



# City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting Minutes

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**Commissioners Present:** Vice Chair Rebecca Stith, Jason Grube, Lisa Keating, Cherrilee Matthews, Elizabeth Pebley, Valentine Smith, Naomi Wilson, Jovan Dumas, Luis Beltran, Magdalena Stickel, Wilton Waverly, Lisa Mintaraga

**Commissioners Absent:** Amanda Scott-Thomas, Jovan Dumas, Chair Rahn Clayton

**Staff Present:** Allyson Griffith, Linda Stewart

1. **Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:04pm**
  - Vice Chair Stith called the meeting to order
2. **Approval of the February Agenda at 6:05pm**
  - Motion to approve agenda by Commissioner Grube and seconded by Commissioner Keating. Approved unanimously.
3. **Secretary Vacancy at 6:06 pm**
  - Called for volunteers to take notes over the next few months. No takers so staff took minutes.
  - Staff will follow-up with note taker requests for new months meetings.
4. **Introductions, Ice Breaker and New Member Welcome 6:07pm**
  - Commissioners introduced themselves and shared what brought them to the Commission.
  - Wilton goes by Will
5. **Review/Approval of January Minutes at 6:31pm**
  - Motion to approve by Commissioner Pebley and seconded by Commissioner Keating. All approved.
6. **Public Comment at 6:32pm**
  - Vice Chair Stith discussed the purpose of public comment. No public comment received at this time.
7. **Homelessness Strategic Plan Update at 6:36pm**
  - Staff provided an update on the homeless strategy (LINK Presentation)
  - Staff ask to HSC is to brainstorm how they'll be engaged with the development of the plan
  - Vice chair Stith asked for clarification on breakout sessions and how they will function and how that information might come back to the Commission.
  - Vice Chair Stith re-iterated the need for staff sharing meetings relevant to the work of the HSC
  - Also discussed February 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session



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### 8. Draft Preference Policy at 6:49pm

- NCS Director Linda Stewart provided an update on the work to formulate a preference policy for provider funding. Staff will come back to the HSC before the Notice of Funding is released and to discuss exactly who we want to target the funding to.
- Discussion of Resolution 40622, Police transformation, systems transformation and Mayor's Heal the Heart initiative
- Commissioner Keating: is the \$500,000 for 2021 only or for 2021 and 2022? Answer: The budget of \$500k is for the 21-22 biennium. Intended as a pilot. If revenue projections recover, we may be able to allocate additional funds.
- Commissioner Keating: Mental health tax coming through County Council. Will this impact Tacoma? Answer: The City activated the use of the mental health sales tax prior to the County and so maintains access to those revenues.
- Vice Chair Stith: \$500,000 is it actually a policy yet or are we at more of the concept stage at this point? Answer: The intent is to develop an ability to award preference points to providers serving BIPOC-led and primarily BIPOC serving organizations. There is a test case in Oregon and the City is tracking the outcome of legal challenges in that case.
- Vice Chair Stith: Does the Council have to approve? Answer: The Director holds administrative authority

### 9. NCS Program Updates at 7:05 PM

- Staff reported that we will be at study session on 2/23 for the homelessness strategy and at CVS on February 11<sup>th</sup> regarding 2020 NCS annual report
- Rental assistance update from staff about use of new state funding and our partnership at the County

### 10. Special Meeting and Retreat at 7:10 PM

- Discussion of having a special meeting and retreat in possibly August or September to potentially do so in person
- Discussion of need for an additional Commissioner for Youth Violence RFP. Commissioners encouraged to contact staff if interested.
- Discussion of requirements for open public meetings act
- Question about e-C Impact for use. Answer: The City is using e-C Impact for ratings.
- Question about how we might do a retreat virtually. Staff suggested small bites and possibly using breakout rooms.

### 11. Black History Month at 7:26pm

- Rebecca discussion of video from OEHR and Chair Clayton's video submission.
- Staff will send the presentation compiled by Rahn and the OEHR training materials as a follow-up to the meeting
- Discussion of concern about presentation of copyrighted material as part of the public meeting
- Reading of written submission from Chair Clayton
- Discussion of adding black history discussion to a future meeting



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### 12. Review/Excuse Absences at 7:31 PM

- Commissioner Grube motioned to excuse the absences of Commissioners Wilson, Matthews and Clayton and second by Commissioner Keating. Motion passes unanimously.
- Unexcused absences include Commissioners Dumas and Scott-Thomas. Staff will report back on absences at the next meeting and will be reaching out to the Commissioners directly about ongoing attendance issues.

### 13. Good of the Order at 7:36 PM

- Staff will provide a roster for Commissioners
- Reminder to Commissioners not to email all Commissioners at once since it would qualify at a public meeting. For this reason, staff BCCs Commissioners on emails
- Staff will send the link to Legistar so that Commissioners have access to Council agendas, supporting documentation and meeting recordings.

### 14. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 7:37

- Commissioner Keating moves to adjourn and Commissioner Pebley seconds. All approve.