Two provided information from CPAs, two provided information from financial consultants, and one gave documents from a registered agent and former financial person. Additional information was requested from Kits for Peace but none was received. She said the recommendation of the staff was that the Commission accept the documentation from Camp Kindness, MAPS/MCRC, Bridge of Promise and Renewal Food Bank as adequate, allowing applications from those agencies to be considered in the funding discussions. With regard to MAPS/MCRC, the recommendation of staff was to do some additional monitoring to assure compliance with the requirement to have an outside person prepare their Form 990.

Commissioner Kline explained that “review” is a technical term just like “audit” is when it comes to the AICPA rules. She pointed out that the letters submitted on behalf of the agencies do not meet the standards of a review. In future years it would be appropriate to change the wording relative to what is being asked of the agencies to make it clear involvement is needed by a third party person with financial expertise as opposed to an actual review by a CPA firm.

Chair Ma asked if that would bar smaller agencies due to the increased cost. Commissioner Kline said a review is actually an attestation service that must be done by a CPA doing analytical procedures to determine if the amounts in the financial statements are reasonable. The actual threshold needed is just a financial statement preparation threshold done by an independent third party, which is not as in-depth. Reviews and audits must be done by CPAs whereas a financial statement preparation and a compilation can be done by any third party with a financial background.

With regard to Kits for Peace, Commissioner Kline agreed that there is no indication if any third party looking at their financial information, and thus they do not meet the minimum threshold.

A motion to deem adequate the financial documentation from Camp Kindness, MAPS/MCRC, Bridge of Promise and Renewal Food Bank and to include them in the review process was made by Commissioner Piper. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and the motion carried unanimously 5-1, with Commissioner Kline voting against.

Commissioner Kline explained that her no vote was based on the fact that the letters basically state involvement by an independent financial person, and that they do not all necessarily agree with the accuracy of the financials.

Ms. O'Reilly stated that while Kits for Peace builds its financial capacity, staff is willing to assist them in looking for grant opportunities. The program appears to be promising but not ready for the funding process.

The Commission reviewed the applications in Goal Area 3.

62. Consejo Counseling and Referral Service – Domestic Violence
Community Advocate Program

Commissioner Kline noted the agency was seeking a nine percent increase over the previous allocation. She recommended holding the application flat in the current environment. While domestic violence is incredibly important, the specific application represents only a small portion of the agency's overall budget.

The Commissioners concurred with the recommendation to hold the funding flat.

65. LifeWire – Survivor Advocacy Services

Commissioner Kline said the application is complicated in that it seeks a fairly substantial increase of almost 40 percent. One reason for the increase is tied to the fact that the agency has become the designated coordinated entry coordinator to do evaluations for those in domestic violence situations seeking shelter. Another reason is the level of additional advocacy work being done because of the increase in the number of domestic violence calls during the pandemic. She suggested the ask is interrelated with housing because of the advocacy element and said her inclination was to go with a COLA for the program and look holistically at the agency's shelter application.

Commissioner Jain said she was comfortable with just a COLA increase. Commissioner Mansfield said his inclination was to go with a bit more than a COLA increase. Commissioners Piper and Amirfaiz agreed to give a COLA increase.

Commissioner Mansfield said he was also inclined to go above a COLA increase due to the increase in domestic violence during the pandemic. He suggested \$200,000.

Ms. Catalano clarified that a COLA increase alone will bring the total to \$186,926.

Commissioner Kline said she would be good with \$200,000. Commissioner Jain agreed, as did Commissioners Piper and Mansfield.

Commissioner Amirfaiz did not agree given that the Consejo domestic violence program offers similar services and it was earmarked for only a COLA increase. Commissioner Kline said she viewed the two applications differently in that LifeWire is specific to the Eastside and provides services to all ethnic groups, whereas Consejo is a much larger organization with a large focus. The request to Bellevue does not represent a significant portion of Consejo's operations.

There was consensus to give the application a COLA increase and to flag it for possible additional funding.

66. Refugee Women's Alliance – Domestic Violence Program

Commissioner Kline noted the ask was for flat funding but suggested the application could be flagged for a potential decrease. One key component of the program is in-person sessions which during Covid-19 cannot be conducted.

Commissioner Jain asked if the application should be funded at all if the agency would not be able to provide the in-person sessions. Commissioner Kline said the program also includes some one-on-one advocacy services.

There was consensus to fund the application at the full requested amount and to flag it for a possible funding reduction.

67. The One Foundation in Honor of Yearly Love – One Love Washington Cities Program

Commissioner Kline said the program is a good program that recently moved into Bellevue. The responses given by the agency to the questions asked by the Commission were good. However, the agency is very early in the process of developing its program in Bellevue, and that a key component of their program is in-person sessions, though they have developed some online materials. In light of the current situation and the need to preserve funding for other critical areas, she recommended passing on the application but encouraging the agency to apply again in the future.

There was agreement not to fund the application.

63. Harborview Medical Center – Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress

Commissioner Kline said the ask represents a one percent decrease from the previous funding level. She suggested fully funding the request and flagging the application for a possible funding decrease given the size of the agency and the fact that the program is only a small percentage of their overall budget.

There was agreement to fund the application at its full request and to flag it for a possible funding decrease.

64. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center – Comprehensive Sexual

Assault Advocacy Services

Commissioner Kline noted that the request was only slightly above flat funding. She recommended keeping the funding flat and flagging the application for a possible decrease in funding for the reasons stated in regard to Application 63.

Commissioner Mansfield noted his personal connections with the agency and recused himself from discussing the application and making funding recommendations.

There was consensus to keep the funding flat and to flag the application for a possible funding reduction.

The Commissioners turned to the applications in Goal 2.

37. Assistance League of the Eastside – Operation School Bell

Commissioner Piper said the program fits with the Commission's priorities, but with the fact that schools in King County have gone full remote he recommended not funding the application, or at least funding it at a reduced rate.

Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that kids still need clothing and said she was inclined to fund the application at the full request.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed with Commissioner Piper, as did Commissioner Jain though she said she would support a reduced funding amount.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the discussion was focused on funding for 2021 and 2022. She said funding for the program could not necessarily be cut for just a single year.

In light of that statement, Commissioner Jain said she would support funding at the requested amount.

Commissioner Kline said she was leaning towards funding the application at \$10,000.

Chair Ma said he supported cutting the funding, or at least lowering it significantly to \$5000. He allowed that there is going to be a demand and funding will be needed in other areas. The program is good and should be considered in future cycles.

Ms. Catalano reminded the Commissioners that the staff were seeking information from all the applicants in regard to how they intend to respond in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. She suggested that information will be of great value to the decision-making process.

Commissioner Amirfaiz continued to call for funding the application at the full requested amount.

Commissioner Piper said he could agree with the recommendation of Commissioner Kline to fund the application at the \$10,000 level. Commissioner Mansfield concurred, as did Commissioners Jain and Amirfaiz and Chair Ma.

There was agreement to fund the application at the \$10,000 level.

39. Camp Kindness Counts – Youth and Family Wellbeing Program

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the program offers various services for families and children from five to twelve years old. The program is heavily dependent on in-person meetings. She recommended not funding the application in light of the pandemic.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

61. Youth Eastside Services – Success Mentoring

Chair Ma stated that youth mental health has been a need in the community for some time, and with the disruptions in the school system the need might even be greater. He proposed flat funding for the application.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed that the program is a good one but said he questioned if it could be successful in a virtual situation. Once schools resume in person, there will be a need for the program. He agreed with flat funding as did the other Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Kline who said she only reluctantly agreed given the clear need to address youth suicide prevention.

There was agreement to hold funding for the application flat.

36. Asian Counseling and Resource Service – Children, Youth and Families Program

Commissioner Piper said the ask for the program is 39 percent above the previous allocation. The agency indicates the increase is due to higher staffing costs and benefits. He said he was inclined to keep the funding flat given the needs in other areas, the nominal number of Bellevue residents served, and the projected decrease in service units.

With the exception of Chair Ma, the Commissioners said they would hold the funding flat. Chair Ma recommended a COLA increase.

There was agreement to hold funding for the application flat and to flag it for additional funding if any is available.

57. Youth Eastside Services – Behavioral Healthcare for Children and Youth

Chair Ma said there is a clear need for behavioral health services for children and youth in the area. He said the program coordinates with the school districts. He proposed flat funding or at most a COLA increase. Commissioner Mansfield agreed, noting that once kids go back to school there could be an increased need for the program. He said he would agree to a COLA increase but at the very least would flag the application for additional funding if it is available.

Commissioner Amirfaiz suggested the application should be treated the same as Application 36, which was flat funding with a flag for additional funding. Commissioner Kline agreed and pointed out that the service units and the number of residents served were both flat. She proposed flat funding with a flag for additional funding.

There was agreement to hold funding for the application flat, and to flag it for additional funding if any is available.

58. Youth Eastside Services – Community-based Outreach Services

Chair Ma said the program reaches people at the community and teen centers during non-

school hours. He proposed fully funding the request, which is a 19 percent reduction over the previous funding level. Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Commissioner Kline asked why the agency submitted a reduced ask. Commissioner Mansfield said they are seeking more money from Redmond and Kirkland during the current funding cycle.

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

59. Youth Eastside Services – Early Childhood Behavioral Health

Chair Ma said the program is very important given the level of help families need. He recommended flat funding. Commissioner Mansfield agreed there is a need and said he could support a COLA increase and a flag for additional funding.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended flat funding and flagging the application as a candidate for a COLA increase. Commissioners Piper and Jain agreed. Commissioner Kline suggested young children as a group are being less impacted by the Covid-19 situation. Given that, and the fact that the number of residents served is not increasing, she recommended flat funding and flagging the application for a potential increase.

Chair Ma reiterated his call for flat funding and pointed out that there are other programs in Goal 1 that protect families through various services.

There was agreement to hold the funding flat, and the application was not flagged.

44. Crisis Clinic – King County 2-1-1

Commissioner Piper recommended flat funding for the application. He said the service is clear and it serves a large number of Bellevue residents. About 89 percent of those served are low-income individuals.

Commissioner Kline observed that the program captures more age groups and is cost-effective. She said she could support a COLA increase but would be okay with flat funding.

There was consensus to hold funding for the application flat.

47. Hopelink – Family Development

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended full funding for the application. Commissioner Piper agreed and pointed out the program serves a large number of Bellevue residents.

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

41. Chinese Information and Service Center – Family Resource Support Program

Commissioner Piper recommended flat funding and highlighted the fact that the number of service units were down.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that in Round 1 the review of the application identified the fact that the agency's proposal for 2021 will not include a Latinx cultural navigator. The agency has chosen to focus instead on the Russian and Chinese populations. The Commission directed staff to reach out to the agency and to discuss some additional options to fill the gap that is

likely to occur absent having the Latinx outreach worker. The suggestion was made that the Commission might want to hold aside some funds to put out as an RFQ in January 2021 seeking to provide the service. She noted that Redmond and Kirkland along with Bellevue will not have a Latinx cultural navigator and she said in reaching out to staff in those two cities she learned that Kirkland has already set aside \$35,000 for a potential RFQ in 2021. Holding out funds to support a separate RFQ would be appropriate and has been done in the past.

Commissioner Piper asked if the practical approach would be to flag the application as a potential RFQ candidate. Ms. O'Reilly said a placeholder without an application number would be held in the spreadsheet, labeled as potential Latinx cultural navigator. An estimated amount of money to be dedicated to that purpose would be shown in the spreadsheet, and it could represent recommended funding for be earmarked for funding from other sources.

Noting the webinar was set to end at 8:30 p.m., Chair Ma allowed that the Commission did not have the time available to finish reviewing the applications in Goal 2 and would need to hold making a decision relative to Application 41 and the balance of the applications over to the next meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commission that the virtual ribbon cutting ceremony for Kirkland Place, the name of the family shelter run by Catholic Community Services and the women's shelter run by Sophia Way, was slated for August 19. She said she would forward the information to the Commissioners. Single women will start moving into the facility on August 21 and the families will move in the first of September.

Ms. Stangland provided the Commissioners with an update regarding the RFQ released for emergency financial assistance. She said the applications were due by 4:30 p.m. on August 19 and that they would be reviewed by staff, and that the staff recommendation would be presented to the Commission on August 27.

9. NEW BUSINESS - None

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jain and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ma adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date