

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Regular Meeting
February 24, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Excused Absences: Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd

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

Meeting Recorder: Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Gaby Lopez Vazquez read the land acknowledgment. Vice Chair Cristian Liu will read the land acknowledgement for the March meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan requested a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 minutes, Commissioner Shannon Quinn motioned for approval, Commissioner Gaby Lopez Vazquez seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 7; No: 0; Abstention: 0).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. 2025 Agency Performance Review

The Commission reviewed the 2025 Agency Performance Tracker and related dashboard materials summarizing service delivery, residents served, and program outcomes. Staff highlighted the stoplight system used to indicate whether programs are meeting their goals and noted that demographic data continues to be collected through the Human Services Dashboard.

b. Joint Eastside Cities Equity Training Overview

The Commission received an overview of the upcoming Joint Eastside Cities Equity Training scheduled for March 14, 2026, which will prepare Commissioners for the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant application review cycle. Staff explained that the training is a collaborative effort among Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish and will include pre-work, an in-person session, and post-work. Communities Rise will facilitate the training, bringing their expertise in supporting organizations affected by systemic inequities. Commissioners will receive pre-work materials by February 27 and are expected to review them before the training.

7. BUSINESS

a. 2027-2028 HS Grant Funding Priorities Discussion-Final

The Commission reviewed the draft funding priorities for the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant cycle, which will guide application decisions when the portal opens on March 2, 2026. Staff provided background on community goal areas, current needs identified in Hopelink’s 2025 Community Needs Assessment, and the Commission’s draft priority categories developed in January. Commissioners also received updates on education-year sessions and agency panels that informed their understanding of local service needs. The finalized priorities will be incorporated into the City-specific Information Sheet for applicants and posted on ShareOneApp and the City’s website.

- **Access to Basic Needs**
 - Food assistance
 - Healthcare access-All forms
 - Behavioral/Mental health services for children, youth, and adults
 - Substance Use Disorder treatment services
- **Homelessness and Affordable Housing**
 - Includes emergency shelter and associated wrap-around services
 - Affordable housing supports
 - Emergency financial assistance
- **Access to Critical Services**
 - Domestic Violence/Sexual assault survivors support and services
 - Legal assistance-housing and immigration
 - Aging and Disability services

Additional consideration will be given to organizations and agencies that are new, small, and/or Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-led/serving. There will be additional emphasis on funding programs focused on services and support to those who identify as immigrants, refugees, and/or asylum-seekers as well as folks who are part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ ¹ community. Those service approaches are often more nuanced, culturally responsive, and rooted in community.

¹ (2S) Two-spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, (+) spectrum of gender identities, sexual/romantic orientations, and/or gender expressions inclusion

b. Joint Meeting with City Council

The Commission received a staff briefing on the upcoming joint meeting with the City Council scheduled for April 7, 2026. Staff explained the purpose of the meeting, including seeking Council's input ahead of the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant review process and sharing the Commission's emerging priorities and observations. Commissioners also reviewed past joint-meeting topics, including discussions on needs assessments, funding strategies, and applying an equity lens. The Commission will develop a short list of discussion items to finalize in March in preparation for the joint meeting. Key items may include Council preference for receiving funding recommendations as three potential funding options A-C, proposing an increase in the ongoing base budget, and the possibility of creating a simplified rapid response funding request process.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Shannon Quinn reported on upcoming events, including a statewide secondary education summit in Tacoma and the Children's Justice Conference scheduled for May in Spokane.

Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani shared updates regarding the Let's Connect meeting on March 3, a bi-monthly meetup, and an upcoming Eastside Pathways board meeting. She also noted that a Lunar New Year event will take place this Saturday at PKCC.

Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew reported speaking with Community Services at Evergreen, where they discussed budget allocations for grants. He shared that future grant funding will focus on behavioral health and senior services.

Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez highlighted "Conversations with Council," a drop-in opportunity for community members to speak with City Council. The next event is scheduled for March 19.

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan shared that he has attended national and local immigration "Know Your Rights" and advocate trainings.

Commissioner Jory Hamilton provided updates on his involvement with the PTSA at Juanita and Finn Hill, as well as his participation on the YES Board.

Vice Chair Cristian Liu reported attending recent Lunar New Year events and noted these as potential opportunities to reach additional community members.

b. Staff Reports & Announcements

Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith reported that Eastside for All Safe Haven also provides hyperlocal trainings for immigration and advocacy.

Interim Human Services Manager Becky Gilley noted that the grant application opens Monday, March 2, and that funders workshops will be taking place in SeaTac and Redmond for potential applicants.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Tasnim Rehamani motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Vice Chair Cristian Liu. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.