

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on June 17, 2014

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 20, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Perelman, Commissioners Bruels, Beighle, Plaskon, Stout, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner McEachran

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Jessamyn Findlay, Patrick Foran, Terry Smith, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Chair Perelman who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Stout said she enjoyed serving as a member of the diversity panel put together by Diversity Program Director Kevin Henry. The meeting was attended by representatives from all of the city's boards and commissions.

Commissioner Stout reported that the Downtown Livability Initiative CAC will meet for what is supposed to be its penultimate meeting on May 21. The community has caught on to the importance of the initiative and the changes it will bring to the downtown. The focus of the May 21 meeting will be parking issues and building height, two very hot topics. There still is a chance that the CAC will choose to include affordable housing and service space as amenities.

Commissioner Beighle said she attended the Issaquah Schools Foundation fundraiser. She said the event was well attended. Kids from the Tiger Mountain alternative school moved many to tears in saying how thankful they are that the community supports them.

Chair Perelman introduced new Commissioners Carla Villar and Michele Kline.

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran offered a fond farewell to Commissioners Stout and Yantis. He stressed the importance of the work done by the Commission in making a difference in the lives of people, and praised Commissioners Stout and Yantis for the dedicated efforts they brought to the task. He said both will be missed and predicted that both would be back in some capacity or another.

Commissioner Yantis said it is very rewarding to be associated with the good that the city does in the community. The support the Commission gets from the city from the staff to the Council is nothing short of amazing. The Commissioners are always dedicated and give thoughtful consideration to the work brought before them. Likewise, the dedication and capability of the staff is nothing short of remarkable.

Commissioner Stout concurred. She said serving on the Commission had been a phenomenal experience. She praised the Commissioners for working well together as a team during her eight-year tenure. She said the human services staff is the best staff anyone ever had; they do an outstanding job of making the Commission look good in the eyes of the Council.

5. DISCUSSION

A. Round 1 - Initial Review of Human Services Applications

Application 26: Alliance of People with disAbilities - Youth Program

Commissioner Beighle said the program focuses on youth with disabilities and seeks to increase their independent living skills. She noted that Commissioner McEachran was willing to move the application beyond the initial screening but that he was not convinced it should ultimately be funded. Commissioner Beighle pointed out that the program has good partnerships established, and said it is awesome that 51 percent of the staff are themselves disabled persons. She said it is not clear what the requested funds will be used for.

Commissioner Beighle said there are issues with the numbers in the application, particularly relating to the numbers served.

Chair Perelman said she could see no measureable results in the application, and agreed it was unclear what the requested funds would be used for.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said she and Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano met on May 19 with staff from the program to discuss, among other things, the degree to which the program collaborates with the Bellevue School District. A new executive director and grant writer have been brought on board, and it was noted the program is involved with Eastside Pathways and with the Bellevue School District.

Commissioner Plaskon said he would like to know what outcomes are measured.

Commissioner Beighle observed that the application makes reference to service units without explaining what the units are. She also noted the application makes the assumption the Eastside is underserved, something that should be clarified.

Commissioner Bruels said the list of partners is impressive but short on details as to what the partnerships entail.

Commissioner Plaskon agreed that clarification is needed relative to the need on the Eastside. Ms. O'Reilly said reports written by the King County Division of Developmental Disabilities indicate that there are many kids with disabilities graduating from high school who are underserved in terms of transitioning. They can remain in the county programs only until they are 21 after which they must access other programs for training and volunteer work. They are living longer as well, all of which adds to the overall need for services.

Application 27: Alpha Supported Living Services

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides support for clients to thrive in a supported living model with housemates. The clients live in a family-like environment in community neighborhoods. She said Commissioner McEachran was willing to see the application move beyond the first round given its ties to service with bridge disability. She said she likes the notion of having clients live in family situations rather than in isolation. There is a low turnover rate, and quality of care is a big focus of the program. Commissioner Beighle said she was concerned that the new program was seeking \$7000 from the city toward an overall \$12 million budget and suggested such a small amount could make more of an impact on a program already being funded.

Chair Perelman said she had the same concern regarding the small amount of funding requested compared against the overall budget.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the program applied for funding during the last round and was denied.

Commissioner Yantis agreed the funds could be put together use funding another program. Commissioner Beighle concurred. Chair Perelman agreed and suggested funding only 27 units would not be impactful.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 28: Asian Counseling and Referral Services - Children, Youth and Families

Commissioner Beighle said the program provides prevention and intervention services related to dating violence, sexual assault and healthy relationships for young women at three high schools in the Bellevue School District. She said Commissioner McEachran's comments were that the program addresses cultural competence and a broad range of services but represents a significant increase in the ask. She noted the application cites the Needs Update. The program focuses on a highly vulnerable population and that Newport high school has been added to the program. The staff speak several languages and there is a demand for the services. She said she would recommend increased funding for the program but not necessarily the requested amount.

Commissioner Yantis said he would like to know why United Way has reduced its funding for the program.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the application indicates a 100 percent increase in the number of families served over the past two years, but the number of service units is flat.

Application 29: Assistance League of the Eastside - Operation School Bell

Commissioner Beighle said the program gives money to needy kids to increase their self esteem and confidence during the school year. She noted that Commissioner McEachran had no concerns regarding the application. She said she liked the fact that dental hygiene items are given to the kids along with hats and scarves. She also noted that the program receives a lot of donations. She recommended funding the request.

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Application 30: Athletes for Kids

Commissioner Beighle said the program has submitted an application during each of the last several funding cycles. The mentoring program focuses on high school sports students and children in grades 1 through 8 who have disabilities. She said Commissioner McEachran indicated in his notes that he was not convinced the program should be funded. She noted the application cited the Needs Update but suggested the program should be supported through the high schools it serves. The program does not address any of the identified focus areas.

Commissioner Stout observed that the demographics section of the application had not been filled out.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 31: Bellevue School District - VIBES (Volunteers in Bellevue's Education System)

Chair Perelman said the program matches children who are disadvantaged or at risk of academic failure with trained, caring and dependable mentors. The application indicates the intent to hire another FTE to help manage the growth of the program. She pointed out that the ask represents a 65 percent increase over the previous funding level.

Ms. O'Reilly said the application indicates a 30 percent growth but it is not reflected in the demographics. Commissioner Bruels said he had questioned those figures as well. There may very well be other reasons why additional funding is needed, but the application does not make the case. Ms. O'Reilly said the program has .24 FTEs and is asking for one more, and the application indicates the number of students to be served is only slightly higher.

Commissioner Stout said she had some very real concerns about the budget numbers. She noted that the school district for the current school year had \$193 million in funding. The VIBES program, which was started in 1994, has been a significant program over the years. She said she supervised the program in 1996 and 1997 and there is no question whatsoever about how valuable the program is to the school district. The school district needs to assume the increased funding needs and not push them off on the city. The same applies to Application 32. Both are excellent and needed programs, but the school district appears to be trying to take advantage of the city.

There was agreement some justification for the substantial increased ask should be sought, including accurate figures for how many unduplicated children are being served.

Application 32: Bellevue School District - Human Services

Chair Perelman said the increase in the amount of funding requested by the application stands out.

Commissioner Bruels said he concluded after reading the application that the substantial increase in the ask stems from the fact that the principals want to expand the program in the ten schools in which it already operates. He suggested that objective evidence of the need should be supplied to the Commission.

Commissioner Plaskon said he would like to know how the school district is leveraging the city's funding to make the programs more sustainable into the future.

Mr. Foran pointed out that the city has a very tight relationship with the Bellevue School District and not just through human services funding and programs. He said it would be appropriate to ask if the district has consulted with the Department of Parks and Community Services regarding strategy and resources. The collective impact idea needs to be reinforced through working collaboratively. There is much in the application that sounds exactly like things already being done. He pointed out that the district is to be applauded for its focus on closing the achievement gap and for being focused on the 25 percent of the kids who do not make it through.

Commissioner Stout said the program was designed by her and Rob Beem years ago and said it is operating exactly as designed. It is regretful, however, that the district believes the city should fund all of it. Nothing is said in the application about who has been funding the program's FTEs. The program clearly represents a partnership between the city and the district, but takes two to play.

Assistant Director Terry Smith said he was asked by staff if he had been contacted by the district about the significant increase in funding. He allowed that he had not been and said his objective view of the proposal was that it is almost a different proposal, that the positions being asked for are not human service specialists alone and appear to be something more akin to wraparound coordinators. He agreed that there are questions in need of answers.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie said the wraparound coordinators based in the schools are in fact city of Bellevue staff. She said in reading the application she was struck by the fact that the coordinators are hardly even mentioned.

Commissioner Stout observed that nothing is said in the application about benefits being provided for the employees. She also pointed out that the application, and many others as well, places a great emphasis on the use of public transportation, which is worrisome because the future of public transit for the immediate future is up in the air.

Application 33: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound - One-to-One Mentoring

Chair Perelman said the program has not previously been funded by the Commission. She said it appeared to her that the program overlaps with other programs the city funds, particularly the YES mentoring program. She suggested it should not be funded.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 34: Catholic Community Services of King County - Volunteer Chore Services

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 35: Chinese Information and Service Center - Cultural Navigator Program

Chair Perelman observed that the requested amount represents a significant increase over the previous funding level, though nothing is said in the application about a corresponding increase in service hours in Bellevue.

Commissioner Bruels said the application makes mention of the fact that the program is expanding into Issaquah and Kent. He said he would like clarified the question of whether or not the increase in the ask is related to that, particularly in light of the fact that the demographics in the application are shown as being flat.

Application 36: Crisis Clinic King County 211

Commissioner Bruels said the program is very solid and the application seeks a reduction in funding from the previous level.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 37: Eastside Friends of Seniors

Commissioner Beighle said the program offers outreach to seniors, particularly those who are disabled, low-income or isolated on the Eastside. Services are offered by volunteers. She said Commissioner McEachran in his review of the application had not been convinced of the need and voiced concern that the executive director is a member of the Redmond City Council. The application does meet at least one of the funding criteria, namely allowing older adults to remain secure in the community. While transportation for seniors to medical appointments continues to be an issue for many, there are similar programs in place to serve the need. She said she was leaning toward not considering funding the request.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 38: Eastside Legal Assistance Program - Legal Services

Commissioner Beighle said the well-established program is cost effective and has a very good track record. The program includes providing its clients with transportation from senior centers and transition shelters. Multicultural training is an ongoing process for the organization and there is good community support through donations. The program serves a high-demand but underserved population. She said she could support approving the requested ten percent increase in funding.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 39: Friends of Youth - Healthy Start

Commissioner Beighle noted that the program supports the overall health, development and school readiness for the children of young low-income parents. She said Commissioner McEachran had questions about the proposed increase in funding and whether it will be used to expand services. The children are screened for development at four to six months of age, and they are also screened for hearing and vision. The program works collaboratively with other agencies and avoids duplication of service. The application indicates the increased ask is due to the high number of clients receiving services in the area and the fact that immigrants and refugees require more support. She recommended a COLA increase rather than the amount requested.

Commissioner Stout said she was solid in thinking the program should be funded, but had some questions about the management.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Bruels, Commissioner Beighle said she interpreted the application to say the program needs more funding because of the higher level of need in the people being served. Commissioner Bruels said he would like confirmation of that.

Application 40: Hopelink - Family Development Program

Commissioner Beighle said the program helps families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to achieve housing stability and long-term self sufficiency. The program has proven to be successful over time. She recommended funding the application with a COLA increase.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 41: King County Bar Foundation - Pro Bono Services

Commissioner Beighle said the application seeks funding for the Housing Justice Project and Neighborhood Legal Clinic, two of six programs offered. She said the application does have links with Goal 1 and the program collaborates with the Eastside Legal Assistance Program.

Chair Perelman said her husband is associated with the Neighborhood Legal Clinic program.

Commissioner Beighle noted that the Eastside Legal Assistance Program does not provide services like those offered through the Housing Justice Project. The program is in fact the only program that provides Eastside clients with in-court representation at eviction hearings. She also pointed out that the Neighborhood Legal Clinic provides free legal advice on elder law.

Commissioner Beighle commented that while the application states there are 34 Neighborhood Legal Clinic locations in King County, it does not indicate if there is one in Bellevue. Chair Perelman said there is a location next to Walmart on Main Street and 148th Avenue NE.

Commissioner Beighle noted that the program serves 727 Bellevue residents. She said she would like the Commission to consider funding the application.

Application 42: Together Center

Commissioner Stout said Bellevue was part of the founding group for the program. It enjoys an excellent location, but two of the major tenants have moved out, Hopelink and Friends of Youth. She suggested the application may in part be an attempt to replace some of the lost revenue. The program does serve a number of Bellevue clients. The application appears to seek funding for someone to welcome clients and provide them directions and answers, something the program has been missing for some time.

Commissioner Bruels said his initial impulse was to pass on the application, but said he was persuaded by Commissioner Stout's comments to give it a second look.

Ms. Leslie said when first created the idea was for a one-stop shop. It has not turned out that way and is particularly challenged by Hopelink and Friends of Youth leaving. Other agencies that had offices there chose to move back to Bellevue. The organization remains viable, though. The Landing shelter is located there in the former Hopelink space.

Application 43: Youth Eastside Services - Early Intervention

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Application 44: Youth Eastside Services - Response to Youth

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Application 45: Youth Eastside Services - Success Mentoring

Commissioner Stout observed that the numbers for the program have dropped off significantly and said she would be interested in knowing why. The program launched in 1994 and at that time served as many students as the application says are now being served.

Chair Perelman said according to the application the program's new accounting system is counting things differently, which has led to the appearance of a significant decrease. The application appears to indicate that in reality things are stable. The requested funds represent a decrease by half over the previous allocation.

*Application 46: Consejo Counseling and Referral Service - Domestic Violence
Community Advocacy Program*

Chair Perelman questioned why the request for funding was flat if, as the application indicates, there has been a significant drop in support groups in Bellevue.

Application 47: Crisis Clinic - Teen Link

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 48: Harborview - Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress Services

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Bruels, Mr. Adriano said the Harborview and King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) programs were impacted as a result of the Children's Response Center program going away. Harborview retained the counseling portion and subcontracted with KCSARC to provide the case management, community outreach, and legal support pieces. To some degree that accounts for why Harborview's ask has been reduced.

Chair Perelman pointed out that the ask from KCSARC is more than the reduction in the ask from Harborview. Mr. Adriano reminded that Commissioners that during the latter part of 2013 KCSARC initiated communications with the city regarding emergency funding. He said his theory was that the ask from KCSARC represented what they thought they would need anyway plus the activity they assumed from Harborview.

Commissioner Stout observed that the demographics page had not been filled out in the application.

Chair Perelman informed the Commission that Harborview is leasing an office at the Center for Human Services in Shoreline and that she serves on the board of that organization.

*Application 49: King County Sexual Assault Resource Center -
Comprehensive Sexual Assault Services*

Commissioner Beighle said two programs are offered for advocacy services and prevention efforts. She said the increased ask in part is due to their absorbing services from the Children's Response Center. The agency provides specialized services for victims of human trafficking. She said she wanted to make sure their services do not overlap with Harborview's programs.

Ms. Leslie said the staff review will include a history of the program and actions taken by the agency and Harborview to absorb the Children's Response Center services.

Application 50: Lifewire - Community Advocacy Program

Commissioner Beighle said she would like to know if there is any overlap with the Eastside Legal Advocacy Program (ELAP). She noted the application does not mention court appearances, which ELAP does provide. The program continues to improve accessibility for older adults. The application indicates that for every request for emergency shelter, 25 were turned away in 2013, but there is no indication that increased funding will result in more shelter beds. She said she would recommend funding the application with at least a COLA.

Ms. Leslie said the program is part of the family homelessness initiative where the emphasis is on moving families as quickly as possible out of shelter and into permanent housing, which could be the way they intend to increase the available number of bednights.

Application 51: Lifewire - MSH

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that in the application there is a large discrepancy between the 2015 revenues and expenses and the indication is that they will make up the difference in fundraising and reserves. The application is also silent with regard to how the agency intends to use the \$15,000 increase in the housing stability program.

Commissioner Bruels said it appeared to him they want to bring cash assistance and other support for housing in-house. The case management team has been engaging families and guests in the shelters and they are wanting to assist them directly with cash and other support. He said he would like to know what they have traditionally done to meet the needs, and they need to make the case for wanting to take a different direction.

Application 52: Olive Crest - Safe Families for Children

Commissioner Beighle said the new program involves a network of host families that voluntarily open their homes to provide a safe place. The application suggests the program is an innovative alternative to the child welfare program. She said the application does not mention anything about performing criminal background checks on potential host families. She said she also would like to know how the agency estimated the number of client families for Bellevue. The program appears to be doing well with the support it receives from the faith community.

Chair Perelman said she had difficulty in understanding how the program would serve Bellevue.

Commissioner Bruels said the application states the program has identified a gap between what children's services offers in terms of foster care and folks who are just overwhelmed and need help while they solve their particular difficulties. What they

are advocating is separating families, which is just the opposite of what a lot of research shows.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 53: Refugee Women's Alliance - Domestic Violence Support Group

Commissioner Beighle said the well-established program includes advocacy services and continues to fill an important gap. She noted that in his review Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the agency is seeking a substantial increase over its previous allocation.

Commissioner Stout noted the application indicates substantial program costs.

Commissioner Bruels said he wanted to know why the program was not applying to other cities commensurate with the identified need.

Application 54: Asian Counseling and Referral Service - Mental Health

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Application 55: Bridge Disability Ministries - Mobility

Commissioner Bruels suggested that the Medicaid expansion will obviate the need for the service.

There was agreement to remove the application from further review.

Application 56: Crisis Clinic Crisis Line

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Application 57: Eastern European Counseling Center

Commissioner Bruels suggested the program is worth a second look. He said one question he had was what the agency is doing relative to long-term sustainability.

Chair Perelman noted that the applications made by the agency to other cities are all for less than \$5000. Ms. Leslie said Bellevue is the only city that has a \$5000 minimum requirement.

Application 58: Elder and Adult Day Services

The Commissioners had no questions regarding the application.

Chair Perelman opened the floor to comment from executive director Jeff Bradt. He said one of the things he did in the application was to look at how much each city is paying to support each hour of service provided to city residents. The lowest rate was less than half of the high rate, and to address that disparity the various asks were moved closer to the average. The request to Bellevue was left flat in part because the program is located in Bellevue, which gives Bellevue some economic benefit. The program receives close to \$48,000 from the city, but it delivers \$266,000 in services in Bellevue, pays \$212,000 in wages to Bellevue employees, and spends \$340,000 annual for goods and services from Bellevue organizations, making the total economic impact for Bellevue close to \$820,000.

Continuing, Mr. Bradt addressed the efforts to facilitate mergers with other organizations. The research indicates that organizations with annual budgets of \$5 million or less lie in the sweet spot. It has been difficult to move the ball forward because those organizations are stretched really thin and it is hard to find the time to work on something that is speculative. There is also uncertainty when it comes to merging organizations that do not really know each other. Even when organizations without leadership were approached, it was very difficult to convince them to come on board. United Way of King County has as one of its priorities seeing non-profits merge or consolidate. If the city were to make it a priority it would be very helpful. The city could encourage if not require organizations to have at least some cross-pollination of boards and executive directors so they could at least get to know each other.

Application 59: HealthPoint - Medical

Chair Perelman asked why Bellevue is paying proportionally more compared to other cities.

Commissioner Plaskon said he had the same question. He pointed out that the program brings care into client homes rather than requiring clients to travel to their office. The program will be impacted by the Affordable Care Act in ways application 60 will not.

Mr. Adriano said nearly all of the other cities fund the program. Staff worked with the other cities, especially the South County cities, to combine the two applications from HealthPoint, which would allow the agency to spend the funds on the kinds of visits that are most important. The South County cities did not want to go in that direction, but the North and East County cities all favored the approach. The suggestion was made to combine the funding from the North and East County cities for the two applications into a single contract, and the agency is open to that. Commissioner Bruels said that would be a great idea.

Application 60: HealthPoint - Primary Dental Care

Chair Perelman said the concern she had for the first HealthPoint application applied to both.

Application 61: HERO House

Commissioner Beighle said Commissioner McEachran's comments regarding the application were that it is a great program, that Bellevue does not fund many similar agencies that focus on residents with mental illness, and that the application should be funded with at least a COLA.

Commissioner Bruels said the application indicates the program is breaking event but it does not account for the 2200 visit shortfall in 2013-2014. He said it was also not clear what is being countered in terms of visits to the clubhouse, particularly whether or not the visits are unduplicated and whether the visitors receive services of some type or are just people walking in the door.

Application 62: International Community Health Services - Community Advocacy

Commissioner Beighle said the new program focuses on immigrants and refugees from South Asia. The program just opened in Bellevue on May 1.

Chair Perelman said the agency is advertising on buses and the application on page 15 indicates that funding from Bellevue would in fact be used to market their services to the community.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that Medicaid expansion is going to have a positive impact on the agency's bottom line, relieving to some degree the pressure to obtain funding from other sources.

Ms. O'Reilly said the agency was very involved in helping people sign up for the Affordable Care Act; they had a contract with the State to provide in-person assistors. Now that people are enrolled, many do not know how to use their insurance coverage. The agency intends to continue its outreach to help people be aware of what services they can get.

Commissioner Bruels commented that the city is already funding medical services, and Medicaid expansion will help. He suggested passing on the application.

Ms. Leslie pointed out that the other clinics are not necessarily reaching the South Asian populations.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 63: International Community Health Services - Dental

Chair Perelman allowed that dental continues to be a huge need gap. She observed that the program has a sliding fee scale and asked if they are seeking funding to make up for any shortfall that might result from the sliding scale.

Commissioner Beighle commented that the program focuses on low-income Asians, native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees.

Ms. O'Reilly said the application is the same as the one for HealthPoint dental services. Agencies are not being reimbursed for dental care under a lot of the new medical plans and under Medicare. The requested funding would make up the difference.

Chair Perelman said she would like the agency to answer the question of exactly what the funding would cover.

Application 64: Jubilee REACH - Dental

Commissioner Beighle said the program appears to be dedicated to the Lake Hills area. She recommended against funding for the program, which is not cost effective compared to other dental services programs that are already being funded.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 65: Jubilee REACH - Medical

Commissioner Bruels suggested the service is duplicative of other services funded by the city.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

Application 66: NAMI Eastside - Education, Support, Advocacy

Chair Perelman said the program is good but questioned why the agency was operating as a stand-alone organization rather than partnering with someone else locally.

Commissioner Bruels suggested the NAMI situation is special in that it is a grassroots organization. Their constituents are families and people who are challenged by mental health problems and their role in a sense is speaking truth to power. As such it is antithetical to have partnerships with the very ones to which they are advocating change.

Application 67: Senior Services - Volunteer Transportation

Chair Perelman noted that the agency provides reimbursement to volunteers on a per-mile basis.

The Commissioners had no questions about the application.

Application 68: Sound Mental Health - Low-Income Counseling

Answering a question asked by Chair Perelman, Commissioner Bruels explained that for someone eligible to be tiered in the public mental health system, Medicaid will provide coverage. However, coverage does not necessarily extend to psychotherapy or counseling for the non-chronically mentally ill. The State does not offer fee-for-service Medicaid in King County where the County contracts with the State. The County will only cover mental health center services where clients meet a certain diagnostic criteria, in other words major mental health issues. The application seeks funding to address clients with less serious mental health problems.

Application 69: Sound Mental Health - Child and Family Services Community Services

Chair Perelman said it appeared from the application that Bellevue is being asked for more money than other cities. She said the numbers do not seem to speak to that conclusion.

Application 70: Therapeutic Health Services - Alcohol/Drug

Ms. Leslie clarified for Chair Perelman that the program does not offer inpatient services.

Commissioner Bruels observed that the medically assisted treatment program was started in 2013 in Bellevue to treat opiate addictions. The program was initially funded by the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency program (MIDD). Now under the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion the reimbursements are eight percent less compared to the MIDD system, yet it appears the program continues to receive money from the MIDD. He also asked why the ask is for a 27 percent increase if the reimbursements are only eight percent less. If the increase in the ask is to cover the MAT program in Bellevue, that should be made clear.

Chair Perelman asked why the program's revenues should be remaining flat given that more people are insured under the Affordable Care Act.

Application 71: Washington Poison Center - Emergency Services

Commissioner Bruels suggested the application does not meet the funding criteria.

There was agreement to remove the application from further consideration.

6. OLD BUSINESS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Perelman said she recently had a conversation with Councilmember Chelminiak to gain the Council's perspective relative to funding. She said it was noted that some agencies have come in with requests with solid reasons why they should be given more funding. Councilmember Chelminiak said he would not oppose entertaining a Plan A and Plan B approach, with Plan A coming in on budget and Plan B coming in above budget, provided the latter includes a solid case.

Ms. Leslie said she came away from the meeting with the sense that Councilmember Chelminiak thought the timing was good. He definitely was open to considering the possibility of additional funds if a compelling case can be made.

Mr. Smith urged the Commission to focus on exactly what additional funding would deliver. He said more will be known in a month or so after the money is sorted out in the different areas through the budget process. Preliminarily the revenue picture for the city looks flat but it is known there will be increased costs in terms of employee healthcare and the like.

Commissioner Stout said she continues to be very concerned about the issue of wages for many of the agencies. For the kind of work done by many of the agency employees, it is appalling to see how little they are paid. Overhead costs for agencies are also rising, possibly higher than the proposed COLA.

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Perelman adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date