



Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF)
2013 Annual Meeting: 12/5/13
COMPREHENSIVE PLANS & HUMAN SERVICES
Compiled by Debbie Lacy, EHSF Coordinator

“Comprehensive Planning 101” was presented by Michael Cogle, the Deputy Director for Kirkland Parks and Community Services. Materials available online at www.eastsideforum.org.

How do cities' comprehensive plans impact human services?

Panelists

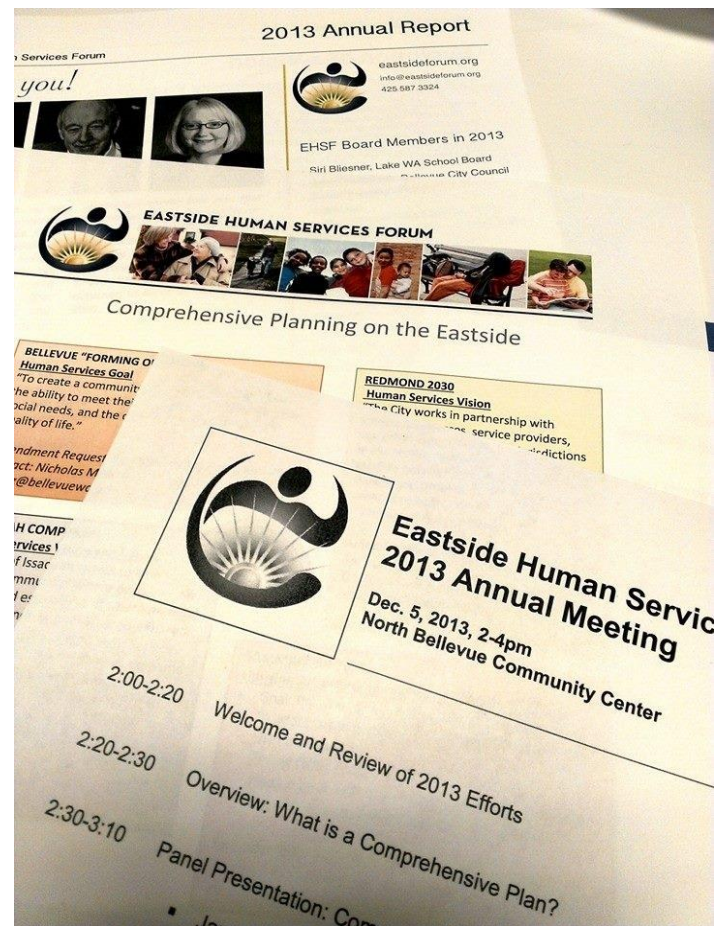
Doreen Marchione
Kirkland City Council

Camron Parker
Bellevue Parks Department

Kelly Rider
Housing Development Consortium

Jan Stout
Bellevue Human Services Commission

Moderator: Pat Vache,
Redmond City Council and EHSF Board Chair



Questions Posed to Panel:

- What is the importance of comprehensive plans to human services delivery and support? How do cities' comprehensive plans impact human services? Specific examples?
- Do you see any benefit to coordinating the planning processes with regards to human services components, and if so, how might that be accomplished?
- What suggestions do you have for us on how we can influence the plans and mobilize support?

Summary of Panelists' Comments

It's important to remember Nan Campbell's legacy (first female Mayor of Bellevue). She created the Bellevue Human Services Commission and put H. S. in the budget.

The comprehensive plan is just a tool. It doesn't bring about action. Constant monitoring is required. Stay engaged to the bitter end.

If your city doesn't have a human services component, get it in there.

Get as many stories to policy makers as possible.

Usually a few loud voices show up with specific asks. Different voices, clients too, can make a huge difference.

Comprehensive plans should reflect cities' visions.

You *can* change your comp plan. Be willing to admit the old way doesn't cut it.

Remember this needs to be a four step process: (1) Adopt policies, (2) Implement policies, (3) Monitor policies, and (4) Change policies.

Educate Councils about what the H.S. funds are doing in their community; speak directly to the value.

We need to have a strong commitment to work with the transportation and planning departments to make sure everyone understands how interconnected so many parts of the plan are, and what the implications are for all residents.

"I didn't realize how my little agency could be impacted. This group clearly impacts various issues and I'm excited about the opportunities."



COMMENTS on PANEL PRESENTATION

.... *General feedback? What did you learn?*

- Appreciated new info on comp plan.
- Understand the universe of possibilities; strengthen plan to be able to implement.
- No new information specifically but a good message. Repetition is important - always need to stay engaged and educate new leaders.
- Stay involved, continual updates and contact from City Hall, include human services in all department sections, involve and coordinate with school districts. Get city staff invested in human services.
- Human services must be integrated into the livability issue; need to emphasize inclusiveness. How can we accept density without addressing how we can all live together?
- The concept of encouraging affordable housing in expensive real estate: need communication efforts to address this very common misperception.
- The perception that the need is for homeless, street pan handlers, rather than working families.
- We heard a passion for advocacy.
- Glad to hear about concept of "strategy plan." Visionary process is fine but we need an action plan with specifics. Bellevue has "functional plans."
- Need to have for human services like we do for CIP etc.
- Concern about East King Co. communities not represented: needs to be addressed.

IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

related to comprehensive plans and human services

- Comprehensive plans affect all of us: need to go beyond policy-makers. If you're not at the table, you're not heard.
- Human Services providers can subscribe to city feeds.
- Are joint H.S. Commission meetings happening quarterly?
- We need to know how to better connect sections of the plan.
- Talk to smaller, far Eastside communities about their comp plans.
- Can we build on the success of the cities' joint funding application process?

Top Request

Keep members & the community informed of opportunities to influence the comprehensive planning processes of Eastside cities.

What's on the horizon for human services, according to City Councilmembers and Human Service Commissioners?

- Flexibility in housing that's affordable.
- Income equity
- Creating opportunities and second chances
- Improved transportation and connections
- In 2014 most cities will have new mayors: opportunity for education
- Need to build awareness of who are beneficiaries of the "advocate, donate, participate" calls to action
- Sustainable funding, justify funding; tell the story, community outreach
- Ensure that H.S. Commissions are interacting with the planning and comp plan.

Other participants: What else are you noticing that would be important to consider during comprehensive planning processes?

- Need for local solutions where federal/state dollars are not increasing or going away
- Neighborhood engagement
- Residents don't understand city budgets and what money goes to H.S.

- Property tax deferral program to preserve housing.
- Universal design for aging population
- Housing options for a variety of ages and abilities.
- Downtown workers need to be engaged in the process.
- How do we involve employers?
- How to balance transportation and housing? Do you invest in making transportation/commuter improvements or invest in housing to make it possible to live near work?

Other Topics Raised

- CEH (Committee to End Homelessness): There is in-fighting about which regions do the most (or least). It is a *regional* issue.
- Could we have a regional levy for affordable housing? Is there will?
- Eastside cities have a good track record of working with each other and working with the nonprofits.
- Staff need to figure out ways to help those running for office – get their positions on H.S. known.
- Regionalism is important. Mercer Island: large childcare center may be closing; those families will pursue resources in Bellevue and Seattle.
- Living wage is critical to the region.
- “Cross boarder” discussions to fund permanent funding for human services. (RPC/Sound Cities)
- General negativity toward government and taxes. What can we do about that?
- Find a way to mandate affordable housing. Incentives don’t work. It is working in Redmond.
- Homelessness in downtown Bellevue is increasing. It’s not going to go away and you can’t just push people out.
- Glad to hear the Forum has a Communications Plan and that it’s also directed to the general community.



Immediate Next Steps for the Eastside Human Services Forum

- The specific action step of keeping members and the general community informed about Eastside cities' comprehensive planning processes is an item in the Forum's 2014 Work Plan.
- Advocate for each city to include a Human Services component in their comprehensive plans.
- Use input for 2014 implementation of the Forum's Communications Plan (i.e., share information with city councils about the value of the H.S. dollars spent and use story-telling; inform the general public about how city governments and taxes support H.S.)
- Reach out again to other, smaller Eastside cities to engage them in the Forum.
- The Forum Board and Work Group will review this summary and make additional recommendations for actions to take place in 2014 and beyond.