

**CITY OF LYNNWOOD  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES  
June 2, 2016 Meeting**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hurst at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Pam Hurst (Chair)	Chanda Emery, Sr. Planner
Julio Cortes	Comm. Devt. Director Paul Krauss
Peter Schmidt	Dan Grantier, Comm. Resource Paramedic
Kathy Coffey	Cole Langdon, Comm. Health and Safety Sergeant
Sandi Farkas	
Mary Ann Dillon	
	<b>Other:</b>
<b>Commissioners Absent:</b>	Council Liaison Shirley Sutton
Michelle Reitan (Vice Chair)	

**Approval of Minutes**

**1. Approval of minutes of the May 5 Meeting**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Farkas, to approve the May 5 Human Services Commission minutes as presented. **Motion** passed unanimously (6-0).

**Petitions and Communications**

None

**Staff and Commission Reports**

Community Resource Paramedic Dan Grantier explained he works on a task force with the Community Resource Paramedics in Fire District 1. He discussed the role of Community Resource Paramedics in the city to assist people who regularly call 911.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if anybody with a mental health background goes into the environments with the paramedics. Mr. Grantier said that right now they do not, but the paramedics use a 9-question depression screening tool. He noted

1 that mental health is a huge issue, and Verdant has funded a grant for Compass  
2 Health to embed two mental health professionals to work in the office.

3  
4 Commissioner Cortes asked how the service has been promoted. Mr. Grantier  
5 explained that the top 25 911 users have been identified, and he makes contact  
6 with them to help them navigate the system. He also gets referrals from crews  
7 when they notice someone who could benefit from the services. Additionally, he  
8 has visited several primary care clinics in the area to let them know what services  
9 are available.

10  
11 Commissioner Schmidt asked what kind of results they are seeing on the  
12 depression and anxiety questionnaires. Mr. Grantier replied that it is too early to  
13 tell, but clinical impressions from 911 crew reports show that the top three clinical  
14 impressions are traumatic injuries, generalized weakness, and behavioral issues.  
15 One of the other aspects of the Community Resource Paramedic Task Force is  
16 that there is a specialist in falls prevention at Fire District 1. Another Verdant  
17 Grant is embedding veteran student interns with the task force to help with falls  
18 prevention.

## 19 20 **Work Session**

### 21 22 1. Review of Existing Reports, Data, and Draft 2016-2018 Needs 23 Assessment

24  
25 Senior Planner Emery introduced and solicited comments on the Executive  
26 Summary and Draft Needs Assessment she had sent out prior to the meeting.  
27 She asked Commissioner Dillon to comment on the YWCA's role in the  
28 community and what they see as needs.

29  
30 Commissioner Dillon explained that the YWCA's emergency shelter has been in  
31 Lynnwood since 1993 or 1994. It was originally built as emergency shelter,  
32 transitional housing, and permanent housing. The transitional housing is no  
33 longer a HUD priority and has been defunded. The 13 units of shelter that now  
34 exist are for women and children and single women. The shelter is currently is  
35 operating at capacity and always has a waiting list. When families move out they  
36 are moving out into permanent supported housing. The priority at the federal and  
37 state level is that the stays for families are 58 days or less. Each year that will  
38 reduce 10%. A major problem is that families are not making livable wages, and  
39 it takes longer than 58 days for people to gain skills in order to make a livable  
40 wage. Another problem is that there are a limited number of landlords, and the  
41 vacancy rate is very low. She discussed the extreme need of many families in the  
42 community, many of whom have lived in hotels for years and have been  
43 continually disappointed by the system. She stressed the need to find solutions  
44 for people.

1 Chair Hurst asked about common characteristics of people who are able to move  
2 out into supported housing and find livable wage jobs. Commissioner Dillon  
3 replied it is unique to each person, but the most common issues they see are  
4 folks who have chronic mental health issues, substance abuse issues, and lack  
5 social capital or skills to navigate the system. Other issues include English as a  
6 second language and racism.

7  
8 Council Liaison Sutton stated she recently attended a financial capacity training  
9 which targeted individuals in poverty who lack basic financial education. She  
10 stated that until people can understand economics in layman's terms people will  
11 continue to be in poverty. There are individuals who are financial capacity  
12 instructors who are willing to come and give a presentation on this topic.

13  
14 Chair Hurst commented on the large number of topics in the Needs Assessment  
15 and suggested that the Commission focus on one need at a time and come up  
16 with needs for that niche. Director Krauss commented that the Needs  
17 Assessment will be included with the budget requests going to the Council so  
18 that they get a better understanding of the actual needs. That will be happening  
19 in the next month or so, but between now and the end of the year staff hopes to  
20 get the Needs Assessment more fine-tuned.

21  
22 Commissioner Schmidt asked if the social service agencies in the area get  
23 together on a regular basis. Commissioner Dillon replied that there is a group  
24 called Connected Communities that meets on a regular basis. There is also a  
25 Homeless Policy Task Force that meets regularly.

26  
27 Commissioner Dillon commented that the community groups are working to  
28 defend the needy, but deal with a lack of resources. She discussed the value of  
29 focusing on one topic and accomplishing something, but noted there are so many  
30 needs it's difficult to focus just on one thing.

31  
32 Commissioner Schmidt stressed the need for community education and  
33 professional development related to these topics. Chair Hurst concurred. Senior  
34 Planner Emery agreed, and commented that is a great idea. Council Liaison  
35 Sutton noted that United Way is also really good about bringing community  
36 groups together.

37  
38 Commissioner Farkas?? noted she came across a non-profit called Building  
39 Change that works with government entities in Pierce, King, and Snohomish  
40 County on homelessness and how to most effectively address it. She thinks it  
41 would be valuable to contact them to get some information. Commissioner Dillon  
42 commented that the YWCA and Housing Hope are recipients of Building  
43 Change's money.

44  
45 Commissioner Coffey asked how the Commission can find out what was done by  
46 the Homeless Committee that met and did work before the Human Services

1 Commission was founded. Director Krauss replied that he sat on that committee.  
2 He suggested they could get Councilmember Boyer to come in. Chair Hurst said  
3 she was part of the committee as well. Director Krauss explained that the  
4 committee had a variety of groups in that dealt with homeless issues come to do  
5 presentations and educate them on homeless issues. Over time, the group  
6 learned from providers that there is no such thing as someone who is beyond  
7 hope. The Council set aside some money and after going out for an RFP, the  
8 group decided that the YWCA's proposal was the closest to start moving things  
9 in the right direction. After that, the group stopped meeting. In terms of the  
10 information gathered, it is basically the information in front of the Commission.  
11

12 Chair Hurst asked the Commission to consider what its purpose or focus should  
13 be in 2016. Commissioner Schmidt stated he is on a statewide task force to end  
14 suicide. Because of the efforts by the legislature those rates are starting to go  
15 down. He thinks these are all related and that by touching any one of the issues  
16 they are touching them all. He urged the group to decide what they want to do  
17 and move forward.  
18

19 Commissioner Dillon suggested focusing on policy in order to advocate more  
20 efficiently  
21

22 Senior Planner Emery discussed issues she heard about from the school district  
23 with kids skipping over marijuana and moving right to heroin and riskier  
24 substances. Commissioner Cortes agreed, and added that as soon as marijuana  
25 got legalized the use for teens dropped and they are going to more extreme  
26 drugs. He commented that homelessness and substance abuse are results of  
27 underlying issues. He suggested exploring what the underlying issues are that  
28 are causing homelessness, drug addiction, etc.  
29

30 Director Krauss discussed certain areas, such as the Rodeo Inn, in the City that  
31 are notorious for problems and housing homeless families. Commissioner  
32 Schmidt expressed a general desire for more information. Commissioner Coffey  
33 concurred. In her attempts to learn more she had been advised to go on "field  
34 trips" to low barrier housing, ride-alongs, jails, emergency rooms, etc. to learn  
35 what is currently being done to solve and triage problems. She suggested  
36 dividing the Commission up to do "field trips" and report back to the group. She  
37 spoke in support of trying to figure out what the underlying issues are, what the  
38 gaps are, and what the City can do to have an impact. She offered to do a ride-  
39 along and go to the jails and report back at the next group.  
40

41 Cole Langdon offered to provide ride-alongs to any commissioners interested. He  
42 noted that the police would be able to provide a lot of information about the gaps  
43 they see and where the community is failing. Shannon Gault stated she is trying  
44 to use the data that Senior Planner Emery has dug up to create a data-driven,  
45 community-based, decision-making or prioritizing tool. Senior Planner Emery  
46 thought that was an good idea. She noted she got information from 211 recently,

1 and they listed their top five unmet problem areas which include: emergency  
2 shelter, rental assistance, housing, transitional housing, and transportation and  
3 gas/bus money.

4  
5 Chair Hurst asked the difference between emergency housing, transitional  
6 housing, and supported housing. Commissioner Dillon replied that emergency  
7 shelter is for 1-90 days, transitional housing historically has been 91 days to two  
8 years, and permanent supported housing is where someone has a lease they  
9 sign with a landlord and they receive supportive services.

10  
11 Commissioner Coffey asked about taking a look at policies to see if that is an  
12 area the Commission would want to review. Director Krauss noted that the City  
13 doesn't have many policies related to this. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
14 to Human Services is the City's start to putting those policies in place.

15 Commissioner Coffey asked about things like incentive zoning for affordable  
16 housing. Director Krauss concurred that there are ways the Commission can  
17 encourage the City to operate that don't involve giving grants. He referred to  
18 things like the rental housing business licensing, and code enforcement  
19 strategies and offered to bring a list of those to the Commission. Director Krauss  
20 added that the City is working with Evergreen Mental Health to build a 16-bed  
21 detox facility in Lynnwood. The Commission was interested in hearing more  
22 about this from them.

## 23 24 **Discussion**

### 25 26 1. Snohomish County Needs Assessment - Highlights

27  
28 Continued to the next meeting due to lack of time.

## 29 30 **Old Business**

### 31 32 1. Draft Human Services Element – Edits/Comments

33  
34 Senior Planner Emery thanked the Commission for feedback on this chapter.  
35 She noted that this is a draft document containing the Commission's goals and  
36 policies which will be updated annually. It will be going on the docket to the  
37 Planning Commission on June 23 for a Public Hearing.

## 38 39 **New Business**

### 40 41 1. Draft Lynnwood Service Providers Map – Edits/Comments

42  
43 Senior Planner Emery stated the point of the map is to provide a visual of what  
44 providers there are in Lynnwood right now. Overall, she suggested encouraging  
45 more service providers coming from Seattle to Lynnwood. Staff has also put

1 together a brochure that outlines what the Commission is which she will bring to  
2 the next meeting.

3  
4 **Council Liaison Report**

5  
6 Shirley Sutton had the following comments:

- 7 • She is the liaison to the Alliance for Housing Affordability which is working  
8 on its work plan for the coming year. She thinks some of the information  
9 shared there would be of interest to the Human Services Commission.  
10 She noted that there is a director who is willing to come out and present  
11 about issues of housing affordability and grants in the county. There is a  
12 conference tomorrow at the Comcast Building from 8 to 2.
- 13 • She just found out a mini-grant coming from the City and asked staff if that  
14 is something the Commission could apply for. Director Krauss replied it is  
15 coming from the Parks Department. There is a small amount of money set  
16 aside for neighborhoods to come together on small projects that help build  
17 a sense of community. On the topic of neighborhoods, he added that staff  
18 is looking at asking Council for the go ahead to do work in South  
19 Lynnwood which is the area west of City Center, east of Highway 99, and  
20 south of 196<sup>th</sup> Street. The goal is to work with residents of that area to find  
21 out what the issues are to hopefully get them engaged. Staff will be  
22 providing an update on this as it comes together.
- 23 • Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for July 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
24 at Everett High School. There will be agencies with clothing, food,  
25 hygiene, etc. for the homeless. Councilmember Sutton noted that every  
26 year the event gets bigger.

27  
28 **Director's Report**

29  
30 Director Krauss had no additional comments.

31  
32 There was consensus to revisit the Needs Assessment next month.

33  
34 Commissioner Schmidt said he liked the physical arrangement of this meeting  
35 better. There was general agreement.

36  
37 **Adjournment**

38  
39 The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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43 \_\_\_\_\_  
44 Pam Hurst, Chair