

EISCC GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY, Nov. 12, 2024, Noon to 1:30 PM

AGENDA

Welcome: Kevin Folkman

Opening Prayer

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Lands and Peoples: We acknowledge our presence on the lands of the Coastal Salish People by honoring and commemorating their contributions, history, and culture.

Present: EISCC Board: Linda Hillesheim, Kevin Folkman, Pauline O-Hare, Warren Marquardson, Khizer Sheriff, David Bowling, Ellen Weiss Phelps, Joyce Kidd-Miller.

Network: Shauna McKee (Hero House Bellevue), Isabelle Kalisa (Hero House NW), Katie Folkman (LDS), Jean Harris (Aldersgate UMC), Andrew Ndayambaje (City of Bellevue), Dietra Clayton (The Sophia Way), Nicolas Quijano (City of Bellevue), Kathy Hoggan (LDS, Renewal Food Bank), Nancy Jacobs (Congregations for Kids), Tammy Waddell (Nourishing Networks), Diane Richards (St. Margaret's Episcopal), Ericka Belmontes (Bellevue Lifespring), Art Mabbott (All Saints Episcopal, Bellevue), Cecily Kaplan (Old Friends Club), Rev. Charles Perry (Unity of Bellevue), Lil Klein (Kol Ami), Betty Spohn (Newport Presbyterian).

Brief Reports:

- **Secretary & Treasurer** (see www.eiscc.net for minutes and budget),
 - Warren reported approximately \$170,000 in assets, with \$160,000 of that designated for Congregations for Kids.
- **Faith Action Network.** We noted that in December, FAN will present materials on priority items for the upcoming state legislative session, which begins in January.
- **Eastside Human Services Forum.** The Forum is developing its legislative advocacy proposals. The current list include housing, behavioral health, indigent defense, crisis care responses, food security, and special education funding. Full details are on their website; suggestions are welcome.
- **Congregations for Kids.** Nancy expressed thanks to the program's many donors. Many of the backpack recipients spend the night in safe parking programs, some are in immigrant families. The gift card pilot program met real needs last year and will continue this year. The program is concerned about the threat of 60% tariffs on goods from China, since most of the backpacks distributed are made there.
- **Hopelink** will be distributing holiday meals. Faith communities can contribute.

Introduction of new officers and board members:

Officers

- Past President: Linda Hillesheim (Unity of Bellevue)
- President: Kevin Folkman (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sammamish Valley)
- President-elect: vacant for now – please send nominations to Kevin

- Co-secretaries: Susan Cozzens (Eastside Friends Meeting) and Pauline O’Hare (Bellevue First Congregational)
- Treasurer: Warren Marquardson (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Bellevue South)

Members at large:

- Khizer Sheriff (Essentials First)
- Allen Bolen (Porchlight)
- David Bowling (Eastside Community Development Fund)
- Ellen Weiss Phelps (Temple B’nai Torah)
- Joyce Kidd-Miller (Bahai’s of King County North)

PROGRAM

SPOTLIGHT: *Bellevue Human Service Needs*. Every two years, the City of Bellevue conducts a human service needs update to gather community perspectives on the current state of human services and unmet needs for residents, incorporating perspectives of both providers and community members, to help guide human services strategies. Andrew Ndayambaje, Human Services Planner from the City, presented highlights of the [assessment](#) that was recently concluded.

- There was an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness.
- More residents are facing food insecurity.
- More people are reporting mental health challenges.
- Incidents of domestic violence have increased.
- Disparities in health outcomes have become more pronounced.

Only half of the community survey respondents were able to access a human services provider when a need was identified, and only 43% found services with an organization that supported their language and cultural needs.

In discussion, Renewal Food Bank reported seeing a doubling in the number of families served. One congregation offered space. Another asked about places that took donations of gently used clothing.

MAIN PRESENTATION TOPIC: *Holiday Requests & Announcements*.

November:

- Renewal Food Bank will benefit from [Maggie’s Market](#) at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church on November 16, from 9 to 5.
- Essentials First is hosting a [Share Your Blessings dinner](#) on November 26 at the Together Center in Redmond.
- Eastridge Church is doing a [Turkey Giveaway](#), November 23 beginning at 9 am.

December:

- The Sophia Way is having a [celebration](#) of its 15th year of service on December 7.
- The LDS Church is hosting a holiday week with international nativity exhibits.
- Unity of Bellevue is having a holiday concert on December 7 to help fund Sophia Way.
- Essentials First will have a [holiday fair](#), Friday, December 13, from 1-4 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Bellevue Stake Center 14536 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98007.

Ongoing needs:

- Lake Washington Methodist Church needs food for people in the Safe Parking program. Contact Tammy Waddell (tammy@nourishingnetworks.net).
- Eastside Foundation is looking for severe weather sites, to give indoor shelter to families and couples with nowhere else to do when the temperatures drop. Congregations providing space would get 72 hours' notice. Contact David Bowling (david@eastsidecdf.org).
- Unity of Bellevue fills its Little Pantry several times a week. They stock it with Essentials First bags as well as food.
- Kathy Hoggan shared that the LDS Bellevue Stake was getting a delivery of food from Salt Lake City soon. They share this with about 20 food banks in the area. They can include more. Contact kdhoggan818@gmail.com.
- Essentials First had a recent request for space. Perhaps they could connect to the congregation that offered the space earlier.

Kevin noted that Andrew's report had indicated rapidly growing need. Identifying resources is increasingly important.

Table Talk: Linda Hillesheim asked for discussion around the tables about what Eastside Interfaith could do to help them more. The Board will report out on this exercise in December.

Closing Prayer

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Your Announcements of Upcoming Events and Current Issues. If you want your announcement to be included in meeting minutes, please submit them to eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com or type them in the chat if you are joining via Zoom.

EISCC Membership: To renew or join check the website for the 2024 Membership Form: www.eiscc.net. Email eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com with any questions.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 10th, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Bellevue.

Next EISCC Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 17th. Suggestions and questions are always welcome.

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EISCC BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2025—President: Kevin Folkman, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Past President & Eastside Human Services Forum Rep: Linda Hillesheim, Unity of Bellevue; Treasurer: Warren Marquardson, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Co-Secretaries: Susan Cozzens, Eastside Friends Meeting and Pauline O’Hare, 1st Congregational; At-Large, Allen Bolen, Porchlight; David Bowling, Eastside Community Development Fund; Ellen Weiss Phelps, Temple B’nai Torah; Joyce Kidd-Miller, Bahai’s of King County North; Khizer Sheriff, Essentials First.

EISCC Leg. Rep.: Elizabeth Dickinson, Faith Action Network (FAN)

CONGREGATIONS FOR KIDS, EISCC Sub-Agency: Nancy Jacobs, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church.

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