



Investing Today for a Thriving Tomorrow

EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2020 – 8:30am to 10:30am
Conference Call

<p>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Lauren Thomas, Hopelink – Board Chair Al Smith, Perkins Coie - Vice Chair Amy Falcone, Kirkland City Council - Sec/Treasurer Tony Copes, Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Barbara de Michele, Issaquah City Council Jessica Forsythe, Redmond City Council Monique Gablehouse, EvergreenHealth Dr. Harlan Gallinger, Issaquah School Board Stephanie Hamrick, Overlake Medical Center Lynne Robinson, Bellevue City Council Cassandra Sage, LW School Board Helene Wentink, Alliance of Eastside Agencies</p> <p>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Eric Evans, Shelter Holdings LLC Paul Lwali, Friends of Youth</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT Leslie Miller, Work Group Chair Monica Negrila, Work Group Vice Chair Brooke Buckingham, Governance Task Force Liz Mills, Legislative Consultant</p> <p>VISITORS PRESENT Dee Dee Catalano, City of Bellevue Stephanie Lizza, EvergreenHealth Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue Christy Stangland, City of Bellevue</p>
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CALL TO ORDER – Chair Lauren Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. A quorum of the Board was present. Lauren briefly reviewed the agenda.

Review of March Minutes

Motion 1: "I move the Board accept the meeting minutes from the August 6, 2020 Meeting as presented."

Discussion – None.

Motion was made by Lynne Robinson and seconded by Jessica Forsythe. The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

Organizational Review Next Steps

Vice Chair Al Smith reviewed the work done over the past year. He referenced the landscape analysis started by 501 Commons that has been enhanced with work led by Brooke Buckingham. This analysis will help determine where EHSF fits and what is needed on the Eastside. He stressed the importance of discussing what we are trying to accomplish as a group as well as the process going forward. The first part of this discussion centers on rethinking our mission, vision and values. The second part centers on determining the best structure to accomplish what we decide is our mission, vision and values. This work will eventually include revamping our Bylaws.

Brooke Buckingham stated that this landscape analysis identified other membership coalition and advocacy groups in King County that are similar to EHSF. It includes each group's focus area and their activities such as advocacy, education and information sharing, convener, training, data analysis or funder. Brooke reviewed the nine membership groups in detail and touched on a few grassroots groups and government coalitions. This information is intended to help inform the Board on the roles that these groups play in our community and help determine where EHSF can add value.

Board members shared their reactions to the information. For example, Barbara de Michele observed that the Forum has a unique blend of elected officials and agency representatives which can lead to a strong structure. She wondered if we could network with similar organizations to form a larger coalition?

Tony Copes encouraged the Board to find a way to mobilize the general public and suggested affordable housing and homelessness as a possible rallying point. The Board discussed the role of educating the public on the need for human services and perhaps centering it on root causes that impact human services as a whole. Monique Gablehouse said it would be a big change that could move us from a convener to directly connecting with community members. We could be entering space already occupied by other organizations. Al suggested that we add to our analysis any organizations that are conducting education to the general public. Jessica Forsythe suggested if we decide to explore that idea that we get input from the Work Group or a survey.

Stephanie Hamrick recalled that there have been several legislative connections over the years that included meetings with elected officials. She thought it set the Forum apart from the other Eastside groups. Others agreed that advocacy continues to be as strong role for EHSF.

Members discussed the value of having a dedicated focus (i.e. affordable housing) for at least two years instead of changing it every year.

Lauren read the current mission statement as a way to look at our areas of focus and then consider how we might tighten it. It reads: To foster strong public and private partnerships for a stable network of health and human services for the benefit of all East King County residents. This will be accomplished through supporting a broad continuum of services from prevention to intervention to crisis response by:

- Advocating for funds
- Bringing people, groups, and services together to maximize resources
- Educating and influencing decision makers
- Proactively impacting regional issues
- Informing the general community about local needs, advocacy opportunities, and other ways to get involved

Helene Wentink advocated for some continued conversations with the officers of AEA. She would like to look at possible efficiencies across both organizations.

Monica summarized the discussion which emphasized the Forum's role as a convening organization, how members might be influencers, how to ensure that the Forum have an impact in the community and continuing with legislative advocacy work. She also brought up the discussion about public education.

Al reviewed the upcoming meetings. On September 29th, there is a combined Work Group/Board meeting. After discussion, the Board decided to add a second Board/Work Group meeting in late October. Ideally, there will be a proposal that comes out of those meetings that is voted on by the Board at the November 19th meeting and then adopted at the December 16th annual meeting. Al thanked everyone for the good conversations and their work on the organizational review.

Legislative Event Debrief

Consultant Liz Mills referred to the Legislative Committee update in the Board packet. At the 8/26 collaborative event with AEA, 82 people participated which exceeded expectations. Overall, feedback was very good. Participants felt it was a good blend of advocacy training and interactive elements such as the breakout sessions. Liz said that AEA was a wonderful partner. The Legislative Committee also did a survey on policy and budget issues that resulted in 43 responses. Both of these activities will help inform the Forum's 2021 legislative agenda.

2021 Officer Positions

Lauren reminded members that officer elections will be held at the December annual meeting. She will be rolling off her term as chair and she hopes that the two current officers will continue. There will be at least one open role. She encouraged members to consider serving as an officer.

Board Member Information Sharing

Helene shared that the AEA 9/23 Pivot Point will focus on the King County Affordable Housing Committee.

Stephanie Hamrick shared that Overlake Hospital is collaborating with the Together Center on a health fair on 10/24. There will be bags of first aid kits, food, some PPE and free flu vouchers. They are also partnering with the YMCA in offering free flu vouchers at the Bellevue and Sammamish locations.

Barbara shared that the City of Issaquah has been working on an eviction prevention ordinance and has endorsed the Mayor's Police Accountability, Equity and Human Services Action Plan.

Lauren shared that Hopelink is holding its Reaching Out Luncheon on 10/19 that features a dialogue on racial equity with Soledad O'Brien, Brittany Packnett Cunningham and Gordon A. McHenry, Jr. Lauren will facilitate the discussion. It is a fundraiser, but anyone can join the conversation for free.

Presentation: Eastside for All

Debbie Lacy said she appreciated being at the meeting and part of the organizational review interview process. She served as the EHSF Coordinator for nine years and has a lot of love and respect for the Forum and the work being done. In 2002, she co-founded the [Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition](#) and in 2019 co-founded [Eastside for All](#). She gave an overview of both organizations. She also highlighted the positive impact that joining [Welcoming America](#) has had on her work.

Eastside for All was formed to build the local infrastructure, skills, and community relationships required to institutionalize racial, economic, and social justice. They have a small Board of 100% people of color and their work is to make sure that the small grassroots organizations and groups that are led by people of color are able to do their work. Eastside for All offers support through training, strategic partnerships, technical assistance, advocacy and helping to build capacity.

Eastside for All expects to launch the Eastside Advocacy Hub in November that will provide an online platform to bring advocacy issues to our community members and support them in voicing their needs to leaders in the community, decision-makers, and elected officials.

Debbie also described the Welcoming Institute which is a program to share dialogue and connection in learning together about what it takes to make the kind of community that we want. Some elements are up and running and others are in the works. Debbie thanked members who have supported her work. Several members commented on the importance of this work and commended Debbie for her leadership.

Debbie ended by sharing information on the 9/26 [Eastside Race and Equity Summit](#).

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Lauren Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.