

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Regular Meeting
May 27, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gabriela Lopez Vazquez called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Shannon Quinn joined at 6:37 pm.

Staff Present: Human Services Manager Jen Boone, Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith, Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

Meeting Recorder: Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani read the land acknowledgment. Commissioner Jory Hamilton will read the land acknowledgement for the June meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Gabriela Lopez Vazquez requested a motion to approve the February 25, 2025 minutes. Vice Chair Sriram Rajagopalan motioned for approval. Commissioner Cristian Liu seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 6 No: 0, Abstention: 1).

Chair Gabriela Lopez Vazquez requested a motion to approve the March 25, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew motioned for approval. Commissioner Cristian Liu seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 7 No: 0, Abstention: 0).

Chair Gabriela Lopez Vazquez requested a motion to approve the April 22, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani motioned for approval. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 6 No: 0, Abstention: 1).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. April Panel Discussion Debrief

Commissioners reflected on key takeaways from April's panel discussion, including safety concerns and limited resources (legal aid, space, staff, behavioral health needs) and possible next steps. Vice Chair Sriram Rajagopalan and Commissioners Jory Hamilton and Tasnim Rehamani volunteered to form a workgroup to draft a letter of recommendation to City Council. The letter will highlight challenges identified and proposed recommendations.

b. Election of HSC Chair & Vice Chair Update

Human Services Manager Jen Boone provided an update on the Chair and Vice Chair elections for 2025. Current Chair and Vice Chair appointments will be extended until elections take place at upcoming November meeting.

c. Human Services Commission Responsibilities and Group Agreements

Human Services Manager Jen Boone presented on Commissioner responsibilities, including attendance, quorum, timeliness, preparedness, Robert Rules of Order, role of the Chair, role of the staff, how staff/commission works together, and Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Commissioners reviewed and suggested edits to group agreements and expectations.

Human Services Manager Jen Boone reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule, agenda, and areas of focus, encouraging Commissioners to attend at least one event or meeting per month related to their focus area, and provide a monthly report.

A manual update is currently in progress. Staff will send out the completed version by end of June.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani shared about Asian Counseling and Referral Services highlighting their services, strategic priorities, and upcoming events such as Walk for Rice and Annual Benefit Gala.

Chair Gaby Lopez Vazquez shared mental health resource from PEPS, including flyers for family support group and workshops that provide support to parents.

Vice Chair Sriram Rajagopalan shared upcoming event 2025 Resource Fair for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays, their families, caregivers, and service providers, that will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2025 in the Microsoft Mixer Commons Building.

Commissioner Jory Hamilton reported on resources for youth homelessness and transportation support for homeless students via the McKinney-Vento program and shared insights from a Youth Eastside Services event emphasizing the importance of youth mentorship.

Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew attended a suicide alertness event hosted by NAMI focused on helping participants recognize a person with thoughts of suicide and connecting them with resources.

Commissioner Shannon Quinn provided an update on the passage of House Bill 1929, which establishes two bridge housing programs for youth exiting behavioral health settings.

b. Staff Reports & Announcements

Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith announced that KCPN has been contracted to organize the Kirkland Health and Wellness Fair for 2025 and 2026. She also announced the Request for Proposal for the Brazilian community support has been posted.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gabriela Lopez Vazquez asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew motioned and was seconded by Commissioner Cristian Liu. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.