

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**REDMOND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021 - 6:30 pm**

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**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Vibhas Chandorkar, Janet Richards, Rachid Erekaeni, Rue Khosa, Marilyn Lazaro, Kristen Muscott, Anny Smith, Jacob Brown, Jiwon Kim  
Staff present: Beverly Mesa-Zendt, Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

**2. Items from the Audience**

Jack Edgerton and Helen Routon Banks from Eastside Baby Corner thanked the Commission for their support and reported that in 2020, Redmond was the third largest city by distribution, that they provided over 14,000 services, had a slight decline in residents served due to fewer provider referrals but increase in repeat clients, and 49% fewer diaper donations but 47% increase in diaper distribution.

**3. Agency Presentations**

[Humanize Homelessness](#)

Krishnan Iyer, Chairman & Founder and Mark Perry, Program Lead discussed their three programs that make it easier for people to engage with people experiencing homelessness, encourage businesses to donate supplies and goods, and help people get back on their feet. They primarily work with emergency shelters trying to filling the gaps where there are identified needs and are now adding tent cities as well.

[Kits for Peace](#)

Nickhath Sheriff, CEO & Founder, Nabrath Sheriff, President & Co-founder, and Linda Benson, consultant provided a presentation highlighting the need for hygiene support especially in the time of COVID. They are a youth lead organization and currently working to establish a hygiene pipeline in conjunction with existing food bank supply chains.

[Assistance League of the Eastside](#)

Representatives from the Operation School Bell were invited but were not in attendance.

**4. Equity Presentation**

Lori Guilfoyle, Kent Senior Human Services Coordinator, Connie Stolpp, Chair, Kent Human Services Commission, and Rickie Robinson, Past Chair, Kent Human Services Commission provided a [presentation](#) and discussed their work on equity and the funding process. They utilized a consultant to help with the process, involved the Kent Cultural Diversity Initiative Group, and also provided stipends and gift cards for community members who helped inform the work. The last two cycles they had a parallel application process specifically for smaller (\$250K), BIPOC led organizations. They discussed using community members in the application review process, equity training for commissioners, redesigning their website with clearer information on grant opportunities, and using a community engagement approach that centered the voices the community.

## 5. Gracious Space

Janet led an activity asking each member to share something meaningful from their space.

## 6. April 12, 2021 Meeting Summary

Janet moved to approve the [meeting summary](#); Anny seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Redmond 2050 Follow Up

Beverly reviewed [memo](#), stating that refined definitions particularly around the equity and technology themes will be brought back in coming months. Commissioners will also be involved in the human services strategic plan which will feed into the comprehensive plan. Although the team working on Redmond 2050 is not a particularly diverse one racially/ethnically, the new Diversity Equity and Inclusion manager will also be involved. Commissioners suggest that the City work with/through community based organizations who have the trust of diverse, traditionally marginalized communities to get more diverse perspectives on the plan.

## 8. Agency Performance

Staff provided an overview of first quarter 2021 [agency performance](#). In general, all programs were on target, but with some already far exceeding their annual goals. The few that were not meeting expected targets were new programs, some struggling to start up in the midst of the pandemic. Staff are working with these programs to help ramp up services as contracted.

## 9. Commissioner and Staff Updates

Staff reported

- On April 4, the Mayor came out with a [statement](#) against hate and bias, particularly against Asians and Asian Americans. This represents the position of the entire City of Redmond.
- The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager position closed on April 28 and interviews are scheduled for May 20.
- Eastside cities contracted with Communities Rise to provide technical assistance to smaller grassroots organizations applying for funding. Four agencies received assistance, three applied, and one received funding from Redmond. City staff continue to work with community members to reduce barriers to application and funding.
- A 0.5 FTE Human Services Coordinator position has been [posted](#). Commissioners suggest consider hiring a person with lived experience.
- A [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) has been released for a consultant to assist with the human services strategic plan.
- Staff are working on an RFP for round 3 CDBG-CV funded legal assistance and round 2 funded food security and mental health services. Commissioner will be involved in the review process.

Commissioners reported

- Anny has been hired as a Human Services Coordinator for the City of Kirkland and will be receiving her MSW in four weeks.
- Rue's [Perfect Push Foundation](#) raised over \$70K in their first virtual fundraiser to support students of color in maternal and infant health.
- Vibhas attended a very informative webinar on [permanent supportive housing](#). It can also be viewed [online](#).
- Marilyn raised the issue of lack of services for youth and American Indians/Alaska Natives and also the need for security services at emergency shelters.

## 10. Round Robin

No outstanding issues.

## **11. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.