

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on July 19, 2022.

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 7, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Piper, Vice Chair Amirfaiz, Commissioners Ma, Mansfield, Phan, Singh

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie Miller, Christy Stangland, Toni Esparza, Asma Ahmed, 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 Piper who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present in person.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 3, 2022

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

B. May 17, 2022

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

C. May 24, 2022

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

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Piper noted the receipt of written communications from Babies for Homelessness and Congregations for the Homeless.

Manual Amagro with 4 Tomorrow, a single father with three children noted having had firsthand experience navigating resources in the community during difficult times.

4Tomorrow is a grassroots non-profit that has been helping the Latino community overcome crises and obstacles, including evictions, mental health challenges, financial struggles, immigration issues, racism and more. The agency is on a mission to let the community know that they are not alone. During the pandemic many fell behind on rent due to shutdowns, layoffs and health issues, but thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act 4Tomorrow has been able to help many households maintain housing stability. The Commission and the city were thanked for entrusting 4 Tomorrow with serving the community in a culturally sensitive and equitable way. The hope for the coming years is to grow the life services program and continue supporting the Latino and youth communities in navigating resources and systems and in overcoming challenges. The agency also aspires to build a larger support system within the Spanish mental health, education and coordination program by launching a gap therapy program to respond to the growing need for quality and culturally sensitive mental health care in the community.

Alejandro Mendez with Essentials First, a Bellevue-based non-profit formerly known as Kits for Peace and in operation since 2017, stated that hygiene insecurity mirrors food insecurity. Hygiene insecurity is the inability to regularly access or afford basic hygiene products like soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and feminine products. For over two million Washington residents, including thousands of families and students in Bellevue, hygiene products are unaffordable luxuries. Families spend more than 75 percent of their incomes on housing and food. Government programs like SNAP and EBT do not allow for the purchasing of hygiene essentials, yet the pandemic has highlighted how critical such products are for public health. The work of Essentials First with the school district has shed light on the negative impact of student negative academic performance and the resulting increase in bullying when students have poor hygiene. The Uvalde school shooter was bullied by peers for having poor hygiene. There is a loss of human dignity associated with not being able to afford proper hygiene products, and that has a direct impact on emotional and mental health. Equitable access to personal hygiene products is a basic human right. Newly arriving Afghan and Ukrainian refugees are yet another demographic struggling with gaining access to hygiene products. There is no statewide or national organization that addresses the gap on a consistent basis. The organization also believes in providing culturally sensitive foods to marginalized communities.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None
6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None
7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION
 - A. Bylaw Change Memo: Adoption of Human Services Commission Bylaws

Assistant City Attorney Karen Phu noted that the Commission’s current bylaws were adopted in 2018. The proposed change to the bylaws addresses remote participation. Article V Section G of the current bylaws sets rules for remote participation and states that at any given meeting up to two Commission members can participate remotely, says Commission members can participate remotely no more than 4 times per year, and establishes the need to have pre-approval for remote participation. The pandemic and the Governor’s emergency order in June 2020 triggered the need for the City Council to amend the code governing all city boards and commissions to suspend the limitations on remote participation. In response, the Human Services Commission acted on June 20, 2020, to suspend Article V Section G of the bylaws. The Governor’s emergency order has been rescinded and the City Council has adopted

Ordinance 6662 reinstating the remote participation rules, though with greater flexibility going forward. The new rules allow for up to three members at a time to participate remotely and with no limits on how many times per year any given member can participate remotely. Pre-approval, however, is still required, and the presiding officer must be present. In cases where the presiding officer will be participating remotely, the gavel must be handed to a commissioner who will be present in person. The Council has indicated it intends to review the rules in a year and has directed all boards and commissions to adopt the new uniform changes to assure consistency.

Karen Phu said there are three main substantive changes proposed. In Article III, Section A, following the first two sentences, new language is included which states that the presiding officer is required to attend meetings in person, and states that if authorized to participate remotely, the presiding officer must pass the presiding officer role for that meeting to a commissioner who will attend in person. Article V, Section G, states that Commission members are encouraged to attend meetings in person when practicable, and states that members not able to attend in person may participate remotely using approved teleconferencing equipment provided their remote participation is approved in advance of the meeting. It also states that no more than three Commission members may participate remotely during any Commission meeting and says members participating remotely shall be counted toward determination of a quorum. The language of Article VIII, Section A, has been changed from "...no motion shall be entertained..." to "...no motion should be entertained..." to address the scenario of a member of the body brings forward a motion which is followed immediately by discussion by other members without the motion being seconded. The change from "shall" to "should" assures that actions taken without a second will not be invalidated. The proposal includes a couple of minor changes to update references and to provide clarity. Article XVI, while not proposed to be amended, allows for the adoption of amendments to the bylaws. Such changes must be included on the agenda of a regular or special meeting, and a vote to adopt an amendment is to take place at the next regular meeting with approval by two-thirds of the membership of the body.

B. Staff Framework for Human Services Commission Recommendations and Goal Areas 4 and 5 Review

Human Services Manager Leslie Miller reviewed the significant findings from the 2021-2022 Needs Update which the Commission adopted as priority areas. Leslie explained that there were a number of emergent themes, including that the pandemic identified inequities existing in the community, and that the safety net was eliminated for many. Social isolation became a significant issue, and it has led to many struggling with mental health issues. The high cost of living in Bellevue has been a challenge for everyone, particularly those with low-incomes, fixed incomes, and those with disabilities. Lack of access for certain groups has been challenging as Bellevue's diversity has changed; the reasons for lack of access include computer access, language skills, not knowing how to ask for help, and the fear of accessing services. There have been calls for more culturally and linguistically responsive services, including mental health services. Transportation continues to be an issue. There are also challenges faced by human service agencies in terms of capacity and the number of services needed — having to pivot toward new ways of providing services, reductions in revenues, and additional expenses. Being able to recruit and retain staff has been very difficult, particularly on the Eastside.

Continuing, Leslie Miller said there were a number of needs with significant increases highlighted, particularly in the area of behavioral health. Behavioral health providers and providers of all types have faced challenges in helping their clients because of behavioral health issues. There have also been increased challenges faced by children and youth. Homelessness continues to be a need in the community. On the prevention side, behavioral

health and financial assistance are ways to help stabilize people in their homes, and there is an increased need for services. There has been a build-up of infrastructure or low-barrier shelters in the Eastside, but there is still an unmet need. Racial and ethnic discrimination is a rising concern in the community. Domestic violence continues to be a need along with the need for associated housing and legal services. An increase in domestic violence was observed owing to social isolation issues and there being so many people at home. There simply is not enough access to low-cost or free legal services relative to domestic violence.

In terms of equity, the staff were directed to consider whether requesting programs identify and address specific community issues; whether they prioritize communities of color or other communities that have experienced persistent, historic or systemic oppression; whether the staff and the board reflect the communities they serve; whether the outcomes effectively tell the story of the program in terms of how they are affecting and changing the community; and whether agencies are providing accessibility to programs and services.

The equity training session in April highlighted items that can contribute to inequity in grantmaking. Grantmaking practices can perpetuate unequal distribution of funds, such as where there are histories of favored organizations that have dedicated development staff, have larger budgets, and which are often white led. It is true that often leaders of organizations of color have smaller budgets and as such are challenged with capacity building. Research shows that communities that serve and solve their own problems have greater successes.

Leslie Miller highlighted the fact that in order to address the workload the Commission asked staff to create preliminary recommendations. Instead of individual recommendations, a staff framework was created with prioritizations based on the Commission's adopted priorities. In addition to the priority areas, there is the number of agencies and services. By way of example, domestic violence and child care were both identified as priority areas, but there are more programs offering child care services than there are programs offering domestic violence services. The approach is somewhat different in that it manages both the priority area and as a total of the whole.

Leslie Miller noted that a couple of programs were shown in different goal areas which, upon closer examination of the program intent, were moved. One specific example was the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club which serves the function of providing child care and after-school programs in the summer months which was moved from Goal Area 2 to Goal Area 5.

It was pointed out that on the last page of the spreadsheet, several programs were listed that are either currently funded through 1590 or are expected to qualify for 1590 funding. Direction from the Council has been asked for. Because of the opportunity to have additional funding, the listed programs have been set aside. If 1590 funding does not come through, extra work will be needed in July to weave those programs back into the larger pool of recommendations. Rental assistance was an area that received 1590 funding, but that is no longer the case. Behavioral health offered on-site with housing, and supportive services provided with housing both qualify for 1590 funding. Culturally specific behavioral health services in the community also qualify.

Department of Parks and Community Services Assistant Director Toni Esparza explained that the set asides were based on the priorities adopted by the Council for 1590 funds in line with the 1590 statute. Programs previously funded by the Human Services Fund are not eligible.

Chair Piper asked if it was correct to conclude that if each of the set aside programs were to be fully funded with 1590 funds, there would be an additional \$1.257 million freed up for allocation to other programs, adding that if that is the case, an additional column should be added to the spreadsheet to indicate funding should additional funds become available. Toni

Esparza agreed it would be good to add the column. The suggestion of the staff, however, was not to discuss the set aside applications until a determination is made relative to 1590 funding.

Leslie Miller allowed that in years past Commissioners have been concerned about Goal Areas 4 and 5 being given short shrift by virtue of their being reviewed last. The Commission directed reviewing those areas first. The percentages given to the areas were higher within the proposed framework than the actual percentage of the requests. Adding 1590 funds in makes that even more the case.

Chair Piper thanked the staff for their work in developing the framework.

Goal Area 5

Application 99 – AtWork!: Community Liaison

Commissioner Ma said the program connects people with disabilities with job opportunities. The service is important and should be increased to its previous cycle funding level award of \$49,223. The program is unique.

Chair Piper offered no objection to the suggestion based on the service units and number of residents served.

Commissioner Mansfield suggested the ask is quite high in terms of the hourly rate when broken down by service units. It works out to about \$355 per hour. An allocation of \$20,000 would be more in line with the hourly rates listed in other applications.

Toni Esparza pointed out that working with disabled clients requires more staffing per person. While the hourly rate may break down as indicated, the work requires special qualifications and often an increased staff-to-student ratio.

Commissioner Phan added that the city had to cancel its adaptive classes at Highline Community Center because of staffing shortages.

Chair Piper observed that the collective asks for the Goal 5 applications is \$109,799. While there are difficult decisions to be made, the numbers for the application are small enough to avoid triggering any seismic shifts.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed but pointed out that the same issue will arise in the area of mental health services as well. Hourly costs are up and staff hiring, and retention is a very difficult task.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the issue was unit cost. For the sake of parity, that should be kept in mind.

Toni Esparza suggested one approach for the review would be to talk through a section to see if things net out to the total of the staff framework, holding a fuller evaluation if the totals for the section change.

Chair Piper concurred and highlighted the need to look at services that might be duplicative.

Application 121 – Bridge of Promise: Bridge Academy

Chair Piper recommended full funding. The program touches on the very important area of education and employment for people with disabilities, and there was a significant increase in

the number of residents served.

Application 122 – HERO House NW: Supported Employment

Commissioner Phan noted that the application is seeking an increase over the previous funding level but also indicated that the number of residents served is projected to increase. Chair Piper added that the program model is very attractive in terms of transitional employment.

Commissioner Phan said the program primarily serves low-income transitional youth and adults with behavioral health disabilities.

Application 125 – IKRON of Greater Seattle: Integrated Employment Services

Chair Piper recommended funding the ask at the 2021 level of \$15,545.

Application 133 – Friends of Youth: Youth Employment Program

Commissioner Mansfield said the program is meaningful. However, the number of residents projected to be served is only three. There are other agencies that might be able to do a little more in the same service area. The outcomes are measured in terms of pre-employment activities, participating in eight meetings rather than on actually getting jobs and tracking them. The review team recommended against funding the application.

Application 135 – Northwest Education Access: Helping Opportunity Youth

Commissioner Mansfield noted that the application contained a number of contradictions. Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the proposal is to serve youth who have few opportunities to go to college. However, the services and program description in the application are actually for youth who are engaged and want to pursue higher education. The projected number of Bellevue residents to be served is 24. The team concluded that the application should not be funded.

Commissioner Mansfield commented that community colleges partner with a lot of agencies and they are much better positioned in terms of resources.

Commissioner Phan noted that 80 percent of the clients are people of color, including immigrant/refugees and Black African Americans.

Application 118 – ANEW: Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training and Supportive Services

Chair Piper noted that the requested amount is at the low end of the scale. The program, however, is impressive in terms of the communities it serves and the mission to give skills that will allow the participants to find gainful employment. The graduation success rate is 80 percent, and two years post-grad 75 percent are still employed in the construction industry. The team recommended fully funding the ask.

Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that the number of Bellevue residents served by the program is shown in the application to be zero. Chair Piper said the projected number is 23.

Christy Stangland clarified that they project to serve 5 Bellevue residents in 2023.

Commissioner Ma stressed the need to have the clarity from the agencies in regard to

residents served. The program is good and should be fully funded.

Application 119 – Bellevue College: Center for Career Connections
Application 120 – Bellevue College: Preparing for Work

Chair Piper said the team reviewed both applications together and concluded both should be funded because of the number of residents served.

Application 123 – Hopelink: Adult Education

Chair Piper said the recommendation of the team was to pass on funding the application. There is some duplication of services with Application 120.

Application 124 – Hopelink: Employment

Chair Piper said the team saw some duplication in services with other programs. The application should be funded at the \$28,000 level.

Commissioner Mansfield asked if the duplication in services is with the Bellevue College programs. Commissioner Phan said the answer was yes. Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that Bellevue College has more expertise and a larger pool of funding to draw on, which may result in better outcomes.

Chair Piper concurred.

Application 127 – YCWA: Eastside Employment Services

Chair Piper said the team recommended funding at the 2021 level but added it would be okay to go with the staff recommendation. Commissioner Phan added that the program specifically prioritizes Black African Americans, Latinx and Southeast Asians.

Commissioner Mansfield suggested \$30,000 would be an appropriate funding level or the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Ma commented that the YWCA likely serves a different population from what Bellevue College serves, one that may not otherwise be captured. Funding at \$40,000 would be appropriate.

Commissioner Ma called for increasing the allocation for Application 119 to the level of the previous ask. Commissioner Mansfield agreed but suggested lowering the allocation for Application 120.

Christy Stangland commented that Jewish Family Service, who provided services for refugees and immigrants as well as ELL and work support services, did not apply for funding this funding cycle. Leslie Miller said they received over \$200,000, a significant investment, and they are pulling out of the city of Bellevue and focusing just on south King County.

Commissioner Ma proposed not funding Application 123 and giving \$28,000 to Application 119 and \$40,000 to Application 127.

Referring back to Application 133, Chair Piper noted that the agency serves an underserved community, specifically those in the foster care system who age out.

Commissioner Ma remained a no on Application 135 but expressed a willingness to fund

Application 133 at the staff-recommended level.

Application 128 – Bellevue College: Head Start Program

Commissioner Mansfield pointed out the need for the application to be more specific in regard to the program's funding sources, especially since Head Start is federally and state funded. The budget lists tuition as other income but that should be clarified.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the application indicates Bellevue funds would be used to provide additional student support in the classroom, though exactly what that involves is not clear. Residents from Issaquah are served but there is no ask from that city. The team concluded the application should be given the staff recommendation pending clarification of the questions.

Application 129 – Bellevue School District: Early Learning Preschool Program

Commissioner Mansfield voiced support for the program but noted the ask is for only one FTE, which makes the requested amount seem very high. The team recommended full funding.

Application 130 – Child Care Resources: Child Care Financial Assistance

Commissioner Mansfield said the budget needs to be clarified. It talks about vouchers but is silent on how much they are for. The percentage of the overall ask from Bellevue seems high compared to what other cities are being asked for. Administration and indirect costs also appear to be very high. The team offered no funding recommendation pending additional information about the budget and the vouchers.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted the application lists 189 vouchers to 27 Bellevue residents without adding any clarity, and does not list other sources of funding.

Application 131 – Child Care Resources: Homeless Child Care Program

Commissioner Mansfield said the application projects serving only five residents. The review team recommended against funding the program for that reason.

Application 132 – Child Care Resources: Information and Referral, Technical Assistance and Training

Commissioner Mansfield said the team recommended funding at the \$15,000 level based on the amount of funding being sought from other cities per resident served. Vice Chair Amirfaiz added that the budget lists two FTEs and includes an ask of \$241,740.

Application 134 – Kindering Center: Child Care and Preschool Consultation

Commissioner Mansfield said the review team recommended funding at \$60,000 based on one FTE. Vice Chair Amirfaiz said the service units are based on 60-minute sessions and on-call support. The budget for 2021 was higher than what is shown in the budget for 2022 and 2023 even though one person was on leave in 2021.

Leslie Miller said the program is aimed at preventing kids from being expelled from preschool and child care. The program provides coaching to both the child care workers and the parents.

Application 45 – Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue: Project Learn

There was agreement to preliminarily go with the staff recommendation for funding.

Commissioner Ma called for going with the staff recommendation for Application 134. It takes a lot of resources to help children in need.

Commissioner Mansfield was open to doing that. The population served is often overlooked.

Commissioner Singh concurred. There is a shortage of qualified staff.

Commissioner Mansfield recommended the higher amount as well.

Commissioner Ma proposed reducing the allocation to Application 129 to \$60,000. Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that in the school district's preschool programs for children with disabilities, there are no other funding options. The programs are also staff intensive. The specialized program is only offered at Phantom Lake Elementary. He agreed, however, with the proposed \$60,000.

Application 97 – Asian Counseling and Referral Service: Children, Youth and Families Program

Commissioner Ma said the review team agreed with the funding recommendation of the staff even though it is less than the previous funding cycle. The program is certainly important.

Commissioner Singh agreed.

Application 111 – NAMI Eastside: Youth Mental Health

Commissioner Ma reported leaning toward not funding the application. Commissioner Singh added that other organizations like the Bellevue School District have similar programs. The recommendation was made to pass on the application.

Application 116 – Youth Eastside Services: Behavioral Health Care for Children and Youth

Commissioner Ma stated that the agency is heavily involved on the Eastside in offering mental health services and allowed that youth mental health is a huge issue. The recommendation of the review team was to go with the staff framework.

Commissioner Singh concurred, noting that the program truly serves the needy.

Commissioner Mansfield noted that part of the ask is for outreach, adding that over the last two years attempts were made to get services from the agency for clients, only to find no new clients over the age of seven are being accepted. There seems to be no need for outreach if new clients are not going to be accepted. Leslie Miller expressed the understanding that their outreach is to culturally specific communities. Commissioner Mansfield said even so the agency is not accepting any clients over the age of seven.

Christy Stangland noted that based on the information YES provided when staff gathered information for the commissioners a few months ago about waitlists for behavioral health organizations, YES is receiving referrals through on-site staff located at schools and prioritize connecting youth with high acuity with services immediately. They are also taking referrals from the hospital. They are also holding a waiting list and prioritizing youth with high acuity. Commissioner Mansfield said they should have explained that.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz asked what the city dollars would buy. She noted the agency undoubtedly gets funding through Title 19 Medicaid given that they serve low-income clients, even though that is not listed in the budget. More information regarding that should be sought. Leslie Miller commented that Medicaid does not cover the expenses. The agency has increased the hours for the staff psychiatrist and that has triggered a large increase in expenses.

Chair Piper agreed that the budget includes a number of blanks in terms of additional sources of funding. It was also pointed out that the asks for Redmond and Kirkland are quite a bit lower even though more of those residents are served. The allocation to the agency should be adjusted.

Leslie Miller said staff would spend some time determining if their ask is proportionate to their service units.

Commissioner Phan noted that while not in the budget, the explanation section of the application does reference Medicaid reimbursement per FTE. The ask includes a 25 percent increase per FTE to help mitigate the losses.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said there should be a complete budget for every application.

Application 117 - Youth Eastside Services: Early Childhood Behavioral Health

Commissioners Ma and Singh recommended going with the staff recommendation.

A motion to extend the meeting to finish the discussion of Goal Area 4 was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phan and the motion carried unanimously.

Application 98 – Asian Counseling and Referral Service: Whole Health Oriented Mental Health Program

Commissioner Ma recommended fully funding the request or at least at \$60,000. The population served has a need for the culturally relevant services.

Commissioner Mansfield voiced support for funding the application at \$50,000.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said it would be good to know if those served with city dollars are Medicaid eligible.

Application 102 – Crisis Connections: Crisis Line

Commissioner Ma agreed with the staff framework funding amount. While the service is needed it would be better to invest in the services to which the referrals are made. Commissioner Singh also supported the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Mansfield said it did not appear that the ask of Bellevue is proportional to the asks made to other cities.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said \$12,000 would be appropriate based on the number of calls mentioned in the service units' section of the application. Chair Piper agreed.

Commissioner Singh noted that most applications are asking for more from Bellevue than from other jurisdictions. Toni Esparza said one way to balance that is to calculate the per-unit

cost and compare it to the asks of other cities. That is one way to review the applications. It is typical for agencies to seek more funding from Bellevue because Bellevue is bigger, but hopefully that also means the number of Bellevue clients served is bigger.

Application 106 – IKRON of Greater Seattle: Behavioral Health Services

Commissioner Ma recommended funding at \$40,000 but added the staff recommendation would also be acceptable.

Commissioner Mansfield said there were questions about the waiting period for services to clients compared to other providers. Also noted from the application was that 90 percent of the program's clients are Medicaid eligible, which raises the question of if the Bellevue dollars are needed to address costs above and beyond Medicaid.

Commissioner Ma allowed that the program partners with other agencies, including Imagine Housing. A waiting list does not necessarily indicate a greater need.

Application 110 – NAMI Eastside: Mental Health Education & Support Programs

Leslie Miller pointed out that the budget included in the application by the agency is incorrect. Staff have been working with the agency to get them to turn in a correct budget.

Commissioner Ma recommended funding at \$10,000. The program provides support programs for the mentally ill and their family members, though that is not unique to the program.

Commissioner Mansfield said it is not clear from the budget exactly what Bellevue would be paying for.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz agreed and for that reason recommended not funding the application.

Commissioner Ma stressed the importance of funding the program but agreed with the need to seek some clarity.

Application 113 – Therapeutic Health Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Program

Commissioners Ma and Singh agreed with the staff framework recommendation.

Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that the cost for Bellevue is quite high compared to other cities. No ask is even made of other cities that are projected to be served.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said based on the number of proposed service units \$50,000 would be a good starting number.

Commissioner Ma suggested \$50,000 was too low and recommended \$70,000.

Application 100 – Bridge Disability Ministries: Meyer Medical Equipment Center

Commissioner Ma recommended against funding the application. The program is good but there are other priorities.

Commissioner Mansfield reported having work experience on the agency side, the grant

writing side, and the budgeting side.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz commented that the service is unique and recommended fully funding the application.

Commissioner Mansfield pointed out that donations to the program are down.

Chair Piper allowed that the service is not duplicated anywhere else. The population served and the projected number of residents served all support funding the application at some level between \$5000 and \$10,000.

Application 104 – HealthPoint: Dental Care
Application 105 – HealthPoint: Medical Care

Commissioner Ma said the two applications were reviewed together. There are many ways in which the agency is getting funding for dental and medical care. In previous cycles the Commission discussed the importance of dental care and the fact that dental care is often overlooked in terms of general health. It makes sense to increase to some degree funding for the dental program.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed that there should be an increase in funding for dental since it is less likely to be funded in other ways and suggested \$30,000. Clarification is needed in regard to receiving Medicaid funding and measurable outcomes.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz pointed out that the only outcome listed is the fact that 80 percent of clients are low income, which is not adequately responsive. Additionally, the budget is incomplete and no other funding is shown. Of the proposed 60 individuals to be served with Bellevue dollars, it is not known if the individuals are without insurance or Medicaid.

Leslie Miller allowed that the program serves many who are undocumented and unable to get services elsewhere.

Commissioner Ma proposed \$30,000 for the dental application and \$20,000 for the medical application.

Application 109 – International Community Health Services: Dental

Commissioner Ma recommended going with the staff recommendation. The program serves a slightly different clientele from HealthPoint. Chair Piper and Commissioner Mansfield concurred.

Application 114 – Washington Poison Center: Emergency and Education Services

Commissioner Ma recommended going with the staff framework for the application. Chair Piper and Commissioner Singh concurred.

Commissioner Mansfield noted that the Commission initially indicated it would not fund the application because their numbers are not much different from the previous year. It is questionable why the program would need additional funding.

Application 115 – Wonderland Child and Family Services: Hope RISING Clinic

Commissioner Ma said there were a number of questions around what the city would be paying for and how it all adds up. The program does receive funding from other sources. The application should not be funded.

Commissioner Mansfield agreed with passing on the application, as did Chair Piper and Commissioner Singh.

Commissioner Phan disagreed with the argument that the application should not be funded because it receives funding from somewhere else. Commissioner Mansfield said the agency has a very large pot of money to draw from and the city has a finite pot of money to allocate. Commissioner Phan said with costs for everything rising everywhere, it is safe to assume that agencies are asking for increased funding to address those costs and to seek funding from other areas. The ask from Bellevue is very small.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz noted that the program served five Bellevue residents in 2021 and is projecting to serve eight in 2023, three of which would be funded by Bellevue. The program is located in Shoreline and six Shoreline residents were served in 2021 and the projection is that it will serve three in 2023. Most similar programs are federally funded, and it really comes down to what impact on Bellevue residents the program has, and what the city will be buying by funding it.

Commissioner Phan asked if there is another program that serves the same population. Commissioner Ma said the program appears to be unique.

Vice Chair Amirfaiz said it is possible Kinderling provides some similar services. Commissioner Mansfield said there is also a similar program at the University of Washington.

Leslie Miller agreed to ask the agency why it chose to ask for only \$5,000.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Leslie Miller brought forward the need for the Commission to vote to allow Commissioner Mansfield to participate remotely on July 7, and for Commissioner Phan to be allowed to participate remotely for both meetings in July. Vice Chair Amirfaiz also asked to be allowed to participate remotely for the June 23 and July 7 meetings.

Leslie Miller noted that if neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are physically present for a meeting, another Commissioner will need to be tapped to officiate.

A motion to approve allowing Vice Chair Amirfaiz to participate remotely on June 23, Vice Chair Amirfaiz and Commissioners Phan and Mansfield on July 7, and Commissioner Phan on July 19 was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ma offered to facilitate the meeting on June 23 in the absence of Chair Piper.

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Amirfaiz. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Amirfaiz, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Piper adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.