



Investing Today for a Thriving Tomorrow

**EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:30 to 11:30 am**  
**Conference Call**

<p><b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b> Al Smith, Perkins Coie - Chair Amy Falcone, Kirkland City Council – Vice Chair Paul Lwali, Friends of Youth, Sec/Treasurer Tony Copes, Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Barbara de Michele, Issaquah City Council Jessica Forsythe, Redmond City Council Stephanie Lizza, EvergreenHealth Cassandra Sage, LW School Board Helene Wentink, Alliance of Eastside Agencies</p> <p><b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b> Dr. Harlan Gallinger, Issaquah School Board Stephanie Hamrick, Overlake Medical Center Lynne Robinson, Bellevue City Council</p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND CONTRACTOR PRESENT</b> Leslie Miller, City of Kirkland Human Services Liz Mills, Legislative Consultant</p> <p><b>VISITORS PRESENT</b> Mark Griffith, St. Luke’s Pastor Anne Martens, King County Regional Housing Authority Director of External Affairs &amp; Communications Alexis Mercedes Rinck, King County Regional Housing Authority Sub-Regional Planning Manager Brooke Buckingham, City of Redmond Human Services Dee Dee Catalano, City of Bellevue Human Services Monica Negrila, City of Issaquah Human Services Alex O’Reilly, City of Bellevue Human Services</p>
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**CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Al Smith called the meeting to order at 9:36 am. A quorum of the Board was present.

**Review of March Minutes**

**Motion 1:** *"I move the Board accept the meeting minutes from the March 18, 2021 Meeting as presented."*

Motion was made by Amy Falcone and seconded by Tony Copes.  
Discussion – None.  
The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

**Executive Director Search Update**

Al Smith stated that the Executive Director position was posted in early June with a closing date of June 25<sup>th</sup>. He thanked members of the Search Committee for their contributions and to Board members and others for sharing the opening with their networks and channels. Brooke reported that thirty applications were received via LinkedIn and one through Indeed. In her initial screening, she found five that were fairly qualified and five that met the minimum requirements. Few applicants answered the supplemental questions. The committee decided to reach out to any of these ten who did not complete the questions and asked them to do so by June 25<sup>th</sup>. The committee hopes to begin interviews in mid-July. The goal is to have someone onboard by Labor Day. There is a revised position opening that was included in the packet that leaves the closing date open. The committee also decided to include a salary range. Members were asked to push this updated position description to their networks.

Al asked for members for input on Board involvement in the hiring process. Would members like a Meet and Greet with the top candidate or top two candidates? Would members prefer to defer to the committee until they present the final candidate? The Board can meet in person or perhaps make a decision by email. Al reminded members that our By-Laws state that any decisions made without a meeting have to be unanimous.

Cassandra mentioned that the last superintendent search at Lake Washington Schools was nationwide and candidates were asked to submit short videos so Board members could get a sense of the person. Candidates were asked to answer certain questions ahead of time. Al thanked Cassandra for the suggestions and thought it was a possibility.

Jessica Forsythe said she trusted the committee and would like to see one or two candidates brought to the Board to have some interaction with members. Mark Griffith introduced himself. He is the Pastor at St. Luke's and liked the idea of the committee bringing one final candidate and maybe an alternate to the Board for approval. Al shared that Mark is considering joining the Board and taking Tony Cope's seat as the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council representative. He is sitting in on today's meeting to learn about the Board. In the chat, Stephanie Lizza and Helene Wentink also agreed that the committee should take the lead.

### **Proposed 2021-22 Federal Legislative Agenda**

Liz Mills referenced the Legislative Committee Update that was in the meeting packet that included results from the 2021 state session. She reiterated that it was a great session and thanked Board members who took action on behalf of EHSF. She thanked Amy Falcone and Barbara de Michele for testifying in support of HB 1236.

The proposed federal agenda uses the same categories as the state agenda. Under those categories, there are more specific issues and approximately 50% of them are the same as the state agenda. The Legislative Committee requests that the Board approved the agenda. Liz also invited members to email her if they are interested in participating in any of the August meetings being scheduled with our congressional delegation.

Al asked a clarifying question – What will the committee be doing to carry out this agenda? Liz replied that the work is similar to our state level work in that we will be tracking and advocating for federal bills and measures that align with our legislative agenda and EHSF mission.

Helene Wentink asked Liz to get a decision soon from the Legislative Committee on whether or not to collaborate with AEA on an 8/25 Pivot Point on our legislative priorities. Liz thanked Helene for the offer and said she would get a decision soon.

### **Approval of Proposed 2021-22 Federal Legislative Agenda**

**Motion 2:** *"I move the Board approve the Proposed Federal Legislative Agenda as presented."*

Motion was made by Barbara de Michele and seconded by Amy Falcone.

Discussion – None.

The agenda was approved as presented unanimously.

### **Education and Membership & Outreach Committee Co-Chairs**

Al reminded members of the new committee structure. There are three Board Committee and three Operating Committees. For the Board Committees, the Chair serves as the Executive Committee Chair. The Vice Chair or President Elect serves as the Governance Committee Chair. The Secretary serves as the Finance Committee Chair.

The Executive Director will co-chair the Operating Committees. Alex O'Reilly is serving as the Legislative Committee Co-Chair and Tony Copes volunteered to serve as the Membership & Outreach Co-Chair. Al stated that this is an important committee as we hope to significantly expand our membership into areas such as the faith, donor, and corporate communities. Al thanked Tony for his contributions as a Board member.

Leslie Miller announced that Kirkland Human Services staff Antoinette Smith will be serving as the Education Committee Chair. Leslie recently had the opportunity to expand her team and feels Anne would be a great fit for the Education Committee. She has a strong commitment to equity and anti-racism. She is a woman of color who brings her whole identity and self to her work. She recently completed a Masters in Social Work from UW and has worked as an RN in hospice, in the grocery industry and in the farm fields of Yakima. She brings a rich understanding and lived experience that will be valuable for the Forum.

Al thanked Leslie for her many contributions to the Forum. Al encouraged members to consider serving on at least one committee. Leslie offered to draft a list of committees and their members to date. She will reach out to members who have not yet selected a committee.

### **Board Feedback: Dues and Outreach**

Al asked for Board input on the idea of reduced membership fees for small nonprofits and on working more closely with AEA. In the chat, Leslie posted that there are 12 nonprofit service provider members with a dues structure of \$100, \$250 or \$500 depending on the size of the organization. Because the bulk of our revenue comes from the cities, this portion is not a huge piece of the budget. It still adds up and is a monetary issue for the Forum. We have heard that there are smaller service providers from underserved communities who are challenged to spend \$100 or more on dues, but might like to join the Forum. There have been discussions about waiving the dues and there are also reasons to ask organizations to contribute some amount even as small as \$25. There have also been discussions about offering reduced dues to AEA members.

Paul Llawi wants to encourage broader membership and expand the depth and breadth of the Forum. He noted how hard it has been for nonprofits during this time. Cassandra noted that there are a lot of nonprofits looking for partners or collaborators. Amy talked about wanting to diversify our membership and Board both in individuals, but also in terms of types of organizations and the communities that they serve. She liked a focus on community-based organizations to join as members and fill Board seats. The dues pricing could be part of the outreach conversation and find out what they could afford. We also want to invite more business members knowing that they can afford higher dues that could help offset additional costs associated with the Executive Director position and lower fees for nonprofits and community-based organizations. We need to be able to afford the work we are doing.

We may be opening up Board seats to business members as an incentive to join and as an incentive to pay higher dues. What businesses align with our values and have big enough checkbooks to be able to help? Jessica Forsythe agreed and added that idea of having businesses or cities provide scholarships for community-based organizations that we want to invite to diversify the Forum voice.

Helene Wentink agreed with the comments. As part of the AEA Executive Committee, she said they are open to any and all conversations about how we can broaden the efforts and the connections. It is important to hear from the providers to really understand the value proposition. Alex O'Reilly said that it is important to have a crisp description of the advantages that EHSF membership offers. The Membership and Outreach Committee might want to draft talking points or a flyer about the benefits of membership.

Leslie Miller suggested we consider adding an individual membership category. People like Tony Copes might want to join as an individual. We could offer an individual membership option to have folks who are not connected to a member organization, but have a passion for the community. Al noted that it might require a By-Law change that can be sorted out. He thanked members for the input and said the Board will defer to the Membership and Outreach Committee.

### **King County Regional Homelessness Authority Staff Introductions**

Leslie Miller introduced two staff from the King County Regional Homelessness Authority: Anne Martens, Director of External Affairs & Communications and Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Sub-Regional Planning Manager. She noted that this is a coordinating body to address the crisis response part of our

homelessness issue. Marc Jones was hired as the CEO and they have been bringing on staff. Anne and Alexis introduced themselves and briefly reviewed their roles. They will both be involved in sub-regional collaboration efforts. They expressed their thanks for being part of the meeting and left their contact information: Alexis Mercedes Rinck [alexis.rinck@kcrha.org](mailto:alexis.rinck@kcrha.org) and [anne.martens@kcrha.org](mailto:anne.martens@kcrha.org)

### **Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal**

Amy Falcone reminded members that Best Starts for Kids is King County program that funds human services for children, youth, families and communities. In April, the King County Council approved a BSK property tax renewal for the August 3rd ballot. The levy would renew and expand the expiring levy. We are keeping this agenda item as informational instead of a Board vote. Some city Board members and city staff have raised concerns about how our By-Laws match or do not match state law in regards to elected officials being able to vote as Board members on ballot measures. The Governance Committee will be working on the issue. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, EHSF co-hosted a community conversation on the BSK implantation plans if it is renewed. She encouraged members to consider supporting it as individuals and referenced the BSK presentation in the Board packet as a good resource. If anyone has questions, please direct them to Leslie and she will get answers to everyone.

Cassandra said that a July 9<sup>th</sup> district meeting will be on the BSK renewal. If members have questions about grants that were not funded or other issues, email her at [csage@lwsd.org](mailto:csage@lwsd.org). Members voiced some concerns about geographic equity. The Eastside has a strong taxpayer base and we want to make sure that there is an equitable return of those funds because we do have the same disparities, although we don't have the high numbers than tother parts of the County experience.

Liz mentioned the campaign website is [beststarts.org](http://beststarts.org) and it lists events, endorsements and other information. She applauded the Governance Committee for working on clear guidelines for legislative issues. Barbara de Michele also thanked the Governance Committee for taking on this issue. She had several conversations at the City of Issaquah over whether she could or could not vote on a ballot measure. She noted that the City of Issaquah is planning to consider a possible endorsement in mid-July.

### **Future Meetings**

Al led a discussion of Board future meetings and whether the Board wants to have a September meeting with the option to participate in-person or remotely. After discussion, the Board agreed on a hybrid model. As to where to hold the meetings, Al offered Perkins Coie. He also suggested that the meetings could move to different parts of the Eastside and members liked this idea. The Board decided to include some wording about encouraging people to wear a mask if there are not vaccinated. There was also discussion about the benefits of recording the meetings. As to timing, it was decided that Leslie would send out survey of a few options for meeting dates and times.

### **Board Member Information Sharing**

Helene Wentink said that AEA is starting to think about in-person gatherings. They are looking at a hybrid model with either participating in-person or remotely. AEA is finalizing their fall Pivot Points. The award ceremony will return to a December schedule with nominations in the fall. Reach out to her if there are things from today's meeting that should go to the AEA Executive Committee.

Leslie Miller shared that the Governor recently announced a bridge between the end of the eviction moratorium and when the tenant protection and rental assistance programs get underway.

Barbara de Michele said the City of Issaquah is setting up cooling stations at the community center.

Amy Falcone said that the City of Kirkland is working out details and will announce their cooling stations soon. Please help spread the word.

Cassandra Sage said the Lake Washington School District Board of Directors is drafting an equity policy that can be the umbrella for the entire district. They are hoping it will be adopted before September.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Al Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:17 am.