

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council

Meeting Minutes July 9, 2019

Meeting was opened by President Linda Hillesheim at 12:00 noon

Opening Reading –Khizer Sheriff

Introductions were made.

June Minutes were approved with one correction (the correct spelling of Hillesheim)

Financial report by Treasurer Warren Marquardson. Warren mentioned a large donation by Grace Lutheran Church to Congregations for Kids. (See EISCC website for report).

Congregations for Kids ---Nancy Jacobs gave an update on this year's Good Start Back to School project which supplies backpacks and school supplies to low income families in the Bellevue School District for the coming school year. She now estimates they will be providing items for 1700 children. A detailed information sheet was also handed out listing specific items needed by Monday, August 12 at the Spiritridge Elementary School at 16401 SE 24th in Bellevue. Information about donations and volunteers needed is available at www.congregations4kids.org or you can email: info@congregations4kids.org or bnjacobs@frontier.com Nancy also acknowledged the donation from Grace Lutheran Church with much appreciation.

EISCC Workshop on Housing – Saturday, October 12 –9 A.M. to 3 P.M. St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue Elizabeth Maupin reported work is going forward in the planning of this event which is open to representatives of faith congregations on the Eastside and those representing municipalities, the mayors of Eastside cities, interested persons etc. She would especially like to hear from congregations who have been involved in housing assistance in any way in the last few years. The workshop will try to create a collaboration with congregations and cities. Help is needed ---to contact Elizabeth, email eli410maupin@gmail.com or call 425-677-8043.

Presentation

MUSLIM COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (MCRC) - serving people in need

PRESENTER ---KHIZER SHERIFF, CO-FOUNDER

Located in The Together Center in Redmond (16225 NE 87th St. – Suite 4-A) the Muslim Community Resource Center is the social and humanitarian arm of MAPS (Muslim Association of Puget Sound). It is a 501 (c) (3) organization and is listed on the King County Emergency 211 Hotline. They partner and work with faith-based organizations, cities, assistance providers, and other organizations to provide many services or to connect those in need to existing services.

Using a video overview , Khizer gave details of the services offered by MCRC which are free to those in need. These are Food Programs, Homelessness Prevention, Refugee Assistance Programs, Health Clinic, Legal Clinic, Senior Services, Islamic Matrimonial Services, Hospital Visits, Funeral Care (Islamic). A number of things make MCRC services unique -- The comprehensiveness of service (helping to find the underlying cause of client's need)

No Limitation by location

Low Barrier to access services

Quick response to the need

Consolidated intake

Ability to serve in a culturally appropriate manner (many languages etc.)

The video also featured special events by MCRC ---Thanksgiving meals, birthday parties for refugees, Kits for Peace etc.

In the second part of Khizer's presentation, he talked of their housing for senior women and their partnership with The Sophia Way and working with Congregations for the Homeless, their apartments in Bellevue and house in Renton. MCRC helps with food and basic needs for Tent City ---they provided hotel rooms to some during the past winter's snowstorm.

Free to all, MCRC's Medical Clinic is run by volunteers ---it is non-profit and is open on the second Sunday of each month. They usually see between 30 and 35 patients.

Over \$700,000 was spent last year. Most of this amount comes from the Muslim community. About 70 percent of those served are non-Muslim. In the next 2 years, MCRC hopes to have a full-time medical/dental facility, expand it's women's shelter program, expand the food program and leverage addition grant opportunities.

Farida Hakim ended the presentation by handing out a brochure and answering questions about what to expect if you visit a mosque, what to wear etc. She also gave a brief update on the rebuilding of the mosque in Bellevue.

The website for MCRC is www.mcrcseattle.org You can contact MCRC by calling 888-404-6272 or 425-947-7146. An email address is: manager@mcrcseattle.org You are welcome to walk in ---the address is: 16225 NE 87th St. Suite A-4 Redmond, WA 98052

Eastside Human Services Forum --Tony Copes (EISCC representative to EHSF) explained the Forum is composed of the Board and the Work Group which consists of people from member service organizations and also of staff from the Human Services section of member cities. Tony attended a June 20 Learning Event which was for both Board Members and the Work Group and a newly hired consultant as they do an organizational review.

Announcements

Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) ----Linda Hillesheim reminded all of this legal assistance available on the Eastside.

Hopelink-----Tara Adams introduced Mary Wiley of the Redmond Hopelink. She spoke of the Energy Assistance Program. Appointments can be scheduled online at hopelink.org/energy or by calling 425-658-2592.

Faith Action Network ----Elizabeth Maupin (425-677-8043) is looking for places to put up posters about the upcoming census.

The Sophia Way ----Karina O'Malley reported the need for a location for the Emergency Shelter for 30 women for 3 months. She also announced The Sophia Way annual luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 16 at the Hyatt Regency.

Congregations for the Homeless ----The CFH annual luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, September 19 at First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue. **There is still a need for a host congregation for the rotating shelter for the month of March 2020.** The rotating shelter provides a place for 30-35 men to stay each night and receive a hot evening meal and food for breakfast and to make a lunch. The food is provided by support congregations. Contact CFH at 425-502-6105 for more information.

Lunch Providers ---Thank you to Elizabeth Maupin, Warren Marquardson, Sandy Lewis, Tara Adams and Betty Spohn

Closing Prayer ----Jean Harris

**NO EISCC MEETING IN AUGUST NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 PROGRAM TOPIC
WILL BE "NOURISHING NETWORKS"**

EISCC's mission: Members of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council ("EISCC") believe we are guided by the moving of God's spirit in our community to work together in a spirit of caring and celebration. We honor and respect each other's religious heritages, welcome and pray for each other, and share information about pressing community needs.

EISCC provides a forum to educate, advocate, initiate, coordinate, and support through task forces and other means, to work for the common good, and to address human needs and improve the quality of life of the citizens living in the eastside communities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Renton, and Redmond