

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Special Meeting
May 14, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Sriram Rajagopalan, Vice Chair Cristian Liu, Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez, Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani, Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew, Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd

Excused Absences: Commissioner Shannon Quinn, Commissioner Jory Hamilton

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

Human Services Coordinator Amanda Judd and Human Services Coordinator Regi Schubiger attended virtually.

Meeting Recorder: Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd read the land acknowledgment. Commissioner Gaby Lopez Vazquez will read the land acknowledgement for the May 26th meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan requested a motion to approve the April 28, 2026 minutes, Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani motioned for approval, Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew seconded. Commissioner Eric Dodd abstained. Motion carried (Yes: 5; No: 0; Abstention: 1).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Written public comment received from Rachel Bergman of Friends of Youth the Commission.

6. BUSINESS

a. Eastside Human Services Commissions Equity Workshop Debrief

The Human Services Commission debriefed the May 12, 2026 Eastside Human Services Commission Equity Workshop, which brought together Commissioners from Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish in preparation for the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant funding cycle. Commissioners discussed the importance of applying an equity lens

throughout the grant review, contracting, and monitoring processes, consistent with the City of Kirkland's commitment to equitable funding practices. The workshop, facilitated by Communities Rise, included pre-work, in-person training, and post-work focused on strengthening equity-centered decision making. The Commission acknowledged that lessons and tools from the training will help guide the upcoming grant application review process, which will continue through September 2026. Feedback included suggesting a collaborative process across participating Eastside cities using the rating tool embedded in ShareOne App review platform to review and update the review tool as needed.

b. Staff Recommendations for the 2027-2028 Application Review

The Human Services Commission received staff recommendations for the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant application review process following the submission of 142 applications, representing an 11% increase from the previous funding cycle. Staff conducted a preliminary review of all applications using criteria such as alignment with HSC priorities, completeness of application materials, accessibility for Kirkland residents, and prior funding history. Based on this review, staff recommended that 54 applications be removed from further Commission review and funding consideration. Commissioners discussed the proposed review schedule and will provide feedback and final approval of the recommendations, with any resulting schedule adjustments to be shared at a future meeting. The list of recommended applications for removal stands.

c. 2027-2028 Application Review – Goal Areas 3 and 5

The Human Services Commission reviewed applications for the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant Funding cycle under Goal Area 3 (Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse) and Goal Area 5 (Education and Job Skills to Lead an Independent Life). Staff shared that the City received 142 applications requesting more than \$7 million annually, representing a historic high in funding requests. Commissioners discussed twelve applications across the two goal areas and reviewed the use of the ShareOne Application portal and Communities Rise Stoplight Tool to support equitable evaluation practices.

The following applications were discussed:

Goal Area 3:

1. DAWN-Domestic Abuse Women's Network-Community Advocacy Program (CAP)
2. Global Social Business Partner (GSBP)-Safe Together
3. Harborview Medical Center-Harborview Abuse and Trauma Counseling Services
4. Indian American Community Services-Domestic Violence Legal & Support Services (Formerly Crisis Services Program)
5. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center-General, medical, and legal advocacy for survivors of sexual assault
6. LifeWire- Survivor Advocacy Services

Goal Area 5:

1. Crisis Connections-211
2. Friends of Youth-Youth Case Management (Formerly Youth Employment)
3. Hero House NW-Supported Employment
4. Hopelink-English for Work (Formerly Adult Education)
5. Hopelink-Financial Capabilities
6. IKRON Greater Seattle-Integrated Employment Program

Staff reminded Commissioners to submit individual application review scores prior to the next scheduled discussion.

7. COMMUNICATIONS**a. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Reports were skipped due to time constraints.

b. Staff Reports & Announcements

Interim Human Services Manager Becky Gilley announced that the Commission will review the Code of Conduct and Ethics in two weeks. She also reminded commissioners that there should be no conversation or engagement with public commenters.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Cristian Liu. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.