

MEETING SUMMARY
REDMOND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, August 22, 2022 - 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Commissioners present: Vibhas Chandorkar, Janet Richards, Anny Smith, Rachid Erekaeni, Laya Nair, Arisha Gupta

Staff present: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

2. August 8, 2022 Meeting Summary

Meeting summary was approved as presented.

3. Items from the Audience

Heidi Stauber, Marjorie Schnyder, and Melanie Gonzalez gave brief overviews on Kinderling's programs Child Care and Preschool Consultation, Parenting Plus, and ParentChild+.

4. Gracious Space

Postponed to next meeting due to time constraints.

5. Discuss Funding Recommendations

The goal for this meeting is to decide all the maybes using both the strategic plan priorities and equity lens. Commission reviewed the equity considerations in the grant review process. Janet noted that there is an inherent tension and discomfort by nature, but without it, there will be no meaningful change.

Staff reviewed results of the survey of commissioners and strategic plan priorities. Critical areas identified by the survey were food & basic needs, housing stability, homelessness & housing, physical & mental health. Strategic plan priorities identified mental health services, rent & utility assistance, medical & dental care, food access, culturally responsive services, education & employment opportunities to support financial stability.

Commission reviewed all the maybes and moved either to yes or no categories. They also differentiated between 1) yes and yes but fund only partially, and 2) no and no, but if we had more funds, we would support.

Commission learned that \$1M in additional funding each year will be available for services through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). They directed staff to begin to allocate funds based on strategic priorities and equity principles to more fully fund select programs. They should also take into consideration the commission's desires to:

- More deeply fund programs, especially those serving BIPOC communities, rather than try to spread funding more thinly across all programs.
- Prioritize programs that are more heavily reliant on city dollars because they have limited other funding sources.
- Ensuring that Council understands that even with the additional funds there is still a funding gap and ongoing, rather than one-time, funds will be needed now and in the future to support these services.

6. Commissioner & Staff Updates

- Janet toured the Together Center site on Saturday and suggested that other commissioners consider doing the same. She also would like the commission to consider meeting on site once construction is complete.
- Staff announced that the Jung Lee confirmed by Council last week as the newest commission member. Her bio is posted on the commission web page.

7. Round Robin

No unresolved issues.

8. Adjourned at 8:59 pm.