



## Human Services Commission

### Meeting Summary

Monday, March 9, 2015, 6:30-8:30 pm

**Members Present:** Carolyn Mansfield, Kellen Baker, Steve Daschle, Lynn Fleshman, Wendy House

**Staff Present:** Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

**Public Comment:** none

**February 9 Meeting Summary:** Approved with the following corrections:

Under Updates from Staff, fourth bullet should read, “Previously *scheduled*”

Under Joint Commission Meeting, last line should read, “...and talk *about the homelessness* task force recommendations.”

**Updates from Commissioners:** none

#### **Updates from Staff:**

- Carolyn and Steve are planning to attend Thursday’s conversation on homelessness
- Police and human services met with King County Library staff to discuss complaints. Also working on panhandling (looking at national research, data collection, and doing a survey of panhandlers), and tent city ordinances (Bellevue taking the lead).

#### **Old Business**

##### Debrief Joint Commission Meeting

Group agreed that more inter-commission discussion would have been helpful. There was good representation from all cities. Concern expressed about moving away from transitional housing. What will happen to providers who currently do this and the families who live there? Chronic underfunding of the entire homeless system is an issue. Would have liked to have had more time to hear what all the cities are doing and allow for questions. Ice breaker would have been helpful – Carolyn has an idea focusing on innovation.

#### **New Business**

##### 2015 Work Plan

Have scheduled Best Starts for Kids presentation in June, will do foreign born in September, data in November. Blank check discussion at April meeting prior to April 28 joint study session

with Council – what would it take to move the needle on a particular issue or issues? May discussion on how to get the youth perspective, and is it a priority. Also, communications strategy – what are we doing and why. October update on transitional/affordable housing with ARCH and Hopelink (Meghan). Want to know the so what? Brooke will check with Bellevue to see if our commissioners can sit in on some of their focus groups for the biennial community needs assessment.

Outcomes proposed: become educated on issues, make a proposal to Council, advocacy and increasing awareness of needs (5 communications to council per year), 2 community events, actively participate in 4 joint commission meetings, and consider soliciting new applicants prior to next funding round.

### Strategic Plan Update

Still struggling with identifying meaningful measures. Is increasing service units a good or bad thing? Suggestion to decrease the time to service. Other ideas to include on a community score card rating quality of life in Redmond:

- turn away rates for mental health or domestic violence services
- wait times for food bank
- hours of the day where homeless don't have a place to go
- gap between when shelter closes till school opens (and vice versa)
- show problems exist and that we could make more of a difference if we invested more
- show how much of the total services we are actually paying for
- show change from year to year
- show where the city had to step up to backfill for county , state or federal cutbacks
- one goal is to reduce disparities for people of color

Collen working on text for the plan.

### 2014 Agency Reports

Almost all agencies are consistently over performing. Brooke to do analysis for last 2 years, and think about how to fund housing programs in conjunction with other cities.