



# City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** Laura Badeaux, Vice Chair Marvin Cooks, Naomi Wilson, Noemi Cagatin-Porter, Secretary Andee Walton, Leslie Mintaraga, Jason Grube, Rebecca Stith, Amanda Scott-Thomas, Nate Minor

**Members Absent:**

Rahn Clayton, Valentine Smith, Wilton Waverly

**Staff Present:** Allyson Griffith (NCS)

**1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:04**

- Meeting chaired by Vice Chair Cooks.
- Roll call.

**2. Approval of the March agenda at 6:07**

- Motion by Commissioner Wilson to approve, second by Commissioner Stith. Approved unanimously.

**3. Review/Approval of February minutes at 6:08**

- Commissioner Stith motioned to accept minutes and Commissioner Cagatin-Porter seconded. Approved unanimously.

**4. Introduction of Council Member Daniels at 6:08**

- Council Member Daniels unable to attend. Allyson Griffith explains that Council Member's attendance is first effort of the City Council's intention to rotate visits between their boards and committees to keep each board/committees' undertakings in their purview.
- Commissioner Badeaux asks if there is a particular Council Member assigned to HSC.
  - i. Answer: All members of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee (CVSC) oversee HSC, though Council Member Ushka is the CVSC Chair.
- Commissioner Wilson asks if there is a liaison between The City of Tacoma and Pierce County's Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB.)
  - i. Answer: Not officially, though Commissioner Cagatin-Porter is also an HSAB board member and offered to provide Commissioner Wilson with monthly recap of HSAB's undertakings.
    - 1. Allyson Griffith offered to bring the liaison idea to the NCS's attention.

**5. Public Comment at 6:16**



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- No written comments to read and no attending public to comment.

### 6. Elections: HSC Chair at 6:18

- Commissioner Cagatin-Porter motions to elect Commissioner Wilson as Chair, Commissioner Stith seconds, and Commissioner Wilson is voted in as Chair, unanimously.
  - i. Commissioner Wilson graciously accepts election and agrees to Commissioner Cooks completing the leadership for tonight's HSC meeting. Commissioner Cooks accepts.

### 7. Presentation: Update on Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction (YYVR) at 6:20

- Presented by Renee Johnson (NCS) and assisted by Vicky McLaurin (NCS).
  - i. Presentation e-mailed to each Commissioner.
- Commissioner Wilson asks who, of the HSC, participated in last year's review committee.
  - i. Answer: Commissioner Clayton.
- Why were three of the eight applicants for the \$30,000 in funding for YYVR not selected?
  - i. Answer: NCS decided to select five providers in order to evenly distribute funds at an amount that would be effective in making a qualitative impact on YYVR.
- Commissioner Wilson asks to see past applicants' applications to better understand election process.
  - i. Renee Johnson offers to email the past applications to Commissioner Wilson.
- Vice Chair Cooks inquires about the metrics NCS uses to measure the impact City funding to selected organizations on YYVR.
  - i. Answer: Assessments conducted by Tacoma and Pierce County Health Departments, which gather data on service delivery gaps and strengths of services. The goal is to look for what is missing and see what NCS can do to leverage more funding to fill those gaps.
    1. Both Renee and Vicky express sentiment that efforts towards YYVR will always be underfunded; however, because there is never enough that can be done.
- Commissioner Cagatin-Porter asks if there is funding allocated for 2023 to 2024.
  - i. Answer: The NCS has made a proposal for funding for 2023 to 2024, however that is subject to vote by the City Council.
- Commissioner Walton provides feedback on professional experience with change in youth gang identification criteria and the positive impact of treating troubled youth as individuals that she has seen in the field.
- Commissioner Wilson asks if NCS works with Tacoma School to mitigate student delinquencies and if NCS conducts trend analysis of delinquencies since the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - i. Answer: although The City does work with the School District to mitigate YYVR and human trafficking, it does not track delinquencies.



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- ii. Commissioner Scott-Thomas, who works for the School District, offered to look into finding delinquency data to present to HSC. Commissioner Wilson commented that delinquency data may be beneficial for tracking in relation to YYVR.

### 8. Presentation: Competitive Funding Process Timeline at 6:54

- Presentations by NCS Resource Manager Jason McKenzie; summarizing timeline beginning June 1, 2022, and ending November 22, 2022, with presentations from applicants to be presented to HSC for review in June of 2022.
- Commissioner Wilson asks if allocation meetings for review of presentations can be conducted on weekends rather than weeknights. Commissioner Scott-Thomas agrees that weekend presentations were most efficient.
  - i. Jason McKenzie agrees that weekends are a possibility but are still in the works due to applicant availability. NCS is also considering option for applicants to submit oral presentation with application.
- Commissioner Walton asks if presentation submitted ahead of time would permit applicants to still attend panel for question-and-answer.
  - i. Answer: As of now, applicants would not be required to attend question-and-answer if a presentation were to be submitted ahead of time, but NCS is still in talks to determine the best method.
  - ii. Commissioner Wilson comments that past applicants who did not submit optional presentations with applications in the past faced a bias by HSC during review.

### 9. Overview: Recruitment for HSC at 7:13

- Overview of recruitment timeline provided by Allyson Griffith.
  - i. Seven open vacancies come May 2022, to include Youth Commissioner.
    1. Commissioners Stith, Grube, and Pebley have chosen not to renew their commissions.
    2. Commissioners Scott-Thomas, Clayton, and Minor have not indicated their intent at this time.
  - ii. Commissioner Clayton has contested some of his unexcused absences. Commissioner Wilson comments that considering excusing some of those absences would be more appealing if Commissioner Clayton were in regular attendance. Other commissioners agree.
    1. Commissioner Wilson declares she will communicate with Allyson at another time to discuss options for moving forward with Commissioner Clayton's dispute and future commission options.
- Allyson provides timeline for HSC applicants: March 17<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Commissioner Wilson asks if timeline can be extended in event not enough applicants are obtained by deadline.
    1. Answer: It is possible. Commissioner Stith notes that a quorum is all that is needed to continue HSC meetings. Allyson confirms but notes that



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seven vacancies would leave HSC at minimum quorum of four Commissioners

- ii. Allyson explains marketing strategy for new HSC members. Commissioner Stith asks for HSC to receive link to City's press release for recruitment.
- Commissioner Stith inquires about the criteria sought of applicants. Commissioner Badeaux adds to inquiry of the competition of applicants between HSC and other boards and commissions; wondering if the shortage of applicants is unique to HSC.
  - i. Answer: Applicants to boards/commissions may be referred to other boards/commissions if perceived as better fit.
  - ii. Applicant considerations: geographic distributions, age ranges, ethnic and gender diversity, professional conflict as well as professional compliments.
- Commissioner Stith asks if prior volunteer history is desired for HSC applicant consideration.
  - i. Answer: a history of volunteerism is not a requisite for HSC membership, but it is a noteworthy attribute for applicants who exhibit such history.
- Commissioner Wilson inquires about future HSC meetings being in-person, virtual, or hybrid.
  - i. Answer: no indication for change from virtual has been given by The City at this time, though feedback from HSC will be given.
    - Commissioner Castigan-Porter asks where in-person HSC meetings were held, pre-pandemic.
      1. Answer: First floor of Municipal building in a conference room.
      2. Commissioner Wilson requests Allyson inquires about hybrid model for future HSC meetings. Other commissioners' express interest in in-person meetings as well as virtual.

### 10. Review/Excuse Absences at 7:26

- Commissioner Mintaraga motions to approve the absences of Commissioners Smith and Waverly. Motion approved unanimously.

### 11. Good of the Order at 7:30

- Commissioner Wilson provides positive feedback for HSC's input for the meeting's participation; particularly surrounding the topic of YYAVR. Other commissioners echo sentiment.
- Commissioner Stith leads congratulations to Commissioner Wilson for her appointment to HSC Chair. All commissioners echo sentiment.

### 12. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 7:32

- Vice Chair Cooks adjourns meeting.