

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on May 2, 2023.

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

April 4, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Singh, Commissioners Amirfaiz, Halsted, Jain  
COMMISSIONERS REMOTE: None  
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chair Mansfield, Commissioners Piper, White  
STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Toni Esparza, Leslie Miller, Asma Ahmed, Saada Hilts, Andrew Ndayambaje, Department of Parks & Community Services  
COUNCIL LIAISON: Not Present  
POLICE LIAISON: Major Mark Tarantino  
GUEST SPEAKERS: None  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Singh who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

All Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Mansfield and Commissioners Piper and White.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 21, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Amirfaiz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halsted and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Faye Chien, director of community wellness for Kin On, spoke in regard to the Thriving Connections program. Current research from the CDC suggests that Asian senior immigrants experience loneliness more often than other groups given that they have fewer social ties and lower levels of social integration. They also face stressors such as language barriers, differences in

community, family dynamics, and racial and ethnic discrimination. The latter was made worse during the pandemic. Thriving Connections provides agencies with culturally appropriate food bags, gift cards, recipes approved by a registered dietitian, and encouragement to have clients participate in personal nutrition workshops and cooking classes. The goal is to both improve client nutrition and social connections. The social workers and bilingual staff also promote positive cultural identity and help Asian seniors overcome the fear of integrating back into their communities through in-person and online seminars. Professionals provide guidance on how to respond to racial inequity and discrimination. Advocacy for diversity and racial equity in their communities is achieved through various social media platforms.

Peter Chaleunph, a Kin On client, noted being happy to have the Thriving Connections program. As a new immigrant the program has been very helpful in providing culturally relevant food.

Alison Morton, Chief Advancement Officer for Kindering, explained that the ParentChild+ program partners with low-income families that are primarily immigrants and refugees who often face significant obstacles to participating in high-quality early education. The program closes the access gap. Kindering would use funding to expand the program to serve more families and enhance the referral system. A short video testimonial from a ParentChild+ program was shared with the Commissioners.

Deitra Clayton, managing executive director for Sophia Way, reminded the Commission that the agency operates two 24/7 locations. Support was sought for the day center that operates on Bellevue Way. The day center provides many resources for people experiencing homelessness, including food, clothing, laundry and other services, all connected to case management. The center also provides a safe space for people to be, and there is an area for napping. The clients are provided with the opportunity to interact with and support each other. Operating the program requires staff, and that requires funding. In 2022, 151 unduplicated women were served with a safe place, as well as 128 women who were housed and remained housed throughout the year. Funding for the day center is needed to continue operating 24/7 in the community.

Sarah Huntley, a special educator with Kindering's FIT program, noted that FIT supports Eastside families experiencing housing instability by connecting them with wraparound services, by promoting healthy parent/child relationships through parent coaching, and by performing developmental assessments to determine the level of support each child needs to thrive. The story of Ana Nuñez was shared with the Commission whose youngest children were showing signs of developmental delays. After contacting Kindering, both children made great progress in home therapy. Funding from the city makes stories like theirs possible.

Debbie Lacy, founder and executive director of Eastside For All, thanked the Commissioners for creating the new funding category of fostering well-being in the face of racial and ethnic discrimination to support local organizations that work with people in the community experiencing racial discrimination, hate and bias. Eastside For All is the first Eastside-based and Eastside-focused organization to be included in the King County Coalition Against Hate and Bias in the fall of 2020. Now a network of Eastside partners is convened, including the Chinese Information and Service Center, Muslim Community Network Association and Indian American Community Services, each with long histories of providing support relating to discrimination and bias in their

respective communities. Two newer organizations have been added to the network, Immigrant Women's Community Center and 4 Tomorrow. Collectively, Eastside For All supports multiple racial and ethnic groups and languages and those with intersectional identities. The anti-hate and bias work at Eastside For All is connected to the Community Safety and Build for Belonging initiatives. For the BIPOC and immigrant communities, belonging and safety often go hand in hand. All of the coalition partners believe in the strength and power of the communities and those experiencing hate and bias are referred to as survivors rather than victims. Opportunities are provided for people to come together and jointly advocate for better resources and community-rooted solutions. The organization has been working with Police Chief Shirley for nearly two years to better support Bellevue community members. While the King County Coalition's effort is the Hate and Bias Incident Reporting System outside of law enforcement, community members are helped to understand their options for how they want their experiences addressed. That includes sharing what to expect if they choose to report to the police, what resources they can request, and what the legal process entails. With funding support, the organization will be able to offer more Bellevue individuals and families the resources they need.

Steve McGraw, interim executive director for Congregations for the Homeless, shared having 30 years ago run the Bellevue office for Catholic Community Services and being part the service provider group that worked with the faith community that launched the first men's shelter on the Eastside, which eventually became Congregations for the Homeless. In 2019 Congregations for the Homeless opened the doors to a year-round 24/7 emergency shelter with the shared vision of being a place where men could come out of the woods and off the streets to receive the services they need to find their path to stable living. When Covid hit, hundreds of men relied on Congregations for the Homeless in its temporary Lincoln Center location as a home and safe place. The program is on the cusp now of moving out of that facility and into a new Eastgate facility, which will be the Eastside's first permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness. The vision of being able to provide an array of critical services is being realized with the addition of mental and behavioral health services, employment and housing navigation services, and robust case management with strong support from Bellevue, other Eastside cities, the King County Regional Homeless Authority and private and corporate contributions. However, prior operational funding commitments cannot be accessed until transitioning into the new space, and many 2024 funding sources are not yet secured. The multi-year ARPA funds will be important in helping to bridge the funding gaps.

Jesse Franklin, executive director of Rainier Athletes, noted heading into the tenth year of impacting the Bellevue community by partnering closely with the Bellevue School District. Rainier Athletes is a long-term one-on-one youth mentoring program. All of the youth qualify for free and reduced lunch; 98 percent identify as persons of color; and 100 percent will be the first in their families to pursue educational opportunities after high school. While the potential is equally distributed, the opportunities are not. The program connects students with volunteer mentors from within the community. The mentors work directly with students in their classrooms and meet with them every week and every year from fourth grade until they graduate high school and even beyond. The program has been expanded greatly in the Council community, but the need has outreached the ability to provide mentors. The staff are fully committed to supporting young people, but there are more students on the waiting list than ever before by a factor of three. The requested funding would be used to pay for a position dedicated fully to recruiting, training and retaining quality mentors. The organization has great relationships with local businesses, including

Amazon, Microsoft and Meta.

Adam Dibah, founder of Africans on the Eastside, said the organization is focused on the forgotten ones. The culture class series program engages post-generation African youth to participate in cohorts where they can have reflective conversations and learning sessions. The subjects include their experiences facing cultural and language barriers; cultural stigmas such as mental health issues and accessing mental health care; identifying and addressing challenges of facing two or more cultures; stereotypes and race-based violence; and the impacts of Covid-19. The parents of most of the students have English as a second language. The program advocates for them and teaches them how to live in society.

Karen Smith Fraser, also with Africans on the Eastside, added that there never has really been a push to address African immigrants. Much of the programming for Black people tends to miss that group of English language learners and immigrants who often do not feel welcome at the table. The program fills a gap that has gone unaddressed over the decades. The requested funding will help the staff to get paid for the work that is being done anyway and will help to reach more students and families in and outside of Bellevue.

Angie Hinojos, co-founder and executive director of Centro Cultural Mexicano, noted also serving as Chair of the Commission of Hispanic Affairs for the state of Washington, and as a trustee for Cascadia College. Centro Cultural Mexicano is focused on empowering the Latino and other communities by supporting post-secondary enrollment in college and trade schools, as well as providing support for small businesses to further financial stability and the growth of intergenerational wealth in the communities. The organization also prioritizes access to basic needs and during the pandemic distributed over \$26 million of rent assistance and thousands of vaccinations. Communities are engaged through art and culture where deep connections are supported, and the organization advocates at the local and state levels for policies that support equity and racial and social justice. The organization has built an inclusive space of belonging and engaged with more than 30,000 people in 2022, offering services and programs in direct response to community needs. Gaps are identified and creative solutions are found to address them. The Latino community is creative and hardworking, and are preservers through adversity. During the pandemic, many experienced great losses and they carry grief that will never leave. Even so, members of the community were seen sharing food with strangers and cradling each other's babies, consoling the ill and forgotten, and folding into their arms those that had even less. Children were seen caring for grandparents who no longer recognized them, and elders were seen guiding lost teens into adulthood. Hard choices had to be made: food or medicine, home or education. The community was not, however, broken. The organization serves as a place of learning, belonging, creation, dreaming, and doing by offering a place where everyone is a sibling. It is a place that honors culture, addresses opportunities freely, and values each other.

Alex Tsimerman shared that the Bellevue Council met on April 3 and 20 people signed up to speak but only ten were allowed to speak. The situation is critical and cannot be understood where it comes from. Five years ago, the Council reduced the number of speakers to only four and purposely did it to keep him from speaking. Consideration is being given to filing a lawsuit. The Commission should be an open place for discriminatory complaints. It is disappointing that the Commission is doing nothing. Bellevue is experiencing discrimination against white people because minorities,

mostly immigrants, are operating in Bellevue, and the Commission is doing nothing. The Commission is who should be accepting complaints and act on them. The Commission should answer why it does not answer complaints.

Paul Tan, director of family support at Open Doors, said the organization works with an inclusive group of refugees and immigrants, BIPOC families and their kids, all of whom experience neurodiverse backgrounds, including Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome. The group was founded by an immigrant from China who had an Autistic son and who soon recognized that the systems were not built for those with neurodiversity or refugees and immigrants having English as their second language. The requested ARPA funding is for a pilot program called Bellevue Leveraging Our Community Knowledge (BLOCK) to address the questions of how to come together as a community after the pandemic; how to come together as a community from multiple backgrounds; how to leverage common knowledge and strengths; and how to support one another's weaknesses. The unique initiative will seek to answer those questions. One element of the pilot will be a youth cohort. Eight to ten neurodiverse youth will come together as a cohort and learn about systems, such as the police department, all with an eye on learning about what it means to be part of a community and how systems are run by people.

Moses Perez, advocacy and civic engagement program manager at Open Doors, thanked the Commissioners for their service on behalf of the city.

5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None
6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None
7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION – None
8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Creating a Culture of Equity for the Commission's Work – Part V

Human Services Planner Saada Hilts explained that cultural humility involves an ongoing process of self-exploration and self-critique combined with a willingness to learn from others. It means entering a relationship with another person with the intention of honoring their beliefs, customs and values. It also means acknowledging differences and accepting that person for who they are.

A short video was shared with the Commissioners that outlined how cultural humility differs from cultural competency. It was noted that to be culturally competent means to learn about other cultures, control biases and adapt behaviors and communication styles in consideration of the background of others. The goal of cultural competency is effective and informed interaction across various cultures. While it sounds ideal, cultural competency may actually lead one to rely on generalizations on certain groups rather than recognizing the uniqueness of each individual. It can be asked if it is realistic or even possible for people to learn everything about other cultures and become completely bias free. That is where cultural humility comes in. To be culturally humble is to be aware of social power imbalances, respect other people's values and beliefs, and continuously

reflect on one's own biases. It is a lifelong process of asking oneself how biases might impact the way one treats and understands others. Cultural competency is a goal, while cultural humility is a mindset.

Ways to practice cultural humility includes recognizing that no culture is superior to another; becoming comfortable with reflecting on and acknowledging mistakes made; being honest when not sure about something; learning about other cultures with the awareness that one will never reach a perfect understanding; and asking others in one's life about holding open discussions with them and holding each other accountable during the learning journey. Cultural humility acknowledges that no one can get it right all of the time. One key component of cultural humility is being open about what one has not yet learned.

Saada Hilts asked the Commissioners to consider how cultural humility informs their approaches to reviewing and prioritizing applications that promote a sense of positive cultural identity and/or offer culturally sensitive services to marginalized communities that have been disproportionately impacted by systemic racism and discrimination.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Commission Discussion of ARPA Applicants and Final Recommendations

Human Services Manager Leslie Miller briefly reviewed for the Commissioners the application categories, the available funding, and the work previously done relative to reviewing the applications.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked if the funds allocated to fostering wellbeing and homelessness could be directed to basic needs or food insecurity. Leslie Miller said the amounts per category were set. The funding available for the Commission to move around is the unallocated \$137,903 for child care.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked if the ARPA funds had to be allocated or returned. Leslie Miller said the direction given to the Commission was to allocate all of the dollars to the applicants, unless it is determined that it would be irresponsible to fund a particular application.

#### Africans on the Eastside – Strengthening Mental Health in the African Community

Commissioner Amirfaiz referred to question 15 on the application and the reference made to police brutality and race-based violence. The application also references BIPOC but talks about Africans only. Human Services Planner Saada Hilts said the reference is to a particular program called Cultural Clash that includes a discussion of the pieces around police brutality and the ways in which that impacts African youth. The application indicates how a social media platform is used as a way of creating visibility and accessibility for the youth.

Leslie Miller added that the references to police brutality is not specific to the city of Bellevue, but allows that there is an impact by way of a mental health toll when people who look like you are victims of police brutality.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked who from the African community is on the staff of the organization. Saada Hilts noted that Adam Dibah and Karen Smith Fraser are the volunteers who are running the organization.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that in 2022 the organization served 226 Bellevue residents and asked what source of funding was used to support those services. Leslie Miller said the organization received some funding during Covid. Saada Hilts said they received some corporate and foundation funds and did some fundraising.

Leslie Miller clarified that the services were provided by volunteers. Clearly the organization has big visions. City staff worked with the agency to bring more focus to bear on exactly what they would like to do and to help them be successful with the funding.

Commissioner Jain asked how to interpret the term BIPOC specific to the applications and the notion of organizations that only help one community. Leslie Miller said the idea of a BIPOC By and For is that there is focus given to a particular community within a specific context and experience. Some of the organizations do also serve a wider population.

Commissioner Jain expressed the understanding that some organizations qualify for BIPOC because of the community they focus on, while other organizations may just focus the majority of their services on BIPOC communities that are marginalized and do not generally receive adequate support. The question, however, is what is the BIPOC qualifier when it comes to funding. Department of Parks and Community Services assistant director Toni Esparza stated that BIPOC individuals make up the majority of those who need access to human services because of systemic inequity. Any agency in the community providing open services should be serving majority BIPOC individuals. Serving BIPOC individuals is not in and of itself a sign of being culturally competent, culturally humble or culturally specific. There is a culture to mainstream agencies that may not be conducive to all populations, so having an agency that develops a culture that is specifically supportive of certain communities means they serve in that way. Eastside for All and Open Doors both come from a lived experience that they support, even if it is for the broader community.

Commissioner Amirfaiz suggested the issue is not to take anything away from the importance of an organization that serves a specific population. The confusing part is that they want to serve all populations while serving in particular a specific population. Most of the applications lack that clarity.

Vice Chair Singh voiced support for the Africans on the Eastside program given that it is diverse and involves different languages. As first-time applicants, there certainly are some flaws and confusions in their application, including about their service units. Leslie Miller allowed that the agency is in need of assistance from staff in building up their capacity to accept public funding. The organization certainly serves a population no previous applications have addressed.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that the Commission had previously discussed how the ARPA funds are to be used. It is a different matter if they are intended for capacity building. If not, there are certain expectations around the impact the funds will have on community members. Where the

service units listed in the application do not make sense, and where there are other areas of concern, it becomes difficult to determine just what the impact on the community will be. Leslie Miller stressed that the organization has had an impact in the community as volunteers. The request is not for funds to start up a new program. What the agency lacks is the experience of applying for and getting public funding. It was also clarified that the funding is not for capacity building, it is for serving the community. It will take time for the agency to be more successful in doing that, that will also require some support from staff. Staff did meet with the organization and worked through the application to give it more focus.

Commissioner Jain noted being happy just to see the application submitted. Reading through it and seeing an outline of the problems being addressed and the approach being used was refreshing.

#### Eastside for All – Community Safety Response

Commissioner Halsted noted having no concerns with the application but asked what the main use of the funds is to be. The application includes clear and understandable data. The agency has a good track record. Leslie Miller voiced the understanding that the agency intends to use some of their internal staff to do the work outlined in the application in addition to subcontracting out some of the work. Asma Ahmed added that in addition to its agency partners, they also work with city staff and the police department in providing advocacy and support to individuals experiencing hate and bias concerns, and helps navigate the intricacies of the police reporting process or provides alternatives.

Commissioner Amirfaiz voiced the assumption that the \$60,000 in the application is for contracting with other agencies. Leslie Miller confirmed that. Commissioner Amirfaiz noted the application also shows a half-time employee for almost \$80,000, of which \$60,000 is for staff and \$12,000 is for administrative costs.

#### Centro Cultural Mexicano – Del Corazon a Mi Casa

Commissioner Jain asked about the projections chart showing the Service Unit 2 projections going down from 1400 to 600. Asma Ahmed indicated seeing no clear explanation for that, adding that it could possibly be the result of a reduced budget from something previously done.

Commissioner Jain noted support for funding the application given the cultural impact. It is concerning, however, when projections go down by more than half, and it is not clear if the requested funding accounts for any reduced impact.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked about the 10,260 projected residents served. Saada Hilts said the program will be capturing both youth and families. The hope is that the youth will engage with the programming and as a result with the families as well.

Commissioner Halsted asked how the services in units 1 and 2 are rendered. Leslie Miller said they agency's physical building is in Redmond. Saada Hilts added that there had been no answer given by the agency as to whether or not transportation will be offered to and from their Redmond site.

Asma Ahmed added that the transportation piece can be negotiated at a later point.



## Kin On – Thriving Connections

Commissioner Jain asked about the reference in the application to \$15,000 direct aid to clients. Saada Hilts said while providing their nutrition classes, clients will also be offered gift cards and a bag of culturally appropriate food. The direct services funds will be used for purchasing those items. Leslie Miller added that the agency does a lot of healthcare work in Seattle. In Bellevue they have space for a volunteer program offering more general supportive services. The Thriving Connections application is focused on food and nutrition.

Commissioner Halsted noted from the application that the agency has a \$20 million budget, yet little by way of historic data is provided. Leslie Miller said their most expensive services involves the actual provision of healthcare services. The \$20 million is the agency budget, not a program budget.

## Open Doors – Bellevue: Leveraging Our Community Knowledge (BLOCK)

Commissioner Halsted commented on the size of the ask.

Commissioner Jain agreed with Commissioner Halsted and asked what the \$22,000 for insurance noted in the application is all about, adding that in comparison with other applications it represents a very large expense. Leslie Miller was not able to speak to the specific elements of the insurance item, but explained that the city requires agencies to have certain insurance levels as part of the contacting requirements. That includes liability, workers comp, car insurance and the like.

Vice Chair Singh suggested the largest portion of the overall insurance line item likely is for liability coverage.

Asking a question asked by Commissioner Amirfaiz, Leslie Miller said the city previously chose to fund Open Doors with general fund dollars in the amount of \$5000 or \$6000.

Commissioner Amirfaiz agreed that the insurance number seemed high, as is \$248,000 for 3.3 FTEs.

Vice Chair Singh voiced support for the program.

The Commission returned to each application in the group to recommend a funding level.

## Africans on the Eastside – Strengthening Mental Health in the African Community

Commissioner Jain recommended the staff framework. Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended \$40,000. Commissioner Halsted supported funding at half the ask, or \$51,000. Vice Chair Singh agreed with the staff recommendation but indicated a willingness to go a bit lower, possibly \$60,000. Commissioners Jain and Halstead agreed with the \$60,000. Commissioner Amirfaiz held to the \$40,000 level.

There consensus was to recommend funding at \$60,000.

#### Eastside for All – Community Safety Response

There was full agreement to recommend funding at \$75,000.

#### Centro Cultural Mexicano – Del Corazon a Mental illness Casa

Commissioner Halsted noted having concerns and being uncomfortable making a recommendation.

Commissioner Jain stated also having concerns but noted being okay with funding at half of the ask, or \$125,000 Commissioner Amirfaiz agreed with that amount, as did Vice Chair Singh and Commissioners Halstead.

#### Kin On Health Care Center – Thriving Connections

Commissioner Jain agreed with the staff framework. Commissioner Amirfaiz proposed funding at the full ask, and Vice Chair Singh and Commissioner Halsted agreed.

#### Open Doors – Bellevue: Leveraging Our Community Knowledge (BLOCK)

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended funding of \$180,000 and Commissioner Jain concurred. Commissioner Halsted supported funding as recommended by the staff. Vice Chair Singh also recommended going with the staff framework.

Commissioner Jain noted not being comfortable funding the application any higher than \$180,000.

Vice Chair Singh suggested that funding at \$210,000 would be meeting in the middle. Commissioner Amirfaiz said that would still be too high to support, adding that funding should not exceed \$190,000.

Leslie Miller clarified that the ask is specifically for a pilot program, and the request is for funds sufficient to pay for the program.

Commissioner Jain agreed to go with the recommendation for funding at \$210,000.

The focus turned next to the next group of applications.

#### Kindering – ParentChild+ Options

None of the Commissioners offered any comments on the application.

#### Rainier Athletes – Long-Term Mentoring

Commissioner Amirfaiz observed from the application that 200 youth will be served, 78 percent of which speak Spanish. Mention is also made about serving refugees but nothing is said about which

refugees. Saada Hilts allowed that the application was not specific on that point. Commissioner Amirfaiz said it is disappointing when applications are not specific when touting that the agency serves refugees. They undoubtedly have the data.

Commissioner Jain asked if there have been any studies done showing shifts in refugees data. Toni Esparza said the city's data is taken from the American Communities Survey or the US Census. None of that data reflects recent shifts.

Vice Chair Singh commented favorably on the program.

The Commission returned to each application in the group to recommend a funding level.

#### Kindering – ParentChild+ Options

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended the staff framework, as did Commissioner Halsted.

Commissioner Jain suggested the possibility of going a bit higher than the staff framework, maybe 60 percent of the ask, but agreed with the staff framework as a base amount.

Vice Chair Singh agreed with funding at 60 percent, noting from notes that Commissioner Piper had also indicated a desire to see more funding for the application. Leslie Miller said 60 percent of the ask would be \$54,737.

Commissioner Jain proposed going all the way to the full ask. Vice Chair Singh agreed.

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland pointed out that for 2023 the program was awarded \$9452 in general funds. Leslie Miller added that the agency's consultation program receives the most funding from the city.

Commissioner Amirfaiz supported fully funding the application ask, and Commissioner Halsted concurred, making it unanimous.

#### Rainier Athletes

Commissioner Halsted noted being willing to find a number between the staff framework and full funding for the application. Commissioner Jain concurred and proposed \$80,000. Commissioner Amirfaiz agreed, as did Vice Chair Singh and Commissioner Halsted.

A motion to extend the meeting to 8:15 p.m. was made by Commissioner Halsted. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners turned then to the next group of applications.

#### Hopelink – Bellevue Market Wellness Bellevue LifeSpring – Food Assistance for Children

Toni Esparza informed the Commissioners that there was still \$70,476 unallocated for the Fostering Wellbeing in the Face of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination section. The funds could be applied to the two applications that were moved to a different section owing to the fact that they were focused on food.

Leslie Miller explained that Hopelink's Bellevue Market Wellness was a separate program created for the ARPA funding that includes buying food cards from grocery stores that specialize in specific foods, and working with BIPOC farmers. The Bellevue LifeSpring Food Assistance for Children application seeks more funding for the regular program of providing Safeway vouchers in schools. There was \$30,000 allocated to Bellevue Market Wellness and \$69,297 to Bellevue LifeSpring.

Commissioner Jain suggested giving \$50,000 of the remaining \$70,476 to Hopelink.

Vice Chair Singh proposed allocating the balance of \$20,476 from the \$70,000 to Africans on the Eastside.

There was full support for both suggestions.

With regard to the Homelessness Services section, Leslie Miller pointed out that under the staff framework the available funds are in balance.

4Tomorrow – Emergency Temporary Housing and Homelessness Recovery  
Catholic Community Services – New Bethlehem Programs Hoteling  
Congregations for the Homeless – Emergency Men's Shelter  
Friends of Youth – The Landing  
Sophia Way – Day Resource Center at Sophia's Place  
YMCA of Greater Seattle – Arcadia Programming  
AmPowering – Mayka: My Mother's Home  
Kinderling – Families in Transition  
Ruby's Place Washington – Ruby's Place Washington

Leslie Miller explained that the temporary housing program is new for 4Tomorrow and builds off the agency's rental assistance program. There are an increasing number of clients served by the agency that are running out of rental assistance. The Catholic Community Services program has a block of rooms at a single hotel and a case manager onsite, allowing the agency to extend the capacity of its shelter services.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Jain, Leslie Miller explained that Sophia Way provides shelter services for women experiencing homelessness. They have two shelters, one with a capacity of 40 that originally was envisioned to also serve as a day center for women beyond just those staying in the shelter, but with the pandemic only those staying in the shelter were served. Their smaller shelter also has day center services but is also operating under reduced circumstances due to the pandemic.

Vice Chair Singh proposed going with the staff recommendation for each application in the

Homelessness Services section.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended \$175,000 for 4Tomorrow given that most of the money goes to direct assistance. For Catholic Community Services, the recommendation was for 70 percent of the ask, or \$213,551.

Commissioners Jain and Halstead agreed with full funding for 4Tomorrow.

For Sophia Way, Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended \$125,000.

Leslie Miller noted that Friends of Youth asked for an increase in funding because they are moving to a larger space and they want to serve more people. There has been a delay, however, for at least four or five months.

Leslie Miller asked the Commissioners if they would prefer to allocate the remaining child care funds to Eastside Legal Assistance Program, or put it into homelessness services.

Commissioner Jain supported using the funds for homelessness services. Vice Chair Singh and Commissioner Halsted agreed. Commissioner Amirfaiz commented that the need for legal services is very high.

Vice Chair Singh pointed out that going with the staff recommendation for all homelessness services will ensure a balanced budget and a good spread of the funds among the agencies. There was full agreement to do that.

Turning to the behavioral health section, Leslie Miller pointed out that Attain Housing had not submitted all of their documents and information on follow-up questions. In keeping with previous recommendations, the ask should not be funded for that reason.

Leslie Miller asked for direction regarding the application from Catholic Community Services given that the Commission had previously indicated possibly funding higher than the staff framework.

A motion to extend the meeting to the end of business was made by Commissioner Jain. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

Asma Ahmed reviewed with the Commissioners the preliminary funding recommendations for the applications in the behavioral health service category, which was the staff framework for all applications except Attain Housing which was recommended for the full ask.

Considering the lack of responses from Attain Housing, Commissioner Jain agreed the application should not be funded. Vice Chair Singh and the other Commissioners concurred.

Vice Chair Singh recommended splitting the \$35,000 from Attain Housing between Boys & Girls Club and Catholic Community Services. Commissioners Jain and Halstead agreed.

Commissioner Amirfaiz proposed splitting the funds between the Boys & Girls Club and Youth Eastside Services. Youth Eastside Services is a much smaller organization than Catholic Community Services and it is located in Bellevue. Christy Stangland pointed out that the recommendation would put Youth Eastside Services above their full ask.

Given the opposing views, Vice Chair Singh proposed giving half the \$35,000 to Boys & Girls Club and splitting the other half equally between Catholic Community Services and Youth Eastside Services.

Commissioner Jain continued to favor splitting the funds equally between Boys & Girls Club and Catholic Community Services, as did Vice Chair Singh.

Commissioner Halsted favored splitting the funds between Boys & Girls Club and Youth Eastside Services.

The Commissioners were unanimous about giving half of the \$35,000 to Boys & Girls Club. After additional discussion, there was agreement to give the balance to Youth Eastside Services.

The Commissioners reiterated their recommendation to bump both of the legal aid applications to their full asks

Toni Esparza said there remained \$2500 to allocate and possibly some funds from small discrepancies. There was agreement that the staff should work back through all of the applications in each category and make sure the numbers were correct and that the amounts available for each category were fully allocated, and any leftover funds should be allocated to Catholic Community Services.

A motion to recommend the finalized recommendation and forward it to the City Council was made by Commissioner Halsted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jain and the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Commissioner Requests for Participate in Future Meetings Remotely

A motion to approve remote participation for Commissioner Jain on April 18 was made by Commissioner Amirfaiz. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

Noting that Commissioners Piper and White previously indicated they would not be able to attend or participate remotely on April 18, staff asked to be informed as soon as possible of any other Commissioners who will not be able to attend or participate.

### 10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Moses Perez with Open Doors thanked the Commissioners for their work. The advocacy and civic engagement team at Open Doors has the privilege of working with multicultural families after the direct staff have met their primary needs. There are two primary advocacy training programs, one

for families with loved ones that have developmental disabilities, and one for youth and young adults. The participants all find themselves at the intersection of both racism and ableism. Graduates go on to partner with the advocacy teams to pass legislation and policy changes at various levels. Addressing the \$22,000 figure in the application, it was noted that the funds are for insurance but also for data processing, rent and internet services, an average of about \$7000 per employee of the 3.3 FTEs for a 19-month period of time.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Singh adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.