

*The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on January 6, 2015*

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

November 4, 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, Mary Jayne Walker, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: Cameron Duncan, Hopelink

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner McEachran who presided until the arrival of Chair Perelman.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Perelman who arrived at 6:38 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 7, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and it carried without dissent; Commissioners Beighle and Plaskon abstained from voting.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Villar reported that the Hopelink Turkey Trot is slated for November 23. She said the funds raised will be used to provide emergency services and



holiday assistance to low-income families in east and north King County during the winter months.

Commissioner Plaskon said he attended the recent Washington State Court Appointed Special Advocates yearly meeting in Tacoma. He said the program is the first of its kind in the nation, and was created in 1979 and is still very strong.

Commissioner Kline informed the Commission that her husband, who is a marathon runner, has for the last couple of years been pushing disabled children and young adults in jogging strollers. She noted that he will be traveling to Las Vegas to participate in a 100-mile run pushing children. The first 74 miles will be around the track at UNLV and then he will join the starting line for the Las Vegas marathon. In all in will push ten or twelve kids.

Commissioner McEachran said he recently participated in serving a meal with Congregations for the Homeless. He said the experience was very positive.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie said she and Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly attended the recent Sophia Way fundraiser where some \$50,000 was brought in. Almost 200 people attended.

Commissioner Bruels stressed the need to get the word out that November 15 is the beginning date for the new open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act.

Chair Perelman said she and Ms. Leslie attended the community event at St. Peter's United Methodist Church concerning the women's winter shelter. She said it was a good meeting with good questions asked. Overall it was very positive. Approximately 15 to 20 persons attended.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### A. Coordinated Mobility: King County Mobility Coalition and Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Ms. O'Reilly said better coordination of transportation systems is needed, particularly for those who fall under the federal definition of transportation disadvantaged, which are people with disabilities, older adults, low-income and youth. She noted that the topic of transportation comes up frequently in discussing human services, and the needs assessment makes it clear that the biggest barrier to accessing human services is a lack of transportation. The State Legislature has not been able to pass a transportation budget for a couple of years because of the complexities involved. Small efforts at the local level can help to address some of the issues people are facing.

Ms. O'Reilly said she attended a two-day workshop in October 2005 put on by the National Transit Institute where the topic was coordinated mobility. The workshop

focused on learning how to build cross-collaboration between providers of health and human services and transportation services to improve coordination. The workshop served as the impetus for the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative. At the same time, there was an effort underway in King County to look at how transportation operators could better coordinate with health and human services providers, which led to the formation of the King County Mobility Coalition.

In 2005 a group calling itself Key Partners in Transportation, led by the Seattle/King County Area Agency on Aging, attempted but failed to organize into a meaningful coalition. They did a lot of planning work but did not focus on the coordination effort. In 2006 a federal executive order created the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Under the Act, the Federal Transit Administration could not grant dollars to any municipality or planning group unless they had a coordinated plan for serving special needs populations. The Act got everyone's attention and a planning effort funded by the Puget Sound Regional Council was launched. A consultant was hired to work with a steering committee in putting together a plan in fulfillment of the federal requirement. The King County Mobility Coalition includes organizations that provide human services and transportation services, including the Washington State Department of Transportation, King County Metro, Sound Transit, Senior Services of King County, the King County Housing Authority, different cities, healthcare providers, and special needs system users. Ms. O'Reilly said she has served for the last four years as co-chair of the Coalition. The other co-chair, Ref Lindmark, is a planner with King County Metro.

Ms. O'Reilly said the vision of the Coalition is to have a coordinated transportation network that allows all people to move freely around King County and the Puget Sound region. The Coalition meets quarterly and serves as a go-to organization within King County where people can come and talk about issues they are facing, including policy challenges that are forming barriers for transportation users. Updates are provided by state and local governments representatives and the group has used the opportunity to provide feedback. The Coalition encourages people to work together in submitting applications.

Ms. O'Reilly said Cameron Duncan, Mobility Coordinator for Hopelink, and John Morrison Winters, a Mobility Manager at Hopelink, worked together on the King County Special Needs Transportation Assessment. They took time to review surveys and other reports focused on the transportation coordination needs in King County generally. Their report will be used as a planning document in 2015.

One of the subcommittees has been very involved in trying to address some of the needs of the refugee and immigrant population in terms of finding ways to provide linguistically appropriate help in using public transportation. Another project is focused on looking at efforts that involve policies that might be causing barriers to good transportation access for the transportation disadvantaged in King County.

The Coalition is also looking at travel toolbox projects, including language assistance cards that educate with regard to how to use the bus or light rail. The cards are currently available in 13 languages and include cards non English-speakers can hand to drivers indicating their destination. The Life in Motion project involved making videos of people who have been positively impacted by some of the available transportation options. The Coalition has also worked on getting funding for Accessible Travel in Your Community maps.

Ms. O'Reilly shared with the Commissioners a couple of transportation instructional videos from the Coalition's website.

Commissioner Bruels suggested that the biggest barrier to transportation is funding. King County Metro's budget keeps getting slashed and services have to be reduced as a result. The public keeps voting down transportation initiatives, so clearly there is a need to create a link between human services and transportation. The general public seems to think that transportation is an overblown and wasted resource that government keeps throwing money at, when really that is not the case. Vulnerable people are suffering as a result. Ms. O'Reilly said the Coalition, the Eastside Easy Rider Coalition, as well as other coalitions, spend a great deal of their time focused on that very issue. Political will is needed to work at a higher level. The state has given the counties the ability to tax themselves, but initiatives have been voted down.

Commissioner Kline agreed that the failure seems to lie with getting the public informed about the fiscal responsibility of the transportation programs.

Commissioner Bruels reminded the Commissioners that when King County Metro eliminated paper bus coupons for riders there was a huge backlash from health and human services providers. The city of Seattle stepped in and created a way for human service agencies and hospitals to continue purchasing paper bus coupons to hand out to folks, but that has created another level of accountability. Ms. O'Reilly said the issue came up in 2013 at a Coalition meeting. The King County Metro representative who was there said the agency was having a very difficult time tracking the coupons, a difficulty that was flagged during an audit. Commissioner Bruels said what it feels like is King County Metro does not want to deal with the issue and the cumbersome system is designed to fail.

Ms. O'Reilly commented that funds to implement a low-income fair will be available in 2015. Funding for the program was found through the King County Executive's Office, but it has been more difficult to find an agency willing to handle implementation given the directive that those wanting to be eligiblized should not have to go through an onerous process. Many of them have already been deemed eligible for food stamps or welfare benefits of some kind so have had to provide the proper information to some reliable source. None of the non-profit agencies wanted to take on the program, however, because the funds available for administration are minimal. King County Metro has, however, signed a contract with Public Health of

Seattle/King County whose outreach workers will handle enrolling in the low-income fare program. Details of how it will work are still being worked out.

Mr. Duncan said he staffs the subregional mobility coalition, the localized version of the overall Coalition. He said the Eastside Easy Rider Coalition was formed in 2005 around issues of mobility for transportation-dependent populations. The Eastside Easy Rider Coalition serves along with the North King County Mobility Coalition and the South King County Mobility Coalition. The membership/partnership consortium includes a variety of interests who meet to share information, work on projects, stay abreast of transportation issues affecting east King County, and pushing forward projects that can be useful in improving mobility for the transportation disadvantaged populations.

Mr. Duncan said the Eastside Easy Rider Coalition has been focused on the changes going on at King County Metro. In addition, the organization is working on what is being called the Orca To Go Assistance Program, which involves helping to coordinate King County Metro's Orca To Go mobile unit, a vending machine that can travel around the county and distribute cards on site. The Eastside Easy Rider Coalition has been organizing having the mobile unit at different senior activity centers and low-income housing developments in an attempt to get the word out. Effort has been put into also getting people signed up for the regional reduced fare permit, which is an Orca card for adults aged 65 and older and people with documented disabilities. The organization is also putting together a guidebook for getting pedestrian infrastructure put into communities to assist transportation-dependent populations who need to walk to get to a bus. The list of pedestrian amenities includes sidewalks, curb cuts, street plantings and benches.

The Eastside Easy Rider Coalition meets monthly throughout the year with only one or two breaks. Each of the coalition organizations throughout the county keep tabs on the issues being tracked by each other. The Eastside Easy Rider Coalition is working on the Orca To Go program in conjunction with King County Metro, and the South King County Mobility Coalition is working with Sound Transit on their mobile unit.

Mr. Duncan stressed the importance of the mobility management program offered by Hopelink. Transportation is an essential service and where there is better coordination of resources between providers there is better service and accessibility. There are three parts to the program: policy coordination, which involves the Eastside Easy Rider Coalition and the King County Mobility Coalition; information and assistance, which relates to the travel programs; and planning, which happens in a more abstract sense. The Ride Around the Sound program has been renamed Mobilize Public Transit Orientation and is focused on the top priority of getting people around and is predicated on educating people and making sure they know how to do it for themselves. The program offers free excursions for people around Puget Sound on public transit. Getting Around Puget Sound has helped a great many students at Bellevue College get to and from the campus. One-on-one training sessions are

offered through the GAPS program. The Vets Go program is just being ramped up. A website has been created that can be used by any veteran to obtain transportation services.

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano has been very involved in the emergency planning for vulnerable populations effort through the city and Public Health of Seattle/King County. The Coalition has been asked to participate in that program as well.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie reported that she participated in a City Council briefing on the Veterans and Human Services Levy. Councilmember Stokes, a member of the King County Regional Policy Committee, was behind the briefing to the Council on how the levy funds have been benefiting Bellevue and Eastside residents. The levy is up for renewal in a couple of years. The presentation was made by Adrienne Quinn, director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services, along with Marcy Kubbs, the Levy Coordinator.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie reviewed the issues to be addressed at the next Commission meeting.

Ms. Leslie said the anticipation is that both winter shelters will open on November 15.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the Eastside Human Services Forum will hold its annual meeting on December 4 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Peter Kirk Center in Kirkland.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Perelman adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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Secretary to the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

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Date