

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on September 4, 2014

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 1, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Perelman, Commissioners Bruels, Beighle, Kline, McEachran, Plaskon, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Chair Perelman who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

5. DISCUSSION

A. Round 2 - Review of Human Services CDBG Applications with Staff Reviews

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano called attention to the draft contingency plan and noted that it was based on the previous contingency plan. He said the city anticipates receiving \$578,340 in CDBG funds, and up to \$300,000 from loan repayments, for a total of \$878,340.

In discussion of the contingency plan, there was consensus that in the event the actual award from HUD in 2015 exceeds the estimated amount, all additional funds

should be allocated to the Major Home Repair program. Additionally, there was agreement that should the CDBG award be less than anticipated, the first step should be to comply with the federal statutory spending caps, first for public service activities and then for administration and planning, the second step should be to reduce the ARCH Affordable Housing Fund award up to 100 percent, and third to reduce the award for the Major Home Repair program.

Application 91: A Regional Coalition for Housing - Housing Trust Fund

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fully fund the requested amount of \$68,900.

Application 92: City of Bellevue - CDBG Administration

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fully fund the requested amount of \$26,274.

Application 93: City of Bellevue - CDBG Planning

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fully fund the requested amount of \$99,043.

Application 94: City of Bellevue - Major Home Repair

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fully fund the requested amount of \$550,000 and to include any leftover funding.

Application 95: Senior Services - Minor Home Repair

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fully fund the requested amount of \$48,044.

A motion to approve the CDBG funding allocations as preliminarily recommended was made by Commissioner Bruels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beighle and it carried unanimously.

Staff next brought the attention of the Commission back to those applications previously flagged for additional discussion.

Application 2: Catholic Community Services of King County - Harrington House

Ms. Leslie said Bellevue and Redmond staff met recently with the director of the agency. She explained that Harrington House was originally intended to serve young unwed mothers. Even before the Family Homelessness Initiative, the program struggled to meet the requirements of the funding cities in terms of serving the target

clients. The facility was funded by ARCH through the Housing Trust Fund. Seeing the changes happening in family homelessness, particularly the increase in homeless families with children and their need for shelter, the agency has been giving serious consideration to having Harrington House be used as an emergency shelter for homeless families. For a variety of reasons, it is not possible to simply make that decision and have it happen; there is an internal process that must be followed in order to make the case for the change. The facility certainly lends itself to homeless families or to homeless single women; it has eight bedrooms around a common living area.

Ms. Leslie said the agency will soon begin the internal process of changing the model for Harrington House. The suggestion has been made to have the shift made by as early as January 2015. She recommended continued funding for the Harrington House application given that while the model might change, the funding will continue to be used to serve homeless families. The contract can be drafted to reflect the understanding that there will be a change in the way the service is delivered sometime during the contract period.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Bruels, Ms. Leslie said staff did not discuss with the agency representative the issue of board composition.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that the current Harrington House model houses clients in eight units for up to two years, whereas under the proposed model clients would be housed in eight units for up to 30 days, allowing the program to be able to serve more clients, including Bellevue residents.

Ms. Leslie said the meeting with Bellevue and Redmond staff was in part focused on determining if the two cities would support changing the model for Harrington House. It was stated at that meeting that the change would make sense.

Commissioner Kline suggested the proposed model change represents a positive move. She recommended funding the application with a COLA increase.

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to allocate to the application \$12,401.

Application 19: Renewal Food Bank

Mr. Adriano noted the Commission's concerns as previously expressed were focused on collaboration issues. The response from the agency to the staff review included a list of mostly churches from which they get volunteers.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly noted that the guidance provided to all agencies calls for collaboration, but just what that means is fairly loosely defined. There is agreement on the part of the funding cities that the guidelines relative to collaboration need to be tightened up and that may occur for the next funding cycle.

Absent stronger language in the directive, different agencies interpreted collaboration differently and responded accordingly.

Ms. Leslie added that the primary issues in reviewing applications are the degree to which a request lines up with the need, and the degree to which the program meets the need in the community.

Commissioner Villar said her concern with the application was less about collaboration and more about the fact that the program operates from a facility that is only half a mile away from the Hopelink food bank. There was clearly a need when the program was operating from a base in Factoria, but the current geographical proximity to Hopelink may have reduced the need.

Ms. Leslie said it was her understanding that after Hopelink cut back its food bank hours, Renewal was operating on Hopelink's closed days.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that the program does not check the income status of clients. Mr. Adriano commented that other funded agencies also do not check client income status, including Youth Eastside Services.

Chair Perelman observed that one stated reason for an increase in the ask for the program was to facilitate the hiring of an operations manager. She said she would argue against funding more staff until the program can establish itself in the new location and demonstrate that it is in fact adding value.

Commissioner McEachran said he has over the years had questions about the program duplicating services and its collaborative impact in the community. Exactly what collaboration means in the faith community can be interpreted in various ways, but duplication of services is more concerning. Arguing the other side of the coin, Ms. Leslie pointed out that the Commission funds more than one childcare program and more than one mental health services program without saying those programs represent a duplication of services.

Commissioner Bruels said the information provided by the agency relative to service delivery identifies that there is a need. Ms. Leslie added that the need is identified in the Needs Update as well.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Kline, Mr. Adriano said the move away from the Factoria location occurred just within the last year. Commissioner Kline asked if traffic to the food bank has changed since the move. Commissioner Bruels said in 2013 the program provided 6400 bags. The projection for 2015 is 31,000 bags. Mr. Adriano allowed that the program has met its contract goals.

Commissioner Villar said the Renewal hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Hopelink food bank is

open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kline observed that the overlap in operating hours is minimal. She said she could support flat funding or a COLA increase for the application but would like to see more information during the next funding cycle about how busy Renewal is during the hours it is open, and if the clients go to Hopelink or Renewal during the overlap hours. She said she also would like to know if giving the money to Hopelink instead would result in more bang for the buck.

Commissioner McEachran commented that Renewal has good relationships with Target and Walmart as well as with the local police station.

Commissioner Bruels said it appeared to him that the agency understands the city's interest in seeing the program work more closely with established agencies.

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to allocate to the application a total of \$15,510.

Commissioner Kline said she would like to know if the move out of the Factoria area has negatively impacted clients in that area. Commissioner Bruels agreed and suggested the agency should be asked to improve its communication with the city as the year progresses; once the new operator is on board, he or she should be encouraged to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Application 20: Salvation Army - Eastside

Ms. Leslie said she included the application for additional discussion given that the Commission preliminarily recommended a fairly substantial increase over the previous allocation. She noted while the desire of the Commission is to see funded agencies operate collaboratively in the community, the Salvation Army does not have a good track record in that area. It would be inconsistent for the Commission to recommend a large increase for the application.

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that the program offers emergency financial assistance, which addresses a clear need in the community. The program also has a food pantry and a meal program.

Commissioner Bruels pointed out that the program is reaching the Somali population.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Bruels, Chair Perelman said the requested increase is based on a projection that the agency will be seeing a large increase in the number of people in need of their support. Mr. Adriano said under the current contract the city is funding only the emergency assistance element, but presumably with a large increase the city would be funding the meal program as well.

There was agreement to continue supporting the emergency financial assistance element only and to give the application a COLA increase.

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to allocate to the application \$15,137.

Application 23: The Sophia Way - Eastside Winter Shelter

Application 24: The Sophia Way - Sophia's Home

Ms. Leslie reported that staff from Bellevue, Redmond and King County met with members of the Sophia Way board, the interim executive director, and the consultant hired to prepare a strategic plan. She noted that the board was on the verge of hiring a professional interim executive director from among two finalists recommended by the funding cities. The person selected is anticipated to fill the post for about six months. Their strategic plan focuses on the need, which includes expanding the winter shelter to nine months from the current six. The consultants are working to identify ways to raise the funds needed to accomplish that level of expansion. The funders present for the meeting were somewhat skeptical about how successful the fundraising efforts might be given that the agency is currently less than stable. The board was in fact urged to be realistic and to focus first on stabilizing the organization before thinking about expanding. The good thing is the agency is focused on delivering the service over keeping the agency alive, and if it is found the agency cannot be sustained a merger with another organization will be sought. The funders believe it should be possible to know by the end of the year if the agency will be able to be brought to a stable course and moving in the right direction.

Continuing, Ms. Leslie said the funders believe that to pull funding from the agency would be to doom it. They concluded that funding should be maintained in conjunction with a number of caveats, including contract language making the funding available only for the service, a provision that would make it easier if necessary to channel the funds to some other agency to serve the client population.

Commissioner Villar said it did not appear to her as though the board consulted with any of their stakeholders in putting together a strategic plan. Ms. Leslie said their next step will be to take the strategic plan to the stakeholders for comment.

There was agreement to approve flat funding for the application, and to include the contingencies discussed.

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fund application 23 at \$38,807 and application 24 at \$91,198.

Application 51: Lifewire - My Sister's Home

Commissioner Bruels noted that funding for the program from the Gates Foundation has ceased. Ms. Leslie said that grant ran for a total of three years.

Commissioner Villar said it would be reasonable to assume the agency knew it would be seeing the end of the Gates Foundation grant funds. Chair Perelman suggested that is the reason their ask to the city has been increased substantially.

There was agreement to fund the application with only a COLA increase.

The Commission's preliminary recommendation was to fund the application at \$44,467.

Application 55: Bridge Disability Ministries - Mobility

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to the rationale for not funding the application. She said the staff did not fully understand the statement "the Commission would like to watch the ongoing development of the program, including program eligibility requirements." She suggested the rationale did not make sense in light of the fact that the program has been operational for 20 years. She proposed striking the sentence from the rationale and the Commissioners concurred.

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program has changed significantly over the past couple of years and has moved more toward providing mobility devices. Ms. O'Reilly said there are two parts to the program. One is to provide oversight for people with developmental disabilities, and one to provide mobility devices. She stressed that the application seeks funding only for the mobility devices portion.

Commissioner Bruels suggested the rationale for not funding the application should simply be there are more requests for funds than the city has funds available, and that the city cannot enter into new agreements and new programs.

Commissioner Kline also pointed out that the program does not rank high against other identified needs.

The Commission reiterated its preliminary recommendation not to fund the application for the reasons cited.

Application 61: HERO House

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to the sentence in the rationale that read "city staff would work with HERO House to possibly narrow the definition of a visit beyond just drop-in attendance." She noted the application actually lists a number of examples of things that constitute a visit, including employment outreach information and referral and community education. For the sake of consistency, particularly with regard to application 44, Youth Eastside Services - Reinvesting in Youth, the sentence should be deleted from the rationale.

There was agreement to make that change. No change was made to the funding recommendation.

Application 74: AtWork! - Transitional Employment Consultant

Ms. Leslie said the proposed allocation represents a substantial decrease over the previous allocation. She asked the Commission to reaffirm its recommendation and reasoning.

Chair Perelman said the Commission concluded the application should be given some funding because even though the program is being phased out there are still clients in the program. The decision was made to recommend half of the requested amount. New clients are not being accepted into the program, and in the near future the model will be changing with funding from different sources.

Commissioner Plaskon noted that the program consultant is already engaged in other activities on behalf of the agency. Fully funding the application would actually be funding some other program offered by AtWork!

Commissioner Beighle suggested the desire of the Commission to see the program phased out should be articulated.

The Commission confirmed its preliminary recommendation to fund application at \$18,718.

Mr. Adriano pointed out that the preliminary recommendations for all applications totaled \$106,000 more than the funding available for allocation.

Ms. Leslie proposed first reviewing the applications for which more than a COLA increase had been recommended. Commissioner Bruels said he had done those calculations and could not come up with enough to make a difference. He noted that taking .03 percent from every application would balance things out. Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that the percentage approach would have more of an impact on the lower requests.

Commissioner Plaskon suggested the allocation to application 59, HealthPoint - Medical, could be substantially reduced. Things have changed significantly in the state over the past year and the state now has funding for at least the next couple of years. Commissioner Bruels said the problem is no one knows for sure what the full impact of Medicaid expansion is going to be, particularly on the service provision side.

Commissioner Kline asked what information is out there that would allow the Commission to make an educated cut. Commissioner Plaskon said the federal government has increased funding for evaluation and management services, and has

agreed to pay Medicaid services at Medicare levels for three years, with two years to go. The idea is to encourage doctors to provide care to the Medicaid population.

Commissioner Plaskon said the Affordable Care Act enrollment numbers are impressive and the money is out there. While there will be some doctors who do not want to play ball, they will not be the family doctors who are already working in the clinics. There will be some undocumented persons in need of services, but overall the HealthPoint medical program could be significantly cut back.

Commissioner Bruels said he liked the idea of being able to shift the cost from the local level to the state and federal levels. The Affordable Care Act provides that opportunity, but no one can say whether or not it will come to fruition.

Commissioner McEachran said the Commission has made some strong comments about being in compliance with the goals in the needs survey. In the preliminary reviews the Commission has elected to allocate some pretty high numbers to some applications. While the reasons for doing so may be valid given the need, selling the package may not be easy. He suggested reevaluating those applications contemplated for a substantial increase. Either the Commission will need to make the case for higher funding or it will have to admit the money simply is not there.

Commissioner Kline commented that the preliminary recommendation included \$50,000 for application 63, International Community Health Services - Dental, a program that is new to Bellevue funding. She suggested that justifying that allocation by saying reductions were made to medical programs elsewhere amounts to nothing more than redistributing dollars.

Chair Perelman proposed considering percentage reductions only for those applications earmarked for a significant increase. Commissioner Bruels allowed that the significant increases were identified for specific and valid reasons, including the Eastside winter shelter. He reiterated his proposal to reduce all of the recommendations by a set percentage. Chair Perelman countered that that would amount to a net reduction for the applications marked for flat funding.

Ms. Leslie explained the request for application 4, Congregations for the Homeless - Eastside winter shelter, included extra funding for the Sound Transit location to cover utilities and the like. She said she had included the needed amount in her Budget One proposal, but allowed the request is unlikely to be approved. She suggested those specific dollars totaling \$53,545 could potentially be pulled out and included in a special request to the Council given that the shelter is a Council priority. There was agreement to do that, determining that the application should be funded at \$36,814.

Chair Perelman proposed reducing the recommended allocation for application 64, International Community Health Services - Dental, to \$25,000 or \$30,000. Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that the need for dental care is huge and the new healthcare plans do not cover it. She said she would not want to see the request cut in half.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 63, International Community Health Services - Dental, to \$40,000.

The Commissioners worked through the list and identified additional reductions needed to match the funds available for allocation.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 70, Therapeutic Health Services - Alcohol/Drug, to \$100,485.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 8, Friends of Youth - Homeless Youth Services, to \$83,343.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 41, King County Bar Foundation - Pro Bono Services, to \$8000.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 1, Catholic Community Services of King County - Emergency Assistance, to \$22,500.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 10, Hopelink - Emergency Food, to \$55,147.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 12, Hopelink - Housing, to \$82,247.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 73, AtWork! - Community Liaison, to \$41,639.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 83, Hopelink - Adult Education, to \$43,818.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 40, Hopelink - Family Development Program, to \$39,543.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 21, Senior Services - Meals on Wheels, to \$14,795.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 59, HealthPoint - Medical, to \$58,347.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 87, Jubilee REACH - ESL, to \$5170.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 50, Lifewire - Community Advocacy Program, to \$159,482.

There was agreement to reduce the funding for application 22, Solid Ground - Housing Stability Project, to \$42,421.

Ms. Leslie said it is not looking good for seeking additional funding from the Council, with the possible exception of the winter shelter. Still, it would not hurt to develop a list of asks totaling around \$100,000, half of which would be for the winter shelter, that could be funded if additional funds were made available.

Chair Perelman suggested the list should be focused on programs for seniors and children.

There was agreement to cancel the July 8, 2014, Commission meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS - None
8. NEW BUSINESS - None
9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None
10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Perelman adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission	Date
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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission	Date
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