

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on September 15, 2020

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 27, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

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

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.

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 27, 2020, meeting only the provisions in Article VI and Article VII of the Commission's Bylaws concerning oral communications from the public and

to allow for public comment to be provided in writing and read during the Human Services Commission meeting, was made by Commissioner Kline. Absent any objections, Chair Ma declared the motion adopted and the provisions in the bylaws to be suspended.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 4, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Amirfaiz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mercer and the motion carried without dissent; Commissioner Piper abstained from voting.

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. 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano explained that all CDBG activities must be eligible and must meet a national objective, namely benefitting low- or moderate-income persons; preventing or limiting slums and blight; or meet an urgent need. Bellevue has always chosen the first objective. All applications are screened by the staff to ensure that they meet the national objectives and eligibility requirements. The Commission reviews the applications and makes preliminary funding recommendations, holds a public hearing, makes any adjustments, votes on final recommendations and sends them forward to the City Council for approval.

The estimated 2021 funding amount of \$833,000 based on the 2020 amount. The actual amount will not be known until Congress passes the 2021 national budget and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) completes its formula calculations. It is likely that Congress will approve a continuing resolution and will not vote on a new budget until at least after the election in November. Also available for distribution is program income in the form of paybacks from the home repair program. Those funds are estimated to be about \$200,000. In all, the estimated total of CDBG funds is \$1,033,000.

Continuing, Ms. Catalano said CDBG funding can be earmarked for three areas: planning and administration, which is capped at 20 percent of the entitlement amount and current-year program income; public services, which is capped at 15 percent of the entitlement plus 15 percent of the prior year program income; and capital, which has no cap.

Among the many surprises of the Covid-19 pandemic, the city received CDBG CV funds which were appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act in March. Bellevue received \$489,623 in 2020. On May 18 the Council allocated the funds to homeless services. The Congregations for the Homeless men’s shelter received \$244,812, and the Sophia Way women’s shelter received \$244,811. The Council made the decision given the required

timeframe and the fact that the Commission was not meeting at the time.

There are unspent prior year funds for several reasons, including the fact that loan repayments must be spent first and thus they displace entitlement funds. However, as part of the CARES Act, HUD waived the 15 percent cap on public services for program year 2019 and 2020 projects, freeing the city to spend as it wants on public services. The Council also chose to award \$506,934 on May 18 from unallocated prior year funds to public services activities. The Council allocated the funds to emergency financial assistance, child care subsidies and legal advocacy, including domestic violence advocacy.

Ms. Catalano noted that of the 2021 applications received, the currently funded programs include planning and administration, Sound Generations Minor Home Repair Program, and King County Housing Authority Major Home Repair Program. Ventures, which was funded in 2020, chose not to apply for 2021 CDBG funding, and has informed the city that it cannot use the additional \$25,000 awarded them per the contingency plan. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the small businesses Ventures assists and that has overwhelmed many of their plans for conducting additional workshops. The proposal of the staff is to reallocate the \$25,000 in 2020 entitlement funds to Child Care Resources for additional child care subsidies. The organization has indicated the need is great and that it can definitely use the additional funds. An amendment to the Annual Action Plan is not required because the \$25,000 is not more than 50 percent of the grant Child Care Resources is currently receiving, and the \$25,000 can simply be added to their current CDBG contract.

Ms. Catalano said she asked representatives of some currently funded programs what adjustments they have had to make to provide services under Covid-19. Sound Generation Minor Home Repair indicated they have had to provide personal protective equipment for all staff and clients, and that they are postponing until Phase IV any repair requests that need two technicians in the home, unless there is space for social distancing. They are accepting self-verification of income where clients cannot go out and gather needed documentation; when possible, the required documents will be gathered. King County Housing Authority Major Home Repair Program is taking applications and all follow-up through the mail; they are conducting no in-person meetings. The organization is following all Phase II construction requirements. Work is only being done on external projects and contractors are not allowed to enter client homes except for emergency repairs.

One application was received from a new unfunded program called Seattle Business Education Hub. The program provides business technical assistance and financial literacy training, which is microenterprise assistance, the same category Ventures falls under. Their training includes basic business accounting, personal finance, marketing, pricing, business taxes, legal issues and commercial leases. The application proposes four financial literacy and four basic business training courses every eight weeks in the organization's Bellevue office near the Bellevue Botanical Garden. They are projecting to serve 80 Bellevue residents with the requested funding. The organization has had an office in Bellevue since 2016 and the executive director participated on the advisory committee for the Startup 425 strategic plan, and is also a founding member of Eastside For All and has worked closely with Eastside partners on economic development issues. He also has experience managing CDBG funds for the city of Seattle and has provided technical assistance to the city of Lakewood relative to its CDBG loan packaging program.

Microenterprise, and the Seattle Business Education Hub program in particular, aligns with two strategies in Bellevue's draft economic development plan: working with partner organizations to expand access to technical training to entrepreneurs and small business owners, with a focus on those with diverse backgrounds; and focusing Bellevue's existing business retention and expansion program by building relationships with entrepreneurs and

small businesses across sectors.

Ms. Catalano reiterated that a formal vote to reallocate the \$25,000 was not necessary. She did, however, seek the Commission's endorsement of the proposed action.

A motion to endorse the proposal to reallocate \$25,000 from Ventures to Child Care Resources, and to add the \$25,000 to the existing Child Care Resources CDBG contract, was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried unanimously.

Turning to the CDBG requests, Ms. Catalano noted that Jewish Family Service tends to request a single lump sum and said their request was for \$205,000. Currently the agency is receiving \$58,166 from the General Fund, and due to the supplanting rules that amount cannot be reduced. Keeping the General Fund allocation where it is would mean a difference of \$146,834 to come from CDBG funds. The request for planning and administration totaled \$56,910. She explained that the city can charge the Annual Action Plan and other planning efforts to planning, so some of the money previously allocated to administration will be transferred to planning. The planning number also is increased over last year due to the fact that during 2021 the Needs Update will be developed. The request from Seattle Business Education Hub is for \$225,000. The Major Home Repair Program request totaled \$500,000, and the Minor Home Repair Program sought \$88,200.

Ms. Catalano said there were no sufficient funds to give Seattle Business Education Hub their full request and recommended \$96,998. The workshops are currently being provided virtually and that approach will continue for as long as necessary. She said she confirmed with the organization that they could use that amount of funding.

Commissioner Jain asked what languages the workshops are provided in. Ms. Catalano said the staff and volunteers of the organization speak English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Ethiopian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Swahili. They are able to provide interpretive services as well.

Commissioner Kline asked if there are any ARCH projects going on in the city that the Commission should be aware of. Ms. Catalano said she was not aware of any. Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly said ARCH has most recently been focused on the men's shelter and the new women and family shelter in Kirkland.

Commissioner Mercer asked about what needs, if any, the men's shelter in Bellevue might need during the coming two years. Ms. Catalano said there currently is no appetite in applying for CDBG funds. The desire is to avoid introducing federal funds into the project because of the level of complications that would usher in.

Chair Ma asked if the lifting of the cap on human services means additional CDBG funds could be earmarked for shelter. Ms. Catalano explained that the cap has not been lifted on 2021 funding, only 2019 and 2020.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out the need to be careful about deciding to fund something only to see the cap go back down, making it a struggle to replace one thing for another. Ms. Catalano said part of the rules for being able to spend above the cap is that the projects must be directly tied to preparing for, preventing or responding to the Coronavirus. Ongoing general activities cannot be funded.

A motion to accept the recommendations for CDBG funding as proposed by staff was made by Commissioner Mercer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Catalano said the CDBG public hearing was slated for October 6.

B. Endorsement of CARES Act Funding Recommendations for Emergency Financial Assistance

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that in early August the Council approved \$500,000 from the CARES Act funds for human services. She noted the Commission had previously approved allocating \$300,000 for food scarcity and on August 24 the Council approved by resolution the allocation to Hopelink for \$127,000, and to the Bellevue School District for \$160,000. Council action on those items were required because the allocations exceed \$90,000, the cap for being able to complete a contract with the city without Council approval. The Council thanked the Commission for quickly developing a recommendation and facilitating getting the funds out the door.

Ms. O'Reilly said the balance of the \$500,000 allocation were designed by the Council for emergency financial assistance. At the direction of the Council, a Request for Qualifications was sent out to ensure that the funds will be earmarked for Black, indigenous and people of color, and for people with significant barriers to accessing regular human services programs. As with the allocations for food, the Council wanted to see the funds released into the community as quickly as possible.

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland said the RFQ was clear about only funding agencies that do not currently include emergency financial assistance funds from the city. An additional requirement was that agencies applying for this funding would agree not to ask for social security numbers or any other citizen status documentation. In all, seven agencies applied, two of which did not meet the funding requirements: 4Tomorrow and Kits for Peace. She clarified that staff went back to agencies after the application was closed and encouraged them to prioritize emergency financial assistance since the additional \$300,000 was allocated for food assistance. Agency budgets were accordingly adjusted to remove the food assistance.

The Commissioners were provided with a spreadsheet outlining the requests and the associated staff recommendations. Ms. Stangland pointed out that the staff proposed giving Jubilee Reach its full request; Attain Housing, LifeSpring and MCRC \$45,000 each; and Imagine Housing a smaller amount given that the funds would only be available to Imagine Housing residents rather than the public.

Commissioner Mercer asked if the funds would be in addition to the funds the agencies are applying for through the regular allocation process. Ms. Stangland clarified that the additional funds are not part of the regular allocation process in that they must be spent by December 31, 2020. There is no expectation on the part of the agencies that the funds will carry over into the regular allocation of funds.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked for clarification with regard to the number of clients served. Ms. Stangland said the numbers shown reflect the request of each agency. The numbers vary significantly based on the rental amounts the agencies give. For instance, Jubilee Reach does not give more than \$300, allowing the agency to serve more clients but with fewer dollars per client.

Commissioner Mercer noted that some agencies work together to fund things. Ms. O'Reilly confirmed that. She added that while some agencies are moving toward larger subsidies, the immediate desire is to get funds out the door quickly to help people stay in their homes and avoid eviction. The agencies will be allowed to be flexible in eliminating barriers.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that LifeSpring is able to do the work with much lower staffing costs than the other agencies.

A motion to endorse the recommendations of the staff for distributing the CARES Act funding for emergency financial assistance was made by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion of 2021-2022 Human Services General Fund Applications: Round 2, Goal 1

Commissioner Kline noted that previously the Commission had discussed the concept of establishing a percentage of the human service budget for the new shelter programs and housing in general. While the Commission ultimately did not come up with a percentage, the discussion was enlightening in that it highlighted the need to approach the funding cycle differently from how it has been approached in the past and that having a rubric or an agreed-on approach might be helpful. There is a COLA amount handed to the Commission based on a formula the city applies to the human services fund, and that is a good thing; Bellevue is in fact the only city that utilizes a formula for calculating COLA increases. She proposed putting the entire increase in the human services budget as a starting placeholder towards the two new day shelters, and then to allow for some flexibility to give additional money to the shelter programs, or to fund new programs, or to give increases to existing programs, the approach taken should be to first do the least amount of harm in looking at funding the continuum of services. For the larger agencies, where the city's contribution toward their budgets is the smallest percentage of their budgets, the city's award has the least impact on their operations or their ability to provide services.

Continuing, Commissioner Kline said she worked with staff to look at the large agencies and determine on a program basis what percentage Bellevue's funding was to the total program budget. She said every program should, of course, be reviewed individually and funded based on its merits, but as a starting point, the opening contribution to agencies should be flat funding rather than a COLA increase. Then to create a potential pool of additional funds, funding should be reduced for the larger agencies for which Bellevue's contribution is a small percentage of their program budgets. Those freed funds could then be targeted toward new or existing programs, and if there are additional monies in the end, consideration could be given to re-funding the large agencies or to giving a COLA increase in other agencies.

Commissioner Kline shared with the Commissioners a spreadsheet indicating those agencies for which Bellevue's contribution is a small percentage of their program budgets. She pointed out that while the allocations to the Bellevue School District early and extended learning program and the Boys & Girls Club project learn program represent a small portion of those program budgets, the city's dollars go for scholarships and thus the more given the greater the number of participants in the program. Additionally, for Hopelink's emergency food program and Eastside Baby Corner's basic needs program, a large percentage of their budgets comes from in-kind contributions, so to take away hard dollars from them would have a large impact on the programs. A natural break was identified for those programs for which Bellevue's contribution is less than 1.5 percent. She suggested temporarily reducing and/or defunding the HealthPoint medical and dental programs, the International Community Health Services dental program, the Asian Counseling and Resource Service mental health program, the Crisis Line program, the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center sexual assault services program and the Therapeutic Health Services alcohol/drug treatment program for the current cycle and invite them to reapply during the next cycle. The funds thus freed could be earmarked for the shelters and those programs flagged for additional funding.

Chair Ma said he could support the proposal as an alternative to identifying a flat percentage

to give to the shelter programs. He suggested it would be an easy exercise for staff to simply go back and enter flat funding.

Commissioner Mansfield asked if the budgets listed for 2021 were created pre- or post-Covid. Chair Ma said it was his understanding that the figures shown were just general program budgets. Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that some of the agencies listed in the spreadsheet were not able to have their big annual fundraisers due to the pandemic and they have lost out on huge chunks of their funding as a result. He said his concern was that the percentages shown may not offer a true reflection. Ms. Stangland said the numbers from the application were determined early in the pandemic at a time when the agencies likely did not know what budget impacts they would face.

Commissioner Kline said she had no expectation that the Commission would simply accept the list as presented. She said the agencies shown are simply those that met the stated parameter.

Ms. O'Reilly commented that a couple of agencies on the spreadsheet are known to be filling a huge need. Therapeutic Health Services is a case in point in that there still is a huge opioid crisis. It would be a good candidate to flag for additional funds. She agreed that fundraising has been an issue for many agencies during Covid-19 and many are not meeting their goals.

Chair Ma asked for comments regarding the suggestion that flat funding should be the default position.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said in its deliberations the Commission had decided to give some agencies more funding because of the clear needs. Homelessness and shelters are addressing a huge need, but she said she was reluctant to weaken other infrastructures simply to put money aside for shelters. Commissioner Jain agreed.

Commissioner Kline said it was not her intent to scale back funding for the agencies the Commission had already decided should be given more. She said she was more focused on keeping flat those applications to which a COLA increase was given simply because that was the Commission's default.

Commissioner Mansfield said he favored Commissioner Kline's recommendation given that clarification. Commissioner Mercer concurred, as did Commissioner Piper. Commissioners Amirfaiz and Jain said they were also comfortable with the approach given the clarification, and Chair Ma agreed as well.

Ms. Catalano shared with the Commissioners a spreadsheet showing flat funding for all applications for which a COLA increase was given as a default.

With regard to the suggestion to review the large agencies for which Bellevue's contribution is only a small percentage of their program budget, and to potentially reduce their funding allocation, Commissioner Amirfaiz said she needed to know exactly what criteria would be used to make the determination. Chair Ma said each application would need to be individually and openly discussed, and said the only criteria would be to identify those agencies that would best be able to absorb a reduction in funding from Bellevue.

Commissioner Jain indicated she was on board with the recommendation as clarified. Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Commissioner Mercer agreed with Commissioner Amirfaiz about the need to be careful to avoid crippling the rest of the human services continuum just to fund the shelter programs.

She stressed the importance of funding the shelters, however, and said any approach to determine how to do that would be good.

Commissioner Piper said he was reluctant to pick any certain cutoff percentage, but agreed the general exercise would be helpful.

There was consensus to frame the discussions going forward in light of the proposed flat funding approach for the large agencies.

The Commission returned to reviewing the applications in Goal 2.

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

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the program has been redesigned and is no longer called the cultural navigator. One significant difference, however, is that the program as described in the application offers a Chinese and a Russian support person but does not include a Latinx support person. That will leave a gap in the system. She said staff had a conversation with Debbie Lacy and with staff from Kirkland and Redmond and the conclusion was that funds should be set aside by the three cities and then to in January 2021 put out a request for qualifications for some type of cultural navigator program with a Latinx focus. The city of Kirkland has followed through with that by setting aside \$30,000. Redmond has not yet set aside funds but appears interested in doing so. She asked the Commission to consider doing the same using a placeholder number.

Commissioner Piper asked if the placeholder would be part of the current ask. Ms. O'Reilly said it could simply be added to the spreadsheet as a placeholder. Where the funds would come from would need to be determined later.

Commissioner Piper said his original thinking was that the family resource support program should be kept at the same funding level. He suggested a Latinx cultural navigator should be highlighted for a possible additional ask.

Commissioner Mercer said she would consider reducing the funding to account for the fact that the Latinx component has been removed from the program, and using the leftover funds for a new Latinx cultural navigator program. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the agency intends to offer additional support services for the two language groups that will continue to be served. Commissioner Mercer said her concern was that in general the city has had a lot of impact on Latinx programs over the past few years. It seems few new programs are coming along while many of the old programs are being negatively impacted. If the agency wants to consolidate its services into only two languages, the Commission should consider allocating a little less funding to the program, holding over the balance for the new Latinx program.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended reducing the funding for the program for the reasons stated by Commissioner Mercer. Commissioners Mansfield and Jain agreed.

Commissioner Kline said she could support that approach as well, though she added that cultural navigator programs are critical and if reduced funding weakens the safety net at all, there will need to be a cultural navigator program to help folks find alternative services. Ms. O'Reilly stated that the city is offering some kind of navigation services at Mini City Hall for Covid-19 related services. Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Community Services Toni Esparza confirmed that but said she did not have additional information in terms of how the service is being staffed. Ms. O'Reilly said she would follow-up on it.

Chair Ma argued in favor of keeping the funding level flat for the application. He noted that the number of persons served has been going up with increased numbers from the Chinese and Russian populations. Commissioner Piper said he would support that approach.

Commissioner Mercer said she would agree until the Commission has better numbers in hand around what will be left over, especially if more funding is to be earmarked for shelter programs. The application should be flagged as one possible place to free up some funding.

Commissioner Amirfaiz reiterated her recommendation to decrease funding for the application, but said she would agree to keeping it flat if everyone agreed to do so. Commissioner Jain agreed with keeping the funding flat. Commissioner Mansfield said he would agree but would want the application flagged in line with Commissioner Mercer's reasoning. Commissioner Kline concurred.

There was agreement to keep the funding flat and to flag the application for a possible reduction to free funds for a Latinx cultural navigator.

46. Families of Color Seattle – Parent Groups for Families of Color

Commissioner Piper said the new ask elicited some question marks during the first review round. He said he continued to have reservations about the number of residents served and how stable the program is in the current budget environment. He proposed not funding the program but encouraging the applicant to apply again during the next funding cycle.

There was agreement not to fund the application.

48. India Association of Western Washington – Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Piper noted the increase in the ask over the previous allocation was 21 percent. He recommended flat funding.

There was agreement to keep the funding flat.

49. India Association of Western Washington – Human Services

Commissioner Piper said the ask represents an increase of 86 percent. He also recommended keeping the funding level flat.

There was agreement to keep the funding flat.

55. MAPS/ MCRC – Information, Referrals and Resources
56. MAPS/ MCRC – Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Chair Ma said Application 55 seeks funding to hire someone to help in providing assistance. He recommended funding the program given the large reach MCRC has. He said he would recommend against funding Application 56 given that it does not seem to have a far-reaching impact.

Commissioner Mansfield concurred. He said if he were to fund either Application 55 or Application 56, it would be Application 55.

Commissioner Mercer said she agreed with the recommendation as proposed. Commissioners Amirfaiz, Jain and Kline agreed as well.

There was agreement to fully fund Application 55 and to not fund Application 56.

60. Youth Eastside Services – Latinx Programs

Chair Ma said the program targets Latinx students, a population the Commission has identified as lacking programming. He said he would like to fund the application but not at the full amount. He proposed funding at the \$20,000 level.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed the program is important, especially with schools being online. The program targets kids who are headed toward dropping out, especially those in the Latinx population. He said he also wanted to see the program funded at half of the ask. He indicated, however, that he could support the \$20,000 level.

Commissioner Mansfield offered his support for the application as well and said he leaned more toward the \$20,000 level.

Commissioner Mercer said she would prefer to see the program funded at closer to \$30,000 precisely because it targets the Latinx community.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that because the program targets low-income Latinx persons, it can use Title XIX, which it often does. She said she would prefer to fund the program at the \$20,000 level. Commissioner Jain agreed with funding at that level.

Commissioner Kline said she did not see anything in the application that mentions the degree to which the program is intertwined with the resource officers in the schools. Resource officers are certainly focused on the Latinx population, and for that reason she said he would be comfortable funding the program at the lower end of the funding range. She said she could support \$20,000. Commissioner Mercer said she could also support that level to free up funds to go into a Latinx cultural navigator program.

There was consensus to earmark \$20,000 for the program and to add a flag to tie in Application 41.

40. Catholic Community Services of King County – Volunteer Services

Commissioner Piper said the ask was 21 percent higher than previously. He recommended flat funding, especially since the increase in the number of residents served was very modest.

There was agreement to hold the funding flat.

42. Chinese Information and Service Center – Russian Senior Day Program

Commissioner Piper said the request was a 32 percent increase over the previous funding level. He recommended flat funding for the program.

There was agreement to hold the funding flat.

43. Community Homes – Housing Education and Navigation for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Commissioner Piper noted that the ask was actually lower than the previous ask. He recommended fully funding the request.

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

51. KidsQuest Children's Museum – Sensory Access Programming

Commissioner Mansfield said the noble program serves low-income autistic children and children with other disabilities. He said, however, that in the current climate the needs are greater elsewhere and the application should not be funded.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed, particularly in light of the fact that the program is an in-person hands-on experience which does not fit with the Covid-19 environment. Commissioners Mansfield, Piper, Mercer, Jain and Amirfaiz agreed.

Commissioner Kline said she was surprised by the recommendation not to fund the application given how much press there has been on the topic of autism and how much harder hit families with autistic and disabled kids have been hit by the pandemic. Their needs to keep them progressing are difficult to meet at home. She said she would prefer to see the program funded at some level and suggested \$10,000.

Commissioner Mercer said the argument of Commissioner Kline was persuasive, but in the current cutting mode aimed at supporting other needs is also persuasive.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested the application could be marked for the other funding sources column.

Chair Ma agreed with the argument made by Commissioner Kline but said he was remained on the side of not funding the application. He said he would be fine with marking the application for additional funding. The program has not previously been funded by the city, and the needs in other categories are clear and the number of persons needing services because of the pandemic is increasing, while the number of autistic and disabled children is not increasing as a result of the pandemic.

Commissioner Kline observed that the program is projected to serve 637 residents, which is a sizable number. She proposed funding at the \$5000 level. Commissioner Mansfield said he could be persuaded to fund the program at the \$5000 or \$10,000 level. He agreed that the program is valuable. Commissioners Commissioner Piper and Mercer said they could support funding at \$10,000.

Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that the dosage is very low. She said if the application is funded, other programs aimed at families of color should also be funded. She reiterated her recommendation against funding the application. Commissioner Jain said she had changed her mind and recommended against funding the program.

Commissioner Kline said if not funded in the regular cycle, the program should be held out as appropriate for any additional dollars that come along.

There was agreement not to fund the application and to give it an asterisk for addition funding if any is found.

52. Kindering Center – Families in Transition

Chair Ma voiced concern over the low numbers of residents served. The program screens for early intervention children who are experiencing homelessness. The program has not been funded in the past and he said he was inclined to not fund the application.

Commissioner Mansfield recommended passing on funding the program, largely due to the

small population served. It is more important to homeless kids that they get a roof over their heads, though health intervention certainly is also important.

Commissioner Piper agreed to pass on the application.

Commissioner Mercer highlighted the importance of the program and said she was inclined to fund it at some level.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended against funding the application, as did Commissioner Jain.

Commissioner Kline also recommended not funding the program. She agreed that having a roof overhead is far more important to children. She pointed out that Kindering is getting money from other programs and the agency may be able to find another way to fund the service.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

53. Kindering Center – Parenting Plus

Chair Ma noted that the program serves parents from multiple backgrounds. He said in reading through the application he did not see how the program reaches those who are most in need. He recommended against funding the application.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed, adding that the program is not advertised outside of referrals.

There was agreement not to fund the application.

45. Eastside Legal Assistance Program – Legal Assistance

Commissioner Piper recommended funding at the full ask. He said the program plays a critical role and has experienced a sizeable increase in the number of residents served. Commissioners Mercer, Amirfaiz and Jain agreed.

Commissioner Kline asked what funding ELAP previously was awarded. Ms. Catalano said it received funds strictly related to legal assistance for people facing eviction because of the pandemic. Those funds must be spent quickly. Commissioner Kline said she was good with the full ask. Chair Ma concurred as well

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

54. King County Bar Association – Pro Bono Services

Chair Ma said the program provides legal assistance as well as rental assistance to landlords in the form of back rent and legal services for housing and debt. He recommended fully funding the ask.

There was agreement to fully fund the application.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

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 Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date