

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on July 20, 2021

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 15, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Kline, Commissioners Amirfaiz, Mansfield, McClure, Mercer, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ma

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Chair Kline 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, the Commission's by-laws regarding remote participation and the order of business were suspended until such time as meetings were no longer being held remotely.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 18, 2021

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

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano read into the record a letter received from Monik Martinez, executive director of 4Tomorrow, in which she acknowledged the great honor of providing cultural navigator services for the city's Latinx residents. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity, noting that she previously worked for the Bellevue School District and learned how the education system works, how families seek support, and how

beautiful and resilient the community is. She said she holds a degree in psychology and has more than seven years experience in providing culturally sensitive social services to her community. She said she also serves as a member of the Bellevue Arts Commission and also graduated from the Bellevue Essentials class of 2020. She said she loves the city's vibrancy, diversity and efforts to make it a welcoming space for all. It has been a crazy year and it could get crazier as the eviction moratorium ends in 15 days. Latinx community members are terrified and scrambling to find assistance to stay in their homes. Hundreds of panic calls are being received weekly from throughout the county. She said 4Tomorrow was contracted with the first rental assistance program in King County (EPRAP) and is now contracted for the second. In just the last two weeks connections have been made with more than 50 Bellevue residents that are at risk of eviction. They were signed up for EPRAP and connected with the city's conflict resolution center. Additional resources have been shared with them, and they have been asked to wait patiently for more information. When connecting with the undocumented population that did not qualify for stimulus checks or unemployment payments, a direct relief payment of \$400 is provided. The agency is doing all it can to keep people housed and to ease their worries, but there is not much else that can be done and anxiety in the community is through the roof. The agency partners with India Association of Western Washington to distribute funding for the rental assistance programs for the cities of Bellevue and Kirkland, but there is no estimated time of arrival for those funds. Keeping people in their homes is a much better option than allowing them to suffer the trauma of eviction and homelessness. The Commission's advocacy for quicker funding and greater solutions to prevent homelessness in the city is greatly appreciated.

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

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis informed the Commission that the Council unanimously voted to accept federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, which was passed by Congress to address the effects of Covid-19. The approval was part of a larger budget briefing that included an update on the city's overall finances. Despite spending about \$4.5 million from the city's reserves to help balance the \$24 million loss of revenues due to the pandemic and its related impacts, Bellevue's general fund performed better than expected in 2020. The remaining delta was addressed through expenditure reductions such as hiring delays and reduced costs associated with closed facilities. Funding received through the CARES Act also helped. The city's 2021 financial performance is close to the budget expectations. The current full-year forecast shows that the city should be using less from its reserves in 2021 than anticipated. Recovery from the pandemic is expected to materials much quicker than in past economic recessions. The city expects that in less than five years expenses will outpace revenues, and the Council began addressing that issue prior to the pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act funds total about \$20.1 million over two years and will be approved for allocation on the consent calendar of a future Council meeting.

With regard to the eviction moratorium, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis reported that it could come to an end at the end of June. Just what actions Governor Inslee will take in that regard, if any, are not known. The Council directed the City Attorney's Office to evaluate the legal implications of the potential adoption of an ordinance providing for a temporary moratorium on residential tenant evictions in Bellevue. To date, the city has provided rental assistance to some 1600 Bellevue households totaling about \$1.7 million. The city and the Commission are doing great work to address the issue, and the entire Council wants to have a better understanding of just how big the issue is. The data provided by the staff has been very helpful.

Chair Kline made the point that behind every person struggling to make rental payments there is a landlord that is not collecting income. The fact that city dollars have been used to keep

people in their homes is helping more than just the renters. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis agreed and noted that there recently was an op-ed in the *Seattle Times* on that point.

Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Community Services Toni Esparza pointed out that the data provided to the Council came from Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Planner Christy Stangland and Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano.

6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

A. Review of Bellevue Behavioral Health and Housing Related Service Applications

Chair Kline commented that because of the compressed timeline for developing recommendations for the allocation of the available funds, the Commission would have only two meetings to reach conclusions. The usual process is for the Commissioners to read through the applications and then make the presentations during Commission meetings. To shorten the process, however, she noted that staff would be presenting the information, after which the Commissioners would discuss the applications.

Chair Kline noted that staff had concluded three of the applications, Crisis Connections and HERO House in the Behavioral Health category, and Imagine Housing in the Supportive Services category, did not fit the criteria and were therefore excluded. Subsequent to staff making that determination, Imagine Housing came back with more information and staff then determined that the application is in fact eligible. Rolling the application back into the total, the balance available to allocate is 50.07 percent of the request. Funding every application in a prorated manner with the funds that are available would mean cutting every request exactly in half.

Chair Kline noted that the 25 applications were divided into the three overall categories of rental assistance, behavioral health services and supportive services. She said there were two subcategories under rental assistance, six in the behavioral health services, and two in supportive services. She allowed that there could be some discussion about allocating funds to each of the three buckets, or about minimizing the number of agencies in a particular category to reduce the overall number of contracts and thereby reduce administrative costs, but in the interest of time she proposed deferring those types of conversations to the next meeting.

It was pointed out that staff had assigned applications to specific Commissioners, not for the purpose of doing an in-depth analysis but rather to be the ones to kick off the conversation regarding whether an application should be funded or not, and if funded, if the possibility existed to fund them at a less than 100 percent.

Ms. O'Reilly said two points apply to all of the applications. She said one is that staff analyzed each of the applications for eligibility in regard to the newly adopted financial requirements, and all were deemed to be eligible. Accordingly, that issue will not need to be discussed. Second, staff conducted a broad analysis of each application in terms of the percentage or balance of the BIPOC and White clients served by the agency per the application. She pointed out that within the White race are many that represent a wide range of diversity, including people who are Russian and people who are Iranian.

❖ Attain Housing – Supportive Services, Case Management

Ms. Catalano said the first application in the supportive services category was Attain Housing.

She said the case management program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The application seeks \$82,936 to be used for case management services that help individuals and/or families achieve housing stability. Attain Housing clients meet weekly with their case managers to receive services.

Chair Kline commented that the program would serve eight households estimated to be 28 people overall. Within the request for \$82,936, \$32,490 is earmarked for services that are not eligible, leaving an eligible balance of \$50,446, the majority of which would be used to hire an additional .8 FTE staff person. She recommended funding the application at \$50,446. There was consensus around preliminarily that funding amount.

❖ Hopelink – Family Development Program

Ms. Catalano said the application for Hopelink’s Family Development Program also serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. She said the application seeks \$45,000 to provide case management services aimed at helping individuals and/or families achieve housing stability and to maintain financial stability. The families would meet weekly with their case managers following an overall assessment of their needs.

Chair Kline said she noted from the application that the program has two units of service. The first is counseling and as proposed 70 people will be served. The second component involves rental assistance vouchers and if funded 60 would be provided. The application indicates that \$10,000 of the allocation would be set aside for that purpose. She suggested the vouchers do not fall under the scope of supportive services and suggested funding the application at \$35,000, which would fund one FTE staff to expand the agency’s counseling services. She added that the Commission already funds the program and the application would represent an expansion of it.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application at \$35,000.

❖ Imagine Housing – Resident Support Services

Ms. Catalano said the application from Imagine Housing is for their Resident Support Services program. The application was deemed eligible after receiving additional information. The program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The application seeks \$135,010 to provide case management services aimed at helping individuals and/or families achieve housing stability. The program would address the acute needs the agency has seen in regard to people transitioning directly from homelessness into their housing, and address the needs of families caused by loss of employment, isolation and other trauma, triggered by the pandemic.

Chair Kline said if funded the application would fund two FTEs to enable adding a swing shift to facilitate the provision of supportive services to residents of Imagine Housing’s units. She suggested putting down a preliminary number of \$67,500, which would cover only one additional FTE. The Commissioners agreed.

❖ Immigrant Women’s Community Center – Case Management

Ms. Catalano said the application from Immigrant Women’s Community Center is also for a case management program. The application indicates that the program only served two clients in 2020, both of whom were listed as Other race, which technically means the program serves majority non-White clients. The request is for \$10,000 for to provide strength-based case management services to help immigrant women and their families navigate systems to get the support that they need. The application includes a \$5000 line item for rental assistance, which is not eligible under the supportive services category.

Chair Kline said her reading of the application was that \$9000 of the requested \$10,000 would go for salary. Currently the agency does not pay salaries. It does not sound like funding the application would result in an expansion of staff, rather it would fund someone already there. She said she was troubled by the fact that their service unit as defined in the application is vouchers for rental assistance, not counseling. She suggested the application should be eliminated unless more information is received from the agency showing that the service unit is different from what was stated in the application.

Ms. Stangland said she followed up with the agency in regard to the budget numbers and clarified that \$5000 of the total ask would go to salary and \$5000 to direct client assistance. Ms. Esparza noted the inclusion in the application of a parenthetical statement that was an example from staff in the original application. Chair Kline said she was happy to adjust her reading of the application.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she was concerned about the numbers and the program budget for 2021. She said it seems the program is well behind its year-to-date versus the budgeted amounts. She said she also was concerned the program would only serve 10 Bellevue residents. She said she was conflicted given the low numbers of Bellevue residents served to date and projected to be served.

Ms. O'Reilly said one option would be to include \$5000 as a placeholder and make a final determination at the next meeting.

Commissioner Mercer said she was not sure the program would yield the desired bang for the buck. She said the agency could be given some guidance and the Commission could look at opportunities to fund them in the future.

Chair Kline said she was leaning toward passing on the application. Commissioners Amirfaiz, Mercer, McClure, Piper and Mansfield all concurred.

❖ Attain Housing – Stable Home Rental Assistance

Moving on to the rental assistance category, Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that the demographics charts for each application shows each serves a majority BIPOC population. She noted that Attain Housing's Stable Home Rental Assistance program application sought \$408,651, all to be used for rental assistance and staff salaries and benefits.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that there are several agencies working in the city that provide rental assistance. She said the Commission finds it hard not to fund them all, yet dividing the limited dollars among many agencies often results in just spending money on overhead instead of direct services. She suggested it would be better to give a large sum of money to two agencies than to give the same amount to several agencies. The application from Attain Housing points out that their program would serve 108 households with the requested funds. Their application also contemplates giving a large amount to each client to avoid having to cobble funds together from different sources. Additionally, with the way they have their budget set, a significant portion of the funding would go to direct aid to client and less would go for salaries and overhead. She proposed funding the application at the \$200,000 level.

Chair Kline asked if the clients served by the program are limited to those living in Attain Housing units. Ms. O'Reilly said the program in fact serves everyone in the community, not just those in their housing units.

Commissioner Piper agreed with the notion of not spreading the available funds too thinly among too many programs. He said Attain Housing has been a solid partner and said he would support funding the application at half the ask. Commissioner Mansfield and McClure agreed. Commissioner McClure said she particularly liked the idea of not having to cobble together funds from different sources to get clients what they need. Both noted their support for funding at the \$200,000 level and the consensus of the Commission was to preliminarily allocate that amount.

❖ 4Tomorrow – Life Services Program

Ms. O'Reilly said the 4Tomorrow application seeks \$150,000, and noted that all funds would be used for direct financial assistance to households. Up to \$1500 would be used for 100 households. If funded, 4Tomorrow will work in partnership with their Life Services program previously funded by the Commission for the Latinx cultural navigator program. The funds would help clients gain rental assistance and funds to assist with move-in costs.

Commissioner Mercer commented that the \$1500 per household was higher than what other programs are able to do. She said one strong thing about the application is that most of the funds would go to Bellevue residents in the form of direct aid to clients. She recommended preliminarily giving the application \$100,000. There was agreement concerning the suggestion.

Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the application makes it clear that all funds acquired must be used to provide services for Bellevue residents, even if they provide services to other parts of east King County.

❖ AmPowering – Rental Assistance & Interim Shelter

Ms. O'Reilly said the AmPowering program title in the application indicated both rental assistance and interim shelter, the latter of which is not an eligible service for the RFP. Should the Commission decide to fund the program, it will be necessary to adjust the contract and scope of work to specify the funds can only be used for rental assistance. The request is for \$100,000 and the budget indicates \$90,000 would be used for direct aid to clients in the form of rental assistance and move-in costs, with the balance going toward salaries and some overhead costs. The agency has not previously been funded by the Commission.

Commissioner Mercer said she did believe the application was as strong as the others in the category. She said she was reluctant to add another rental assistance program to the mix. There is nothing that distinguishes the program from others. The application talks about catering culturally appropriate meals and helping 280,000 people during Covid, yet the demographic section only talks about 30 people. She recommended against funding the application.

Commissioner Piper said he had reached the same conclusion and stressed his desire to see the available funding focused on a core number of partners rather than expanding the number of agencies.

Commissioner McClure voiced support for that approach, as did Commissioner Amirfaiz who said it would be a stretch for the agency to go from serving 30 to 100 people. Commissioner Mansfield concurred as well.

❖ Bellevue LifeSpring – Emergency Rental Assistance

Ms. O'Reilly said the Bellevue LifeSpring application seeks \$240,000 for emergency rental

assistance and move-in costs. She said all funds would be used for direct aid to clients in the form of rental and move-in assistance. She pointed out that Bellevue LifeSpring only serves families with children in the Bellevue School District.

Commissioner McClure said she liked the fact that all of the funds would go to directly benefit clients. The program addresses many of the concerns voiced by presenters over the last several weeks around families with children. She advocated funding the application at \$200,000 while also supporting the notion of funding only a few agencies.

Commissioner Piper voiced support for at least partially funding the application.

Ms. Catalano pointed out that Bellevue LifeSpring is currently funded with \$25,000 by the city for rental assistance.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the merits of the application are solid and said she would fund it at \$150,000.

Commissioner Mansfield said he could see going either way. He said his inclination was to fund the application but at a lower level.

Chair Kline said she liked the fact that the program focuses specifically on families with children. She asked if staff had received any feedback with how the program is doing with the funds allocated through the regular funding cycle. Ms. Catalano said she would bring that information to the next study session. Chair Kline agreed to preliminarily funding at the \$150,000 level. Commissioner Mercer agreed.

There was consensus to preliminarily put \$150,000 into the recommended column.

❖ MAPS-MCRC – Rental Assistance Program

Ms. O'Reilly said the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) application is for the Muslim Community Resource Center program. The ask is for \$50,000 for their rental assistance program. The agency clarified in a follow-up email that \$35,000 of the requested \$50,000 would be used for direct client support, and \$15,000 would be used for salary and benefits for the staff providing the case management services.

Commissioner Mercer noted from the application that the agency is saying it will serve up to 200 households with the \$50,000. Ms. O'Reilly confirmed that. Commissioner Mercer also noted some confusion as to whether the reference was to 200 people served or 200 households served. Ms. O'Reilly said staff could seek clarification from the agency.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked staff to clarify the measurement tool used by the agency.

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that the contract coordinator will be tasked with working with agencies and helping them to develop appropriate outcomes and outputs.

Commissioner Mercer said she was conflicted. She said the MCRC is a good organization but said her reading of the application lead her to conclude the program does not meet the bar. She said she would prefer passing on the application until there is clarifying information submitted.

Commissioner Piper said his concern was with the number of residents served and with the portion of the overall ask that would go toward overhead.

Ms. Catalano noted that MAPS did receive an allocation of CARES Act funds in 2020 and the \$45,000 received served 80 households and 455 unduplicated residents with rental assistance.

There was consensus to table the application pending additional information.

❖ Salvation Army Eastside Community Center – Social Services

With regard to the application from Salvation Army for its Eastside Community Center program, Ms. O'Reilly said the requested \$30,000 would be used for direct aid to clients in the form of rental assistance. Ms. Catalano added that the agency also is receiving general fund dollars, and received additional rental assistance funds in 2020 when the Council allocated more money to that category.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the application appears to indicate the allocation would serve 350 unduplicated residents. Ms. O'Reilly confirmed that. Chair Kline noted that calculated out to a very small amount per client.

Commissioner Mercer said it felt like too low a number to be meaningful. Other programs aim to give out far more substantial grants. She said she would prefer not to fund the application. Commissioner Piper concurred, as did Commissioners McClure and Mansfield.

❖ Hopelink – Financial Resiliency Program

Ms. O'Reilly said the Hopelink application is for rental assistance and move-in assistance. The proposal is to use the entire \$250,000 for direct aid to clients and none for staff costs.

Commissioner Piper said having the full ask going to direct assistance stood out to him after reading the application, along with the number of unduplicated residents served at 190. He said that calculates out to about \$3000 per grant. He recommended full funding for the application.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that other agencies indicated in their applications that they would use the full funding received for direct assistance to clients. She recommended partially funding the application and suggested \$180,000.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that Hopelink has received previous funding for rental assistance. Ms. Catalano said they received \$42,792 from the general fund for the current year; \$106,934 in CDBG-CV1 funds; and \$100,000 from CDBG-CV3 funds. In 2020 Hopelink was one of the five currently funded programs that received an additional \$90,000 from the Council, all for rental assistance.

There was consensus to preliminarily earmark \$180,000 for the application.

❖ Imagine Housing – Rental Assistance Program

Ms. O'Reilly said the application seeks \$157,500 for rental assistance and move-in costs. She stressed that the funds would only be distributed to the residents of the agency's Bellevue site. Of the total, \$7500 would be used for administrative and indirect costs.

Commissioner Piper said the fact that \$150,000 of the total would go for direct aid stood out to him. However, only residents of Imagine Housing will be served. He proposed funding the application at \$100,000. Commissioners Mansfield and McClure agreed.

Commissioner Mercer reiterated her desire to see fewer programs funded with more money

each. She said she struggles with the notion of a non-profit only paying themselves. She said her inclination was to pass on funding the application. Commissioner McClure said she had the same sentiments, as did Chair Kline. Commissioners Mansfield and McClure said they could fall in line with that reasoning as well.

Commissioner Piper said he understood the arguments against funding the application but pointed out that it would still help residents in need. He stressed the need to be consistent, noting that some other agencies also use funding only to help their residents and clients.

Answering a question asked by Chair Kline, Ms. Catalano noted that Imagine Housing did not receive any CDBG-CV3 funding largely for the reasons just stated.

There was agreement to not fund the application.

❖ LifeWire – Covid-19 Rental Assistance

Ms. O'Reilly said the ask is for \$129,000 for their program that provides both rental assistance and move-in costs. She noted that \$90,000 of the total would be used for rental assistance and financial assistance; \$15,000 would be used for staff salaries and benefits; and \$24,000 would be used for administration and indirect costs. She pointed out that the amount indicated for administration exceeds the allowable 15 percent for administration and should the application be funded staff will work with the organization to adjust the costs to fit under the cap.

Commissioner Piper said he was compelled by the domestic violence population served by the program, but had concerns with the amount shown for overhead costs and the small number of residents served. He said his initial thought was to pass on the application but allowed he could be convinced otherwise.

Commissioner McClure said she could support passing on the application in the interest of consolidating the number of funded programs.

Commissioner Mercer said she was struggling with the program as well. The program offers exactly what the domestic violence population needs and is the only program serving that specific population. The program also assists with move-in costs.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she could support the program at the \$50,000 level. Commissioner Mansfield said he could get behind that number even with the limited number of residents that would be served. Commissioner Mercer said she was willing to go with that number. Chair Kline said she was thinking of funding at \$45,000, which would be \$3000 each for the 15 unduplicated clients; that, however, would leave nothing for their overhead.

Ms. Catalano noted that for the current year the program was awarded \$11,960, and said the program was one that received an additional \$90,000 early in the pandemic.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application at \$50,000.

❖ YMCA – Homelessness Prevention

Ms. O'Reilly said the application seeks \$260,000, of which \$200,010 would be used for direct aid to clients in the form of rental assistance and move-in costs for those transitioning from homelessness to housing. The balance would be used for staff salaries and benefits and indirect costs. The program is focused on young adults and young families.

Commissioner Piper said he was compelled by the population to be served, but his concern

was the small number of Bellevue residents served, and the fact that a sizeable portion of the funds would go to pay salaries and indirect costs. He proposed funding at \$100,000.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she would support funding at the \$120,000 level.

Commissioner Mansfield said he would prefer to fund the application at \$100,000, which would work out to \$5200 per person served. Commissioner McClure concurred, noting that the program serves a unique niche. Commissioner Mercer agreed as well and Commissioner Amirfaiz said she could support funding at \$100,000 as well.

The consensus was to preliminarily fund the application at \$100,000.

❖ India Association of Western Washington – Hausla Mental Health and Wellness Program

Ms. Stangland noted that the program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The application seeks funding at \$138,100 to provide culturally responsive behavioral health services, including linguistic and culturally appropriate support groups, outreach and crisis counseling for the Asian Indian population. The projection is that the program will serve 115 clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she was struggling with whether or not to fund the application, which she said would be for one FTE to provide ten hours of mental health coordination. The program is to be supervised by one of the board members. Although the program serves a specific population, she said her recommendation was either to pass or to fund it at \$40,000, which would fund 40 individuals receiving counseling at \$100 per hour.

Ms. Stangland said according to the application, the funding would fund 20 hours per week for a mental health coordinator; 20 hours per week for a certified mental health professional; ten hours per week for an outreach worker; and contracting for a crisis counselor.

There was agreement to preliminarily allot \$40,000 to the application.

❖ International Community Health Services – Behavioral Health Program

Ms. Stangland said the behavioral health program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients and the funding would provide culturally responsive behavioral health services through linguistic and culturally appropriate support groups and individual counseling. The ask is for \$112,425 to serve 150 clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the issue she had with the program was that it would screen for depression but not for anxiety, PTSD or other mental health conditions or substance abuse. The application indicates the number of people accessing the services would increase by 25 percent, which is not really related to the behavioral health outcome. The application indicates doing assessments but does not say anything about following up on those assessments with counseling or referral to mental health professionals. Mention of a sliding fee scale in the application was also confusing. She recommended funding the application at the \$70,000 level.

Chair Kline noted that the organization is very large and has a large minimum funding requirement where it makes sense for them to enter into a contract.

Commissioner Mercer said she had the same concerns voiced by Commissioner Amirfaiz. She said she could support \$70,000. She agreed with the need to check with the organization about

what their minimum funding level would be.

The consensus was to preliminarily fund the application with \$70,000.

❖ MAPS-MCRC – Behavioral Health Services Program

Ms. Stangland said the program serves a higher BIPOC client population. The request is for \$25,000 to provide mindfulness sessions, mental health webinars and one-on-one counseling with a licensed mental health counselor. In all, the program would serve 200 individuals.

Commissioner Amirfaiz pointed out that the counseling sessions would only be 30 minutes, which is simply not enough. The application goes on to say the program will provide information and referral. In indicating how they will measure progress, nothing is said about the mental health aspects. Overall, the application is not very strong.

Ms. Stangland commented that there is not a lot of culturally appropriate mental health services available. The model they use seems to be to form relationships and then refer them on to partner organizations.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said at most she would fund the application at \$12,000, which would enable the support groups.

Commissioner Mercer said she had considered fully funding their ask. There is a lack of culturally sensitive mental health services available to the specific population. She said, however, that she would be willing to go along with a preliminary recommendation for \$12,000.

Commissioner Amirfaiz suggested having staff ask the organization about running just the support groups; how effective 30-minute one-on-one counseling sessions are; and what follow-up occurs where testing detects depression, anxiety or other mental health issues.

The consensus was to preliminarily put \$12,000 into the funding column.

❖ 4Tomorrow – Life Services, Mental Health Support Line

Ms. Stangland said the program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The ask of \$125,000 is for several service areas, including culturally responsive behavioral health services; behavioral therapeutic case management; and co-located services, which is not an eligible activity. The mental health support hotline is provided in both Spanish and English and includes a licensed therapist and a social worker. The application indicates 180 residents would be served with the funds.

Commissioner Amirfaiz voiced concern over counseling sessions that are only 30 minutes long, noting that intakes take at least an hour. For the program impact, she said she was not sure how it relates to the mental health outcomes. She recommended funding at the \$40,000 level.

Ms. Stangland clarified that the program does not involve ongoing counseling services; it is a crisis phone line that provides connections to the Life Services program. The agency does not currently have therapists on staff but plans to have one full-time and two part-time mental health specialists or counselors as part of the ask.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said she could be persuaded to increase the allocation to \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Commissioner McClure said she would not go any higher than that.

The consensus was to preliminarily fund the application at \$60,000.

❖ The Sophia Way – Strengthening Lives Through Behavioral Supports

Ms. Stangland said the program also serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The program provides on-site mental health counselors at Helen's Place, the organization's women's shelter located in Kirkland. The program is currently funded with a one-year grant that will end in the fall and the request would facilitate continuing the service. The ask is for \$145,947 to serve 35 clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said a case load of 35 clients is very reasonable for one therapist. She recommended funding at between \$60,000 and \$65,000.

There was consensus to preliminarily fund the application at \$65,000.

❖ Youth Eastside Services – Behavioral Health Care for Children and Youth

Ms. Stangland said the program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The program would provide same-day mental health, substance use disorder assessments and treatments, and culturally responsive behavioral health services. The mental health services would be provided through numerous models to meet the individual needs of the clients in several languages. The ask is for \$85,239 to serve 57 clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz recommended fully funding the application. She said the application articulates the need very well.

Commissioner Mansfield voiced his support for that recommendation. He pointed out the program also serves the LBGTQI population that is typically underserved.

There was consensus to preliminarily fully fund the application.

❖ NAMI Eastside – NAMI Eastside

Ms. Stangland noted the program serves a higher percentage of White clients. The proposal involves same-day mental health and substance use disorder assessments and treatment, culturally responsive behavioral health services, and services that are co-located at a facility on their housing property. The intent is to conduct support groups at local shelters. The organization has met with Sophia Way which has expressed an interest in using their facility for the support groups; has indicated they will be meeting with LifeWire, and had plans to meet with Attain Housing and Friends of Youth. The ask is for \$60,000 to serve 400 clients.

Ms. Esparza pointed out that the application did not meet the criteria for same-day mental health and substance use disorder elements.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said the application is not clear as to exactly what the proposal is. She suggested passing on the application but said she could support funding it at between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Commissioner McClure suggested passing and consolidating the funds into other programs.

Chair Kline said she was concerned about the homeless population and the mental health

issues they face. The program has the same target population as the Sophia Way application, which the Commission chose to cut back on in terms of the allocation. If the program is not funded to some level, it could be that funding for the homeless population will come up short. She suggested that in the second round the Commission should focus in on the populations to be served.

Commissioner Mercer said she would be willing to preliminarily fund the application at \$30,000 and reconsider it during the next round.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application at \$30,000.

❖ Friends of Youth – Mental Health Counseling 24/7 Emergency Shelter for Young Adults

Ms. Stangland said the program serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients. The program includes same-day mental health, culturally responsive behavioral health services, co-located housing facility, and behavioral health therapeutic case management. The funding could provide for on-site same-day counseling and therapeutic case management appointments and assessments for youth experiencing homelessness, provided at their 24/7 emergency shelter facility. The ask is for \$100,000 and would serve 15 Bellevue clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz suggested the budget is too high for 15 clients. Usually a mental health therapist carries between 30 and 40 clients. She suggested funding at the \$60,000 level.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application with \$60,000.

❖ IKRON Greater of Seattle – Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Stangland noted that the agency serves a higher rate of White clients. The request for \$50,000 would fund same-day mental health and substance use disorder, assessments and treatment, culturally responsive behavioral health, and behavioral health therapeutic case management. The application also states that services would be provided at a co-located facility or housing project, but the agency has since indicated all services would be provided within their office. The services to be provided include therapeutic case management, individual and group counseling, and same-day appointments and walk-in assessments once in-person services are re-launched. The ask of \$50,000 would serve 30 clients.

Commissioner Amirfaiz suggested that for 30 clients, an allocation of \$50,000 was reasonable.

Commissioner Mansfield said he noted from the budget in the application that there was nothing showing how the \$50,000 would be distributed. He added that he would be comfortable with the \$50,000 level provided there is a reasonable allocation of the funds.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that IKRON is a very large organization and fully able to put the full \$50,000 into providing the services and pay salaries from some other source.

There was consensus to preliminarily fund the application with \$50,000.

❖ Imagine Housing – Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Stangland said the agency serves a high percentage of BIPOC clients with same-day mental health and substance use disorder services and therapeutic case management that is culturally responsive. The program would provide counseling services to residents through a

partnership with IKRON. Imagine Housing currently has one FTE working across all of their sites and the funds would allow for having one FTE at the Bellevue Imagine Housing Location. The ask is for \$97,600 and would serve 50 households.

Chair Kline asked for clarification about partnering with IKRON. Ms. Stangland explained that the IKRON application would cover services provided by the agency at its own office. The Imagine Housing program services would still be offered through a partnership with IKRON.

Commissioner Amirfaiz proposed funding the application at half the ask based on the case load. She pointed out that the budget information in the application regarding salaries is confusing. Ms. Stangland noted that the \$55,000 for professional services is the amount that would go to IKRON. The \$22,400 is for Imagine Housing salaries to provide some therapeutic case management services and helping to connect with IKRON. There is also \$10,000 in the budget to cover overhead for Imagine Housing.

Ms. Catalano explained that during the contracting process the city negotiates the services that will be provided for the stated amount of funding. Where an application is funded at less than the requested amount, it is necessary to reduce the service units commensurate with the funding. The city cannot arbitrarily determine which services to cut and which to keep, but the agency can be asked to go in certain directions relative to services.

Commissioner Amirfaiz said from her reading of the application she concluded that the proposal is to provide 528 service units, with each unit being 60 minutes. She suggested that an allocation of \$50,000 would be sufficient to cover that many service units.

There was agreement to preliminarily fund the application with \$50,000.

❖ Congregations for the Homeless – Mental Health and Addiction Support Program

Ms. Stangland said the agency serves a slightly higher percentage of BIPOC clients. The application would fund the provision of same-day mental health and substance use disorder assessments and treatment; medically assisted treatment for substance use disorder; culturally responsive behavioral health services; services co-located; and behavioral health therapeutic case management. The program would be located at the agency's shelter for men experiencing homelessness. The ask is for \$326,000 and would serve 110 clients.

Ms. Esparza clarified that the definition for medically assisted treatment for substance use disorder is specifically for medication prescribed for substance use disorder. The service typically is provided by standalone clinics. It is unlikely that Congregations for the Homeless would meet the criteria.

Chair Kline asked how the program dovetails with the one funded in the last round. Ms. Catalano said the CDBG-CV3 funding allocated to Congregations for the Homeless was for a mental health/PTSD specialist. That program is a subset of the proposed program.

Ms. O'Reilly added that the CDBG-CV3 funding was for services relating to the pandemic. The application outlines a program that will be broader than that and an expansion of it.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked if the agency has a licensed mental health provider. Ms. Stangland said the budget in the application reflects one full-time mental health director/therapist, a full-time mental health therapist, a part-time clinical therapist for substance use disorder. Ms. O'Reilly said it was her understanding that the agency is not itself

a licensed mental health provider and cannot accept Medicaid.

Commissioner Amirfaiz voiced concern over the fact that the application calls out only 15-minute counseling units, and support groups at 30 minutes. She said the ask is far too large to serve only 110 individuals in that amount of time. She proposed funding at \$125,000.

Commissioner Mercer stressed the need for the Commission to consider the number of dollars overall allocated to Congregations for the Homeless. She added that the agency is excellent and that she would support funding at \$125,000 but would like to see a comparison of the overall numbers.

There was consensus to preliminarily fund the application at \$125,000.

Ms. O'Reilly said the total of the preliminary funding recommendations was short of the total amount available to be allocated by \$79,237. The answers to the questions raised by the Commission relative to specific agencies will be provided for the June 29 meeting. The Commission will balance the funding allocations at that meeting.

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

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

Chair Kline adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.