

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL (EISCC)
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Noon-1:30 PM – Virtual

- **Opening Prayer** – Rev. Patty Ebner
- **Self Introductions** – 35 attendees introduced themselves and signed into the chat
- **Reports** – The following reports were made:
 - **Treasurer’s Report - Warren Marquardson**
\$144K in bank, CFK is 138K, Unrestricted 6,700 – Detailed report is on EISCC website/link is provided in chat
 - **Sub-Agency Report: Congregations for Kids – Nancy Jacobs**
Project of supplying backpacks and supplies to kids begins 8/9/2021; CFK has reached out to donors from previous years and has only heard from 10 groups, approximately one half of previous years. CFK is looking for donations of money and backpacks. Money is used to purchase supplies and is needed to replenish funds being used to keep the project moving. A new supply of backpacks is needed each year as new kids are always coming into the program.
 - **Legislative Report: Jean Harris**
Slow time for legislative life. Things are stalled in Washington D.C. as legislators try to get the infrastructure plan in place. Situation is healthy in Washington State.
 - **Eastside Human Services Forum – Rev. Mark Griffith**
Rev. Mark Griffith, new EISCC Board Member, will now represent EISCC on the EHSF Board as Tony Copes, previous representative, has resigned. Mark will have an update for EISCC at the next meeting.
 - **Hopelink – Kimberly Eickerman**
Since September 2020 through mid-May 2021, Hopelink has distributed \$4M to clients for Energy Assistance.
From the beginning of Covid through April 2021, Hopelink has distributed \$2M to clients in financial aid
Community donations have made this type and level of support possible
- **PRESENTATION by Ryan Murk, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) – Topic: Coordinated Entry**
 - The DNA of CFH and Coordinated Entry (CE) comes from the faith communities in the Bellevue Area
 - Metaphor: string, wind, kite – Housing First provides the wind which keeps the kite flying. It doesn’t provide the string, which is the tether to the boundaries of life.
 - Housing First and Coordinated (CE) are synonymous. Coordinated Entry changes weekly and faces challenges in seeking to serve single men and women. The system is built upon strengths and weaknesses. Housing First, a federal mandate, requires providers to first provide housing to clients, then to provide supportive services (ie. issues with substance abuse, mental illness, employment, etc.) for those who are interested.
 - Coordinated Entry varies per jurisdiction

EISCC General Meeting Minutes
08 June 2021
Page Two

PRESENTATION (continued)

- o Housing First Positives – gets people off the streets and into a living environment where opportunities for healing and security are available. 2) Addresses the needs of the most vulnerable. 3) Statistics show that when housing is treated as a right, instead of an award for meeting other requirements, people are more likely to change.
- o Housing Negatives – 1) impacts the availability of housing for the working poor and under employed. 2) Disincentivizes employment and sobriety. 3) Housing First becomes “Housing Alone as burden of care is placed on the housing provider. 4) Employees of Housing Provider signed up to help people, not to be caretakers.
- o Bottom Line – there is insufficient housing/affordable housing on the Eastside to support everyone.
- o Additional Information provided in Q&A Session:
 - Private funding can be used to get around Housing First regulations (ie. Rotating Shelter)
 - Currently, graduation rates from shelter programs are rapidly declining (from 20 per year to 3 per year)
 - Participants need encouragement to get sober for themselves and not for the perks
 - Fundamental problem is a lack of housing. Before Housing First, housing went to those who were most likely to succeed. Housing needs to be provided for those seeking change and those who are not.
 - There is a lot of tension and strife because a dangerous environment is created for those seeking a better way of living.
 - Conversations need to be held with the “rule makers.”
 - How is success gauged? What are the guidelines? Why is Housing First the best choice right now?
 - Housing First saves money as most vulnerable receive medical care from the hospital and not from a medical provider. The success metric is continuous housing, not graduation rates from programs.
 - Best investment of dollars is to prevent homelessness to begin with. These dollars come back 5 fold when people are kept housed.
- **Announcements from Members and Guests on Upcoming Events,**
 - Ellen – Temple B’Nai Torah – hosting tent city 4 for last ninety days, got a three month extension – if other places can be found to offer space – call temple office with offers to help with food

EISCC General Meeting Minutes
08 June 2021
Page Three

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

- Elizabeth – in chat – Reparatory Justice; Housing Justice Project is looking for court watchers, this will be important when landlords begin to evict tenants, court watchers will ensure that people get a fair chance – court watchers will be useful – contact Tram – email is in the chat
 - Donna – NAMI – state organization and local affiliates – holding a NAMI walk on 7/17 – virtual – any activity is welcome – raising money for support groups, education, etc.
 - Alisa – exciting news – TSW has a Grace of Giving Award – this year the award goes to Nikky Sheriff, presented at the 9/22 Sheltering The Storm event
 - Chris Lovings – announcements in the chat
 - Linda Hillesheim – Eastside Village – Thursday Zoom Meeting – potential funding from Lehigh - chat
 - Alison – Youth chaplaincy Coalition Rep – recently reopened – are in desperate need of mentors – training is available – many of the youth have never a safe adult in their life – phoenixajt.com is in chat
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- **Closing Prayer** – Steve Roberts

In Service,

Rev. Patty L. Ebner

EISCC Board Secretary

UPCOMING 2nd TUES. EISCC MTGS.: July 13, 2021, Affordable Housing

EISCC BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021—President: Steve Roberts Belpres.; **Past President:** Linda Hillesheim, Unity of Bellevue; **Secretary:** Rev. Patty Ebner, First Congregational Church, Bellevue, **Treasurer:** Warren Marquardson, Church of Latter-Day Saints; **Eastside Human Services Forum Rep.:** Tony Copes, Newport Presbyterian. At Large: Farida Hakim Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC), Elizabeth Maupin, Spirit of Peace, Mark Griffith, St Luke's Lutheran

BOARD CONTACT: eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com.

EISCC Mission Statement--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. **We provide 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.**