

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Regular Meeting
April 28, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Sriram Rajagopalan, Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez, Commissioners Shannon Quinn, Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani, Commissioner Jory Hamilton, Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew

Absent: Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd

Excused Absences: Vice Chair Cristian Liu

Staff Present: Interim Human Services Manager Becky Gilley, Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith, and Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

Meeting Recorder: Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Shannon Quinn read the land acknowledgment. Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd will read the land acknowledgement for the May 14th meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan requested a motion to approve the March 24, 2026 minutes, Commissioner Shannon Quinn motioned for approval, Commissioner Tasnim seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 6; No: 0; Abstention: 0).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Public comment received from Marc Vermouth and Danielle Porta from The Sophia Way.

Public comment received from Brandon Monsen from Northwest Education Access.

6. BUSINESS

a. Joint Meeting with Council Debrief

The Human Services Commission debriefed their April 7, 2026 joint meeting with the City Council, following the close of the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant Funding Application process. Commissioners reviewed Council’s feedback on priorities, base budget considerations, the preferred format for funding recommendations, and the idea of developing a rapid response funding mechanism. Council supported the HSC’s priorities list

and confirmed continued use of the traditional Options A–C recommendation format. No changes to the base budget were recommended at this early stage of the 2028–2029 budget cycle. There was significant discussion about potential rapid response tools for emergent community needs. The HSC will apply this guidance as they begin their grant application review process in May.

b. Overview of 27-28 Grant Applications

The Human Services Commission received an overview of the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant Funding applications submitted through the regional Collaborative process. Staff highlighted a continued rise in overall funding requests, including a 33% increase in requests directed to the City of Kirkland compared to the 2025–2026 cycle. Commissioners also noted a growing number of applications from agencies located outside East King County, reflecting expanding regional service demand. This overview is intended to help the HSC understand the scale and trends of requests before beginning detailed application review. The Commission will start its formal review of the applications at its May 14th special meeting.

c. Application Review Process Overview and Practice

The Commission received an overview of the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant Funding application review process, including instructions for setting up ShareOne review portal accounts and using the ShareOne and Stoplight equity review tools. Staff explained the purpose of these tools and provided guidance on how commissioners will evaluate program descriptions, outcomes, accessibility, budgets, and other observations. Commissioners were informed that individual scores and comments from ShareOne will be compiled by staff to support group discussion during upcoming meetings. The Commission will practice using the tools with sample applications and have an opportunity to ask questions. Commissioners will begin formal application reviews at the May 14th meeting.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani reported that Lake Washington Tech will host a Health and Wellness Resource Fair next Tuesday in the East Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She also noted that the State of the City / Community Appreciation Night will take place next Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Jory Hamilton shared that Youth Eastside Services will hold a brunch event on Thursday.

b. Staff Reports & Announcements

Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith reminded the Commission about the SafeHaven/Cafecito in-person event on May 15. Commissioners interested in attending should email Anny directly to receive the registration link.

Staff also noted a change in location for two upcoming meetings, which will now be held at KTUB.

Commissioners were reminded to review their equity training homework prior to the training session on May 12.

The next meeting packet is tentatively scheduled for release on May 1, and no later than Monday.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani. Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.