

EISCC General Meeting
June 11 2024
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
12:00 Noon

Lunch provided by Farida Hakim and Susan Cozzens

Opening Prayer

Introductions

Attending 15 in person, 11 online

Reports:

Congregations For Kids - anticipating 2,000 kids needing help this year, but actual number is ~ 2,597. Will provide 1,649 backpacks. Participating congregations have dropped year to year, with only nine this year.

Treasurer Report – \$163,000 cash on hand, \$151,000 designated for CFK,
Legislative update – Elizabeth Dickinson, Faith Action Network, recommending no vote on I-2117 (Carbon tax repeal), I-2124 (remove long term care benefits), I-2109 (revoke capital gains tax) in fall elections.

Eastside Human Services Forum (Linda Hillsheim) upcoming event about disproportionate human services and correcting fairness. Thursday, June 20, at Bellevue College, noon to 5pm.

Spotlight – Constituent Roundtables sponsored by Eastside APIC and NAMI, 6/13 6 to 8PM, N. Bellevue Community Center, HB 4239 did not pass, ***

Main presentation, roundtable with representatives from Youth Eastside Service (YES,) Kindering, and Friends of Youth

Jill Clacy, Kindering. Kindering serves 10,000 families per year, focusing on children of diverse abilities with education and therapies for support, ages 0 to 10. They provide evaluations for families, and if a child is 25% or more below standard, will refer families to appropriate resources, and provide ongoing support. Kindering is family oriented and provides parent coaching. Works with immigrants, refugees, and families facing housing insecurity. Preschool for kids on spectrum.

Paul Lwali, President of Friends of Youth, supporting youth facing homelessness, foster care, and behavioral health challenges. Kids up to 18, young people 18 to 24. Providing foster care and emergency housing for young men. 4% of youth in Washington need foster care. 2200 families, 5000 kids needing assistance. Average age, 8 years old. Long wait list for kids needing services. Started in 1951, 20 locations on Eastside. Provides only youth homeless shelter on Eastside. Has 35 beds, but 192 average number of youth needing shelter, a huge shortfall.

Kristie Neklason, YES, started by community members. Behavioral health support for children ages 0 to 22 years. School based services in high schools and choice schools, for additional support from trusted adults outside of family and school network (safe space). Substance abuse services in Lake Washington Scholl District, includes all four high schools and choice schools. The pandemic impact is not over, and the challenges are ongoing. They use evidence based programs and services, that the schools have

difficulty providing. It's not just the disengaged students that need services, but also the hyper-engaged students who need help. They focus on building a sense of community. Kids with substance abuse problems need people who care and will walk with them without judgment. Serving the entire community, including an LGBTQ+ support group. Success mentoring program needs more mentors. Promoting first relationships.

Questions: Friends of Youth, clarified that states do foster care, Federal government handles minors that come into their custody, both contract out to community agencies. At age 18, immigrant kids in federal programs can be taken back into federal custody and deported

Adoption question? Handled by Washington association for children and families (WACF).

Peer mentorship programs? Both FOY and YES provide mentorship services. PEPS mentoring of parents (YES)

How can outside congregations help organizations, how do we communicate that to you?

YES: providing help to kids about how to deal with emotions, anger, conflict resolution.

Question to FOY; Programs for kids coming out of incarceration: Paul Lwali responded I would argue that foster care is designed to take children from homes and put them in jail. Trying to change that, YES advocating for changes in the system.

Other announcements:

Eastside Pride event St Luke's hosted at St. Andrews.

Elizabeth Maupin, restorative justice program needs funding.

Next meeting, Tuesday, July 9th.

Board meeting Tuesday July 17th

Close 1:35