

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on February 15, 2022

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

January 4, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Amirfaiz, Ma, McClure, Mercer, Phan, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Mansfield

STAFF PRESENT: 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 Commissioner Piper who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Vice Chair Piper 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. November 2, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClure and the motion carried unanimously.

B. November 16, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClure and the motion carried unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

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

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis welcomed new Commissioner Angela Phan and reported that Commissioner McClure would be leaving the Commission as she would be moving out of state. He said her contributions to the Commission would be missed.

Commissioner McClure said she and her husband would be moving to Phoenix to be close to family and to take advantage of a new career opportunity. She thanked the Commissioners and staff and said she had learned a great deal over the course of the last year as a member of the Commission.

Commissioner Piper thanked Commissioner McClure for her time and contributions to the Commission. He wished her well on her new adventure.

Commissioner Mercer said it had been great serving with Commissioner McClure and wished her luck in her new adventure.

Commissioner Ma congratulated Commissioner McClure on her new career and the opportunity to be close to family. He wished her all the best.

Commissioner Amirfaiz told Commissioner McClure she would be missed and thanked her for her contributions.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the Council at its meeting on January 3 chose to reelect Mayor Robinson to a second term as mayor, and himself to serve a second term as Deputy Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis noted that he had met earlier in the day with East King County legislators to advocate for the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) pilot project. A report was received highlighting the results of the private program tested in the community for alternative methods to providing emergency response services to those in crisis. The program is specifically focused on serving the needs of those in behavioral health or mental health crises. The program was launched in May and ended in August of 2021. Multiple models of emergency responses to those in behavioral or mental health crisis were tested through the pilot, including 1) sending a specifically trained law officer not wearing a traditional police uniform, 2) sending a trained law enforcement officer paired with a mental health professional from the Bellevue Fire CARES team, and 3) allowing the police to clear the scene and then sending in two mental health professionals from the CARES team. In all, the pilot program engaged 239 individuals and made close to 2000 contacts with community members or their families. Analysis of the data showed an increase in the number of persons diverted away from jails or hospitals after the initial emergency call, and a decrease in the number of times the use of force was deemed necessary. The program is designed to improve the safety and effectiveness of responding to those in crisis by connecting them with appropriate services. The initial results are very promising thus the need to advocate for state funding to make the program a reality full time.

Continuing, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis reported that during the month of December the Council adopted a package of code amendments for the East Main transit-oriented development area to the south of the Downtown. The action taken represents a significant step toward implementing the vision and policies adopted into the Comprehensive Plan that call for the transformation of the 60-acre area into a vibrant, people-oriented transit station area. The package of amendments allows for increasing the density on the site near the light rail station on 112th Avenue, and allows for taller buildings. A minimum amount of housing is

required, and incentives are provided for new development to build affordable housing units.

Also in December the Council took action on five separate ordinances amending the Comprehensive Plan, including a privately initiated request to change the land use on two parcels in the Wilburton/NE 8th subarea owned by the non-profit DASH to allow for an increase in the number of affordable housing units. The city initiated amendments that sought to remove from the Comprehensive Plan the Comprehensive Transportation Project List in order to streamline the process, to add policies to the Transportation Element in support of multimodal concurrency, and include updates to the neighborhood subarea plans for Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis reported that the results of the annual city performance survey were presented to the Council. The survey collected responses from 439 residents and focused on six marquee indicators, including quality of life, quality of city services, value for tax dollar, direction the city is headed, the sense of Bellevue as a place to live, and the residents sense of belonging in the community. The overall key indicators were very strong. Ninety-seven percent of the responses indicated that the city is a good to excellent place to live. Ninety-four percent said Bellevue exceeds or greatly exceeds their expectation for quality of life. The full report and analysis will be available later in the month on the city's website.

## 6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Piper took a moment to welcome new Commissioner Phan and encouraged the Commissioners and staff to introduce themselves to her. Commissioner Phan said she is a Pacific Northwest native and has lived in Bellevue for 15 years. She said she currently serves as the East Link program recreation technician for the City of Bellevue.

## 7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION

### A. Officer Elections

A motion to open nominations for Chair was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amirfaiz and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Amirfaiz nominated Commissioner Piper to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ma.

No additional nominations were made.

A motion to close nominations for Chair was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amirfaiz and the motion carried unanimously.

The nomination of Commissioner Piper to serve as Chair carried unanimously.

A motion to open nominations for Vice Chair was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mercer and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ma nominated Commissioner Amirfaiz to serve as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mercer.

No additional nominations were made.

A motion to close nominations for Vice Chair was made by Commissioner McClure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mercer and the motion carried unanimously.

The nomination of Commissioner Amirfaiz to serve as Vice Chair carried unanimously.

## B. Human Services Needs Update Findings

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland noted that she would be presenting on areas that showed an increase in need or were continuing to show an ongoing significant need. She acknowledged that data needed to demonstrate an increased need was lacking from some areas in the Needs Update. Other needs were shown to remain in the community but without significant increases. The full report will be presented to the City Council on January 24.

Ms. Stangland noted that Bellevue has been a leader in developing the Human Services Needs Update and maintaining a biennial report since 1989 given how critical it is to have accurate and comprehensive data on which to base decisions. The Needs Update helps guide funding but also helps staff and other groups make decisions to ensure that Bellevue residents will have the help they need to assure a high quality of life. The document is relied on by human services providers, community groups and those involved in regional planning.

Both quantitative and qualitative data are gathered in a variety of ways for the report. A phone and online survey were conducted by a professional firm. Nearly 400 Bellevue residents were contacted, and the data analyzed to provide a comprehensive report. In addition, more than 30 community conversations and key informant interviews were held. Providers in the community were also surveyed, as were consumers who access services, all done remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions. The information gathered was coupled with the data from the phone and online survey.

Ms. Stangland stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone in the community, but certain groups, including racial and ethnic minorities are clearly more vulnerable than others. The pandemic has highlighted the fact that health equality is still not a reality. Covid has disproportionately affected communities of color, putting them at higher risk. Some racial and ethnic groups are more likely to work in essential settings such as healthcare facilities, farms, factories, grocery stores and public transportation, which substantially increases their exposure to Covid-19. Those positions are most likely to experience closures and reduction of hours. Roughly one in six, or 16 percent, of Bellevue households experienced a decrease in household income due to Covid-19, according to the phone and online survey. In all, 81 percent of the households in the survey reported a decrease in income. Human services providers face capacity challenges even without a global pandemic. However, Covid-19 has triggered both a tremendous increase in service needs and significant adjustments to services delivered. Agencies reported increases in costs and decreases in revenues.

The data shows that the lack of affordable housing continues to be a significant concern. Teachers, social workers, providers and service workers cannot afford to live in Bellevue. Affordable housing appears as the top community concern in the survey, and was a predominant theme during the community conversations. Seventy-five percent of the survey respondents rated the lack of affordable housing as a major or moderate community problem. In Bellevue, the estimated fair market rent for a one-bedroom unit was \$2400 in fiscal year 2021, a decrease from 2020 when it was \$2610. Even so, rental units are not affordable for many households. Thirty percent of households in Bellevue are cost burdened, which is defined as a paying more than 30 percent of household income for housing; 13 percent of Bellevue households are severely cost burdened, which is defined as households paying more than fifty percent of their household incomes for housing. Of the households with incomes of less than 50 percent of area median income, 40 percent are severely cost burdened, and renters are more likely to be cost burdened than homeowners. One-third of all senior renters in Bellevue spend more than 50 percent of their household incomes on housing; older adults are

delaying retirement and working beyond the age of 65 primarily because they cannot afford to retire.

Concerns about the cost of living in Bellevue were a prominent theme across all Community Conversations, with many expressing that people cannot reasonably afford to live in Bellevue. A living wage is directly connected to the ability to keep up with the increasing housing costs. In the community phone/online survey, 49 percent of the respondents rated people having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics of food, shelter, and clothing as a major or moderate community problem. In the 2021 consumer survey, 36 percent of the respondents with an income below \$50,000 reported that they either rarely or never could find work that supports themselves or their family. During the community conversations, many providers indicated experiencing a staffing shortage due to their inability to pay a competitive wage. They reported that with the cost of living so high in East King County, it has added an extra challenge in maintaining staff since many cannot afford to live in Bellevue.

The state's minimum wage in 2021 was \$13.69 per hour, the highest in the country. An adult making minimum wage working full time and supporting two children earns about \$28,500 annually, which is barely over the federal poverty level. Ms. Stangland shared with the Commissioners a chart showing the amount of money families must earn in order to live in Bellevue without public assistance. A single parent with a school-aged child and toddler earning minimum wage would have to work 127.5 hours per week in order to be self-sufficient.

In the phone and online surveys, 46 percent of the respondents identified homelessness as a major or moderate community problem. In the 2020 Count Us In, 446 unsheltered individuals were counted in East King County, including portions of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond, and that represented a 32 percent increase over 2019. According to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, the One Night Count routinely undercounts those experiencing homelessness. In 2020 the city supported 289,486 bed nights for people experiencing homelessness.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, every local education agency is required to designate a liaison for homeless children and youth. The liaison coordinates services to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically. The Bellevue School District reported that 333 children qualified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act in the 2020-2021 school year, a decrease from the 375 students served during the 2019-2020 school district. The latest figure is, however, an 86 percent increase from the 2011-2012 school year. Of the 333 students, 260 were doubled up; 41 were living in emergency or transitional shelter; 12 were unsheltered at some point; 19 used a hotel or motel as a primary form of residency; and 68 were unaccompanied youth living on their own without legal or parental guardianship. A chart was shared with the Commissioners that showed Hispanic/Latino students are the most disproportionately impacted; while they account for only 13 percent of the total students enrolled in the Bellevue School District, they represent 66 percent of the students experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Stangland said emergency financial assistance programs help keep families from falling through the cracks and into homelessness. Assistance can include things like utility support, eviction prevention and other flexible financial options. According to the providers survey, 26 percent of providers reported clients need emergency financial assistance but cannot find it in the community. Washington state enacted an eviction moratorium during the pandemic but it ended on October 31, 2021. Federal, state, and local programs were intended to kick in, but most experts are still predicting a tsunami of evictions. The Northwest Justice Project has suggested that across the Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue metro area, an estimated 89,144 households are currently behind on rent, and Black and Hispanic households

disproportionately report the likelihood of eviction.

Affordable and quality child care is needed so that families can work and provide for their families. Research shows that the quality of early education has a direct impact on future success. Many families have struggled to find accessible and affordable child care during the pandemic. The lack of affordable child care was ranked as the top community problem in the 2021 phone and online survey. Fifty-one percent rated it as a major or moderate household problem, and 36 percent rated lack of available child care as a major or moderate community problem.

Ms. Stangland said behavioral health came up regularly in the responses to the survey. Nationally, about 20 percent of adults experienced a mental health illness in 2020. There is an inverse relationship between household income and feelings of anxiety and depression. In the Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue area, people with incomes of less than \$25,000 were five times more likely to report distress compared to those with incomes of \$200,000 or more. In addition, 25 percent of individuals from households with incomes below \$25,000 reported not being able to get needed counseling or therapy from a mental health professional. In the 2020 phone and online survey, having a lot of anxiety or depression that interferes with daily life was rated as a major or moderate community problem by 24 percent of the respondents. Not being able to pay for mental health counseling was also highlighted as a problem for eight percent of the households, and not being able to access mental health counseling was listed as a problem for ten percent of the households. In the providers survey, 58 percent reported clients needing mental health care but unable to access it. In the consumer survey, among those making less than \$50,000 annually, 29 percent indicated they could rarely or never find counseling. In addition, 34 percent of all respondents reported having a lot of anxiety, stress and/or depression that interfered with their daily lives.

Youth and young adults have experienced disturbances due to Covid-19 in the form of school closures, remote learning, social isolation, financial hardships and lack of access to food. Some have experienced either the illness or the death of a family member. Rates of youth suicidal ideations and attempts were on the rise prior to the pandemic. The system that serves youths and young adults has been overburdened for some time and the pandemic has only intensified the strain on the mental health and wellbeing of youth and young people as well as the mental health system. According to the Washington State Department of Health Rapid Information Network, the number of King County youth between the ages of 10 and 17 with emergency department visits for issues involving a suicide attempt in the months of July through September was 280 in 2019, 342 in 2020, and 377 in 2021. In King County, the number of deaths of suicide among youth under the age of 18 stayed roughly the same between 2019 and 2020 at 14 deaths per year. According to the regional data, East King County between 2016 and 2016 was rated the highest with 33 percent of all youth suicides in King County. Between 2020 and 2021, East King County only had five percent of all King County youth suicides. Over the past five years, 14 percent of the youths who died by suicide were known to identify as LGBTQ.

Although domestic violence remains a second-tier community problem according to respondents in 2021, 27 percent rated domestic violence as a major or moderate community problem, which is a nine percent increase over 2019. The rise in domestic violence continues to be a constant theme during community conversations. Many participants discussed the fact that people have been isolated due to Covid-19, and that that has led to increased stress for many households, resulting in more reports of domestic violence. Data from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office indicates that domestic violence homicides nearly doubled in 2020 compared to prior years. The Bellevue Police Department reported 1137 incidents in 2020 involving domestic violence. The number of domestic violence reports in Bellevue has remained relatively steady since 2014.

Ms. Stangland said there is a clear need for culturally and linguistically responsive services. In Bellevue there are some 55,000 residents who speak a language other than English at home. The Bellevue School District reports a total of 104 languages spoken by their students, with 41 percent of the students having a first language other than English. Twenty-six percent of the respondents to the phone and online survey indicated that a lack of services for non-English speakers is a moderate or major problem, a six percent increase from 2019. In the community conversations, the providers indicated a need for more diverse staff, both bilingual and culturally competent. They also reported facing recruiting and retention challenges which has complicated the need to provide services to individuals in their primary language by someone who understands the culture. Providers indicated that some of their clients are traveling to Seattle or South King County to access culturally competent mental health services.

Thirty-five percent of the phone and online respondents rated racial and ethnic discrimination as a major or moderate community issue, which represents a ten percent increase from 2019, and a 22 percent increase from 2009. Twenty percent of the consumer survey respondents reported that someone in their household experienced racial discrimination some of the time or sometimes. Both racial and ethnic discrimination, along with other types of discrimination, were issues discussed in the majority of the community conversations, and a topic brought up by several providers. Bellevue residents continue to have ongoing and increased fear related to immigration status, which is a barrier to clients feeling comfortable accessing services.

Ms. Stangland noted that by definition a hate crime occurs when someone maliciously and intentionally commits physical harm or poses a threat to a person or group of people that causes the victims to have reasonable fear that the attacker will cause physical injury or property damage, and/or damage or destruction of a victim's property, based on the attacker's perception of a victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical or sensory disability. Bias incidents are acts that are not criminal in nature and do not involve violence, threats or property damage. Threatening words do not constitute a hate crime offense if it is apparent to the victim that the person does not have the ability to carry out the threat. While such instances will not trigger criminal charges, it is still important to report them. Such incidents have a negative impact on the whole community and deserve to be elevated and understood by the public. Hate crime and bias incidents often go unreported. In 2020 there were 468 hate crime and five bias incidents reported in Washington state. Between January and June of 2021, the Bellevue Police Department received reports concerning 10 hate crimes and 12 bias incidents. In 2020, there were a total of 23 reports, 18 hate crimes and five bias incidents. The King County Coalition Against Hate and Bias is a community-led initiative to address hate and bias incidents by strengthening and networking communities that experience racist and bigoted treatment and all forms of oppression. The coalition partners administer the Hate and Bias Incident Response Survey which collects data from communities affected by hate and bias. Between April 2020 and May 2021, a total of 87 reports of hate and violence in East King County were received.

Access to transportation continues to be an issue for the community. Sixty-three percent of the respondents to the 2021 providers survey reported that transportation is a barrier to accessing services for their clients, and 41 percent of the phone and online survey respondents rated inadequate public transportation as a moderate or major community problem. Seventeen percent of the respondents rated it as a household problem. Forty-one percent of the respondents also rated the lack of transportation options other than public transportation as a major or moderate community problem.

Ms. Stangland noted that the Needs Update highlights five specific populations but discussed

with the Commission only two of the populations. Beginning with older adults, she pointed out that 14 percent of Bellevue residents are 65 or older. In King County, 21 percent of those over 65 are low-income. People over the last decade have been living longer; the average life expectancy in King County has increased to 81.7 years. As a result, people are more likely to need some time of long-term care services and support, and many will be challenged in stretching their savings and retirement income to pay for the services. Almost a third of all senior renters in Bellevue spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing. In Bellevue there are only 400 affordable below-market rental units specifically for low-income older adults. Thirty-one percent of the phone and online survey respondents rated lack of services for elderly persons as a major or moderate community problem. Bellevue Fire CARES reports that case management services are needed for older adults to help them navigate the system and connect with resources. About one in ten Americans age 60 plus have experienced some form of elder abuse, and it is estimated that only about seven percent of elder abuse incidents are reported to the authorities. Seniors who experience even modest abuse have an increased risk of death by 300 percent compared to older adults who have not experienced abuse. Twenty-five percent of all persons aged 55 or older are estimated to experience some type of mental health concerns, and providers report that due to Covid-19 many of the older adults they serve are isolated and have found it difficult to adjust to programming offered remotely. In the United States, individuals age 65 or older account for 20 percent of all suicide deaths.

The members of the Bellevue Network on Aging identified a number of issues they believe should be addressed. They identified the top needs as: affordable housing; improved transportation options for non-drivers; affordable long-term care options including opportunities that allow residents to stay in their homes; support for people with memory loss and their caregivers; safeguards for older adults related to elder abuse, including scams and financial abuse; and the ability for older adults to age in place with dignity and grace.

With regard to people with disabilities, Ms. Stangland noted that ten percent of the adults in Bellevue have a disability and nine percent of the students in the Bellevue School District are receiving special education services. In the 2021 phone and online survey, 26 percent of the respondents indicated that a lack of services for people with a disability is a major or moderate problem in the community. Six percent stated that not finding programs for someone with a disability was a major or moderate household problem, and six percent indicated that not being able to afford care for a person with a disability was a major or moderate household problem. Funding for services for people with all types of disabilities continues to lag behind the growth of this population, the result of which is wait lists for many programs including subsidized supportive housing program and family support programs. The trend is predicted to continue over the next several years due to higher life expectancy of the aging population with developmental disabilities and the increase of referrals of children with disabilities.

Commissioner Amirfaiz noted that nearly 400 persons responded to the phone and online survey and asked how many were called. Ms. Stangland said the company conducting the survey has emails, mailing addresses and phone numbers. They typically send out a letter and an email in addition to making phone calls, and then they do a follow-up. The phone script was translated into the top seven languages, and the email and mailed letter offered the opportunity to take the survey in a language other than English. The providers survey was also translated into the top seven languages. Department of Parks and Community Services assistant director Toni Esparza added that the number of responses to the survey deemed it statistically valid.

Commissioner Piper said he was struck by the significant numbers related to transportation issues. He said transportation impacts a number of areas that relate to human services.



Commissioner McClure pointed out that in many of the conversations the Commission has had with providers over the past year the need for transportation has been emphasized.

Commissioner Ma said the affordability issues stood out to him. Workers cannot afford to live in Bellevue and the only way providers can attract them is to pay them more. However, given how thin their resources are stretched, that is usually not an option and it certainly impacts fundraising. He pointed out that the city is throwing a lot of money into things like rental assistance, which is necessary to prevent a huge fallout, but fundamentally the overall affordability issue will negatively affect the full continuum of services.

Commissioner Phan said the numbers regarding the unsheltered youth enrolled in the Bellevue School District are saddening, especially in light of the fact that there are probably more than have been reported.

Commissioner Mercer agreed that housing issues highlighted by the survey just keep getting worse despite the amount of money the Commission puts toward it. In thinking about how to distribute dollars, the Commission should have a full discussion about commitments and the continuum of services before getting to the actual application process.

Commissioner Ma added that in talking about funding the Commission will often say it wants to maximize the funding dollars going to services and the like. However, consideration needs to be given to making sure organizations are able to pay their workers a living wage in order to effectively see services rolled out.

Commissioner Amirfaiz commented that the housing issue is not specific to Bellevue given the high demand and the lack of affordable housing units. She stated that the Commission has funded over the years all of the needs highlighted by the surveys and community conversations. As demand continues to rise, the question will be how much money the city has to address the needs. The Commission has sought to avoid paying for overhead, leaving non-profits to find ways to pay for their staff.

### C. Agenda Topics for 2022

Ms. Esparza informed the Commissioners that there would be a panel presentation at the next meeting on January 19. The panel will be comprised of providers for individuals with disabilities. Throughout the year many of the Commission's conversations will focus on how to approach the funding process and the actual review of applications, but there will be opportunities for provider panels to share information.

Commissioner Mercer noted that the list of questions the Commission had during the previous funding cycle were around the investments being made by companies like Amazon and Microsoft. She suggested the Commission should receive a presentation from someone in the city about where those dollars are being invested. That way the Commission can take into account how the city's funding could complement what they are doing.

Commissioner Piper noted that during his first year on the Commission there was a presentation made by King County Metro. He suggested general information about transportation on the Eastside would be helpful.

Commissioner Ma commented that locally as well as nationally there are a lot of jobs going unfilled, often due to the employers not paying a living wage. He said he would like to see a panel of human service providers to talk about hiring, retention and their ability to deliver services. That could serve as a lens to overall affordability as an issue in the city and where resources should be allocated.

Commissioner Amirfaiz asked if it would be possible to hear from clients and residents, including young people and older citizens, talking about their concerns. Ms. Esparza said that could be accomplished to by bringing in the Youth Link Board and representatives from the Bellevue Network on Aging.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Esparza informed the Commissioners that during 2022 three meetings would need to be moved to a Wednesday to accommodate Monday holidays. She noted that two Commissioners cannot attend Wednesday meetings, making it a challenge to have a quorum. She asked if staff should explore moving Wednesday meetings to Thursdays instead. The Commissioners indicated moving to Thursdays would work for them.

Ms. Esparza stressed that the Wednesday, January 19, meeting had already been noticed and would go forward as planned.

Ms. Stangland informed the Commissioners that Mary's Place has opened a shelter in Bellevue on NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street close to the library. The facility can serve between 250 and 280 individuals. The shelter is for households with children. The organization is working closely with the Bellevue School District and is trying to prioritize meeting the needs of families that have not been able to find shelter.

Ms. Esparza said the model Mary's Place operates on is to identify hotel properties that have been purchased by developers and make arrangements to use those properties in the interim before redevelopment begins, usually two to three years.

Ms. Stangland reported that the shelters operating in Bellevue have done an amazing job. The cold weather triggered a need and the shelter operators planned ahead to make sure individuals in the community would be served. The capacity of the shelters was increased to accommodate more, including by tapping into additional motel units.

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

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