



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

Wednesday, October 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Virtual and In-Person Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Members: Chair Kristi Coyne, Vice Chair Laura Badeaux, Secretary Andee Walton, Addison Atkatsch, Noemi Cagatin-Porter, Jesse Carlos, Kimberly Ellefson, Connie Ladenburg, Carlos Lugo, Lasandra President, Sarah Roemer,

Members Absent: Kristen Marsh, Nikki Singh, Collin Thrower**, and Naomi Wilson

*Commissioners who did not provide advanced notice of their absence.

Staff Present: Danielle Jordan and Matthew Jorgensen

1. Call to Order at 6:01

- Roll call.

2. Acknowledgement of Tribal Lands at 6:03

- Read by Commissioner Roemer.

3. Approval of the October Agenda at 6:04

- Motioned by Commissioner Cagatin-Porter to approve and amend agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lugo, and approved unanimously.

4. Review/Approval of August Minutes at 6:05

- Motioned by Commissioner Cagatin-Porter to approve and amend agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ellefson, and approved unanimously.

5. Inclement Weather Update at 6:07

- Presented by Caleb Carbone, HSSS Manager.
- Two main seasons of response for extreme hot and cold temperatures, and three tiers of response:
 - i. Tier One
 1. Cold weather threshold: 32 degrees or 35 with rain or wind.
 - a. Work with existing shelters to expand capacities, additional seasonal shelters, and expand thresholds.
 2. Hot weather: 85 degrees but looking to adopt heat risk index tool to align with other jurisdictions.
 3. Also have air quality advisory and provide masks and water, as needed.
 - ii. Tier Two
 1. Cold weather threshold: 20 degrees or significant amount of snowfall.
 - a. HSSS asks the community what additional capacity exists.



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2. Tier Two hot weather is a response to abnormally warm temperatures.
 3. Air advisory above 151 degrees – HSSS is constantly looking for buildings with HVAC systems that can handle air quality.
 - a. Day centers, overnights, and 24-hour systems are included in Tier Three.
- Commissioner Ellefson asks about outreach teams and planning ahead for inclement weather (such as having correct tires on vans).
 - i. Answer: There are usually check-ins with jurisdictions and their providers. Members will also check in with providers and volunteers about strategies. The City takes into account resources available for responses.
 - Commissioner President asks about approaching La Nina and what donation opportunities are available.
 - i. Answer: Many locations. The HSSS will work on compiling a list.
 - Types of sheltering:
 - i. Safe parking program, seasonal sheltering, 120 additional beds for inclement weather.
 - ii. The City is looking at how to expand across the city and not just one area.
 - Funding: City General Fund is usually for contractors, supplies, mental health, SUD, and connected resources (flexible spending).
 - i. ESG – Matching dollars that can be matched by General Fund for leveraging (approx. \$189,000 set aside for this).
 - ii. CDBG – \$360,000 set aside for temporary and emergency sheltering. No procurement for this process because the pool is small, so the City goes through direct negotiation waiver to expedite process with identified capable providers and locations.
 - Commissioner Ladenburg asks if ESG and CDBG funds are federal (yes) and does city have to compete for those?
 - i. Answer: No, but amounts are not exact; they are an estimate (\$189,000 to \$210,000 range). The City has other ESG funding, but CDBG funds require them to make recommendations for how funding will be spent before funds are received.
 - Commissioner Ladenburg asks how it is determined which jurisdiction receives money?
 - i. Answer: Allocation is made in partnership with Peirce County and Lakewood.
 - Commissioner Ladenburg asks if there is a danger for these funds: if they are politically motivated, could they go away?
 - i. Answer: Historically, no. Some projects are delayed due to congressional meetings, but generally, not at risk. Only at risk if City doesn't perform. Also requires approval by HSC, and CVS. The only changes to funding that might be



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at risk would be if City Council wanted to go in different direction, based on housing needs.

- Secretary Walton asks if the City funds and provides transitions to permanent housing.
 - i. Answer: HSSS partners with Community and Economic Development by making recommendations based on needs for services such as permanent and transitory housing
 1. Interlocal agreements are involved with the construction of permanent housing, so many are consulted and make recommendations (TCRA, Pierce County HSC, and state-level).
- Commissioner Badeaux asks if there is outreach to people in encampments for upcoming weather.
 - i. Answer: HEAL Team. More funds for inclement weather supplies and additional members of the city are doing outreach.
 - ii. Chair Coyne comments that the social workers she works with are noticing a change in sheltering for the better. Commissioner Ellefson seconds this sentiment.
 - iii. Matthew Jorgenson comments that in the past, NCS has given feedback that access has been an issue, so Public Works has been brought into the loop for consideration of staff and residents to be able to access shelters.
 - iv. Ellefson comments also on the positive effects of Tacoma Rescue Mission, Greater Lakes, and other organizations.

6. Public Comment at 6:43

- None.

7. Review Excused Absences at 6:43

- Commissioner Lugo motions to excuse Commissioners Marsh, Singh and Wilson. Commissioner Ellefson seconds. All in favor.

8. Good of the Order at 6:45

- Chair Coyne updates that HSC is still unable to discuss funding process, but will hopefully be able to discuss it at November 13th Meeting.

9. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 6:46

- Chair Coyne thanks everyone for participating.
- Commissioner Ellefson motions to adjourn, Commissioner Ladenburg seconds, and all in favor. Adjourn at 6:47.

**Updated 11/13/2024 – Commissioner Thrower had an excused absence – was previously marked unexcused in error