



City of Tacoma

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, January 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Agenda

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Rahn Clayton, Vice Chair Rebecca Stith, Lisa Keating, Elizabeth Pebley, Valentine Smith, Naomi Wilson, Luis Beltran and Magdalena Stickel, and Jason Grube

Absent Commissioners: Cherrielee Matthews, Jovan Dumas and Amanda Scott-Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Allyson Griffith, Kristin Ely

- **Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:05pm**
Chair Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:05pm
- **Approval of the January Agenda at 6:10**
 - Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Pebley seconds. All approved unanimously.
- **Review/Approval of December Minutes at 6:12pm**
 - The November and December minutes were approved, after a motion and second, with instructions to NCS liaison Kristin Ely to correct the misspelling of a couple of names.
- **HSC Annual Planning at 6:13pm**
 - Commissioner Wilson proposed revisiting the topic of equity and inclusion, which has been a topic prior to the pandemic. She noted that the consultants Pat and Annie (Colemon & Associates) had sent HSC members a survey but commissioners had never gotten a report on the data collected.
 - Commissioner Wilson noted that King County is not doing a Point-in-Time count this year and asked about Pierce County's plans. NCS liaison Allyson Griffith reported that PC had requested not to do the count this year and was waiting to hear back from HUD.
 - Commissioner Wilson asked whether the Tacoma mental health sales tax was up for renewal by voters. Allyson responded that she is not aware of an expiration date but will check on it and provide an update on how tax is being spent. She also stated her understanding that the Pierce County behavioral health tax will not impact Tacoma's mental health tax.
 - Commissioner Stith brought up the idea of NCS staff notifying Commissioners of upcoming Council and Community Vitality and Safety Committee meetings involving NCS presentations and/or other matters bearing on HSC work. She noted, e.g., that CVSC would be interviewing HSC candidates later in January. Kristin stated that the interviews had been moved from January 14 to the 28th. She stated that staff could notify Commissioners of such upcoming meetings as well as other events, of which staff members are aware, in the community on topics related to HSC work.



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

- Commissioner Keating reported that she had just attended a meeting of the Coalition to End Homelessness. She described it as involving important dialog relevant to HSC's work and asked that staff alert HSC members of similar events and summits. Allyson and Kristin had also attended the same meeting and agreed that the dialog was relevant to HSC work.
 - Commissioner Stith suggested that Commissioners could notify staff about upcoming relevant community events, which could then be shared by staff with other members.
 - Chair Clayton asked staff to let Commissioners know whether recordings of any such events were available.
 - Chair Clayton asked who had participated in Point-in-Time counts and Commissioner Wilson stated that she had.
 - Commissioner Wilson raised the possibility of having a retreat to get to know our fellow Commissioners better and to address commitment and retention of Commissioners. She noted that a few former Commissioners had reported feeling disengaged.
 - Chair Clayton voiced support for a retreat but noted that it would take some brainstorming to plan.
 - Commissioner Wilson stated that she wanted an opportunity for Commissioners to be very candid and asked whether a retreat would fall into an exception to the open meetings law.
 - Commissioner Stith stated that it was her understanding that the law allowed very limited exceptions, e.g., for personnel matters and litigation, and the retreat would not likely be an exception. Kristin stated that was also her understanding but she could check with the City Attorney.
- **Public Comment Option Review at 6:38pm**
 - Commissioners had a long discussion of whether to allow public comment at HSC meeting, and in which format(s). Commissioners voiced strong support for all three options presented: comments/questions emailed in advance of the meeting; comments/questions made verbally during meetings; and comments/questions put in the Zoom chat during meetings.
 - Chair Clayton stated that he was in favor of whatever works as long as HSC tracks the City's approach to public comment and does not unduly burden staff supporting HSC. Kristin stated that she had spoken to Kenny Coble, the city employee who does Zoom support for Council meetings, and she stated that this should not be a burden during meetings because staff time was already committed to the meeting.
 - Chair Clayton noted that this presented an opportunity to elevate HSC's work.
 - Commissioners Wilson and Smith spoke strongly in favor of all three options and particularly for live Q & A.
 - Commissioners agreed that the public comment period should come early in the meeting out of consideration for attendees' time. Commissioner Stith suggested that the agendas might need more detail going forward so that interested members of the public have



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

sufficient information about agenda items. Chair Clayton noted that agendas in the past have typically had more detail but the pandemic had impacted that.

- Commissioner Keating stated that having public comment promotes transparency and allows Commissioners and members of the public more opportunities to interact.
 - Kristin noted that it fits with equity for Commissioners to cast the net as wide as possible in offering various options for public comment.
 - Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve all three public options and Commissioner Keating seconded. The motion passed.
- **Review/Excuse Absences at 7:01pm**
 - Kristin reviewed notifications from Cherrielee and Jovan. We did not receive advance communication from Amanda Scott-Thomas
 - Naomi made motion to excuse Cherrielee and Jovan. Lisa seconded. All approve. Motion passes at 7:09pm.
 - **Good of the Order**
 - Kristin reviewed applications received for HSC openings and process for applicant suggestions
 - Allyson shared that there is a community meeting for a Warming Center at Norpoint tomorrow and the RFPs for Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction and Young Adult Sheltering release dates have been moved to 1/29/21.
 - Lisa reports that there have been no issues with the ECC warming center from the School Board perspective.
 - Rahn addressed recruitment and retention before and after comments. What did Commissioners think before and after their journey? Let's include this in onboarding for new members.
 - **Closing Comments/Adjourn**
 - Rahn would like to thank Zach and Kelly for their service and all of the current commissioners and staff. Lisa motioned to adjourn and Naomi seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Next Virtual HSC Meeting: February 10, 2021 6:00 pm