

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL (EISCC) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 - Noon-1:30 PM (Pacific Time) – Virtual

- **Welcome and Opening Prayer** by **Ellen Weiss Phelps**
- **Attendees were asked** to introduce themselves and enter their name, organization and email address in the chat.
- **Brief reports:**
 - EISCC Treasury report: Financially solvent. Current treasury information is found on EISCC.net; Please check to see if your organization/individuals have paid dues;
 - Congregations4Kids: is communicating with Bellevue School District to understand numbers and need; Basic supplies will be provided by District; C4K looking to supply kids with home needs;
 - Eastside Human Services Forum: Lunch and Learn postponed to March; just re-organized with new director;
 - Legislative Update: House Appropriations Committee meeting tomorrow; sign-in and provide input; of interest: House Bill 1260—Aging, Blind and Disabled; House Bill 1445—Investigations and Reform; encourage that EISCC members follow legislation on Bill Tracker at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>
 - WA leg session ends Apr 23. <https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/cutoff.aspx>
- **Spotlight:** Legislative Session News: Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance (WALIHA), with Michele Thomas, Director of Policy and Advocacy
- **Main Presentation:** Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) New Men's Shelter, Rotating Shelters and CFH Housing Options, with Tom Miles, Case Management Program Manager
 - Warren's introduction called out the need for Case Management, Case Management, Case Management—that's what works!
 - Tom self-reported his journey from client of CFH to current position;
 - Recognized Steve Roberts, recently deceased, and his tremendous efforts to the positive evolution of CFH;
 - Co-occurring disorders social workers, mental health support, substance abuse support, etc.;
 - **Eight houses for men** and **four 'on-and-up' houses** serving approximately 100 men; supported housing through case management; hotel program for 18 men creating a social distanced program with case management—helping to assess and move men into housing;
 - Supported training, education and employment skills to gain employment or move-up where already employed;

- o **Eastside Men's Shelter (EMS)** — will completed soon — this is a harm-reduction setting; hope to be open in April 2023;
- o **Rotating shelter** supported by churches: help men stabilize and the effect is a warm, inclusive and restorative setting within the churches; last month four men were housed out of the program; this rotating shelter will continue to operate even after the EMS opens as this program is for men readying to move on to housing;
- **General Announcements:**
 - o Megan Duncan, Community Engagement Coordinator with **The Sophia Way** (2 shelters for women experiencing homelessness in Bellevue (serving 21 women) and Kirkland (serving 40 women) I am the staff contact for meal donations, in-kind donations and volunteering. Megan.d@sophiaway.org; Meal Sign up: <https://thesophiaway.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=67898>
 - o **People Affected by Homelessness Support Group** Every Thursday at 5:30PM; More info at www.anything-helps.org/groups
 - o To receive weekly action alerts from **Faith Action Network (FAN)** along with the Action Tracker, sign up at www.fanwa.org
 - o Once the FAN Board votes on FAN priorities, the FAN website will be updated with more information on each. Visit www.fanwa.org for more information.
 - o Helpful links to our **rent fairness website** with an important action alert: <https://rentfairness.org>
 - o Link to 2023 **rent fairness priorities**: <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2023-public-policy-priorities>
 - o **Issaquah Meals Program**—Catholic Community Services, <https://ccsw.org>; Griffin Cole, contact;
 - o **New Bethlehem Meals**: Genevieve—food; Lorri—education support; <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/756984491408312015/false#/invitation>
 - o **LWUMC Safe Parking** meal sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45ada823a1f5c43-meals#/>
- **Closing Prayer** by Elizabeth Maupin via Linda Hillesheim

UPCOMING 2nd Tuesday EISCC Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Main Topic: Racial Equity--People's Institute for Survival & Beyond with Colleen Kelly

Spotlight: Essentials First with Khizer Sheriff

EISCC BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023—President and Eastside Human Services Forum Rep: Linda Hillesheim, Unity of Bellevue; Treasurer: Warren Marquardson, The Church of Latter-Day Saints of Jesus Christ; Secretary: Judy Buckmaster, St. Luke's Lutheran; At Large Member-Outreach/Islamic Center of Eastside Mosque and the Muslim Association of Puget Sound Mosque: Farida Hakim; At Large: Elizabeth Maupin, M.Div., Spirit of Peace UCC; At Large Member-Khizer Sherriff

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 heritage, 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 those living in the Eastside communities.