

**Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Annual Meeting
Minutes, October 14, 2025**

Present: 33 people in the room, 24 online [full list appears at the end of the minutes]

Welcome

Opening Prayer – moment of silence

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Lands and Peoples. We acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous Land of Coast Salish peoples who have reserved treaty rights to this land, specifically the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial.

Brief Reports:

- Secretary – Susan Cozzens noted the West African food from Mary’s Catering Kitchen (206-469-4934). The desert was provided by the steering committee of Congregations for Kids in honor of Nancy Jacobs. Susan called for volunteers for the program, hospitality, and outreach committees.
- Treasurer – Warren Marquardson reported that assets are \$181,000, of which \$166,000 is designated for Congregations for Kids. Details are posted on at eiscc.net.
- Eastside Human Services Forum. Linda Hillesheim shared that the group is still considering merging with the Together Center and the Alliance of Eastside Agencies. A joint committee is working out details. The Forum welcomes input on the merger.
- Congregations for Kids
 - Nancy Jacobs reported that this year the project provided backpacks and school supply kits to Bellevue school district with a market value of \$48,000, including contributions in-kind. Each backpack represents \$23-25 of market value, depending on the grade level. This year 300 of the students who received backpacks were experiencing homelessness. The situation in the schools is urgent and critical due to food and housing insecurity. Families are struggling because jobs have been cut. The school district has cut the number of Family Engagement Specialists. In addition to the backpacks and school supply kits, the program provides \$6000 in gift cards to Target, Fred Meyer, and Safeway.
 - Eastside Interfaith extended thanks to Nancy Jacobs, on the occasion of her stepping down from leading the program.
 - Kevin Folkman noted that Nancy was the kind of person he wanted to grow up to be like – hugely compassionate, deeply caring, bringing passion to everything she does.
 - Eileen Truesch, on behalf of the C4K Steering Committee, thanked Nancy for her 30-year commitment to the students of Bellevue School District and to the program. Crayons, scissors, notebooks – Nancy has shopped for everything students need for the first day of school, sometimes emptying whole shelves of stores. A program that started with requests for 143 backpacks has grown to 14-1600, requiring 25 cases of backpacks annually. Their assorted colors and designs mean that each student receives a distinctive one. Nancy’s leadership has made this possible. The committee extended deep appreciation.
 - Nancy noted that it takes a team. The only sad thing is that the program is still so badly needed after all these years.

- The Board presented Nancy with a certificate of appreciation.

Celebration of a year of EISCC programs (Linda Hillesheim)

Linda thanked the many presenters from Eastside Interfaith programs over the past year, which ranged from hunger to homelessness to housing and included mental health, immigration, and domestic violence issues. The full list of programs appears on eiscc.net.

Board elections. The secretary certified that the quorum had been met. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The following members of the Board were approved unanimously.

- Past President – Linda Hillesheim
- President – Kevin Folkman
- Treasurer – Warren Marquardson
- Secretaries – Susan Cozzens and Pauline O’Hare
- At-large: David Bowling, Joyce Kidd-Miller, Ellen Weiss Phelps, Khizer Sheriff

The President reminded those present that there were still openings on the Board and their further nominations were welcome.

PROGRAM: Expanding severe weather shelter capacity on the Eastside – a working session to bring our resources together Facilitated by Tammy Waddell, Scott Wallin, Nourishing Networks, and Patti Pendgraf, The Salvation Army

After introductions, the facilitators asked, “In severe weather, where do you go if you are on the streets?” Participants offered: libraries, malls, city halls, any place where they feel comfortable and somewhat safe. Faith communities may be on this list. Some sites are well known, like the YWCA and the shelters. Many of these are places where there is no help towards long-term solutions. Few know about 2-1-1, the housing emergency hotline, nor do they have a phone. In the end, people may end up anywhere there is cover from the elements -- parks, parking lots, under the eave of a building. Those are places where someone will come and tell them to move along, even if there is nowhere better to move.

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) maintains a list of available shelters and expands that list when there is a severe weather emergency. “Sadly,” one participant noted, “there are few shelters available on the Eastside.” Space for couples, families, and people with pets is particularly limited.

KCRHA has a program of funding for organizations that can provide severe weather shelter space. Faith communities can be supported under the program. That program funds professional staff, all supplies, and insurance. The current competition for funding for 2026, however, is closing on October 20. But after that deadline the program manager welcomes calls to him for help finding a pre-approved provider you can team up with as a sub-recipient for 2026 (Tony Machacha, 206.640.5369, Tony.machacha@kcrha.org or severeweather@kcrha.org).

Asked how long it takes to arrange funding, Machacha shared that the timeline for getting support depends on local circumstances, including decision-making processes in the faith community itself. Churches are currently using two models, one in which the shelter funding provides everything, including staff and supplies, and one in which a network of organizations together provide at least some of what is needed. Shelters can operate only days or only nights, for various lengths of time. If a congregation is ready to offer

space for severe weather sheltering, it can list it with this [form](#). KCRHA expects to have a new form available in a few weeks.

A homeless outreach professional from one of the cities pointed to gaps that are left even after the expansion of shelter space funded by the KCRHA program. He has some hotel vouchers, which can help families, but they are for hotels very far away from the schools the children in the family attend. Most shelters do not accept couples or families, and some people on the street refuse to go into overcrowded environments or abandon their pets to the severe weather.

A person with shelter experience noted that key elements of a good shelter are food, letting people come in at any time, and figuring out how to separate those that are loud so that others can sleep. A shelter manager shared that you need to be well staffed, be able to accommodate everyone that comes in, and have lots of empathy and compassion for your guests. Those are priorities.

Camp United We Stand is expanding by five places during severe weather emergencies and offering repair help for space conversion to faith communities that are trying to be ready to shelter. Nourishing Networks groups in the various Eastside cities can work to meet other needs as they arise. Eastside Interfaith will continue to send alerts on resources that may be available to help faith communities provide temporary shelter during severe weather.

Announcements

The funding opportunity mentioned by participants has a due date of October 20 and is open only to pre-qualified organizations. Here is the [link](#) to the request for proposals (RFP). Lists of qualifying organizations are linked in the text of the RFP. For faith communities that cannot meet that deadline, during our meeting, the program manager welcomed calls to him to explore the options (Tony Machacha, 206.640.5369, Tony.machacha@kcrha.org or severeweather@kcrha.org).

If you are ready to offer your space for severe weather sheltering, you can list it with this [form](#). KCRHA expects to have a new form available in a few weeks.

St. Margaret's [Thrift Shop](#) raises money to support organizations whose mission is to provide intentional change and assistance for the underserved. They are currently running a 50%-off sale on selected items. October items include Halloween costumes. Christmas items are coming soon.

[Nourishing Networks](#) is holding its Fall NetWorkshop. October 18, 9 am to 1 pm at the Together Center in Redmond. Register [here](#).

[Share Your Blessings](#), November 25, 12:00 PM 2:00 PM. Join us for our annual Share Your Blessings holiday community meal at the Together Center. This event includes a thanksgiving-style meal, tea and coffee, giveaways, and the opportunity to break bread and build community together as neighbors from all walks of life. ALL are welcome and there is no cost to attend. Offered by [Essentials First](#).

[Holiday Fair](#), Friday, December 5, 1-4 pm. Check out the resource fair with 25+ community partners sharing information, goodies, and services, pick up a meal, and even take a selfie with Santa! **Where:** inside the gymnasium at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Bellevue Stake Center 14536 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98007. NO RSVP REQUIRED - please just show up. Every part of this all-ages event is

completely **free**! If your organization would like to host a resource table, [please register](#) before 5 PM on Friday November 28, 2025. Please contact Irene Muller at irene@essentialsfirst.org with any questions.

Closing Prayer – offered by Joyce Kidd-Miller in the Baha’I tradition

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, noon to 1:30, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Bellevue.

Attendees

Arndt	Sarah	North Urban Human Services Alliance
Backus	Shauna	Congregations for Kids
Basta	Sam	St. Louise Bellevue
Bogarin	Fabiola	Hopelink
Bowling	David	Eastside Foundation & EISCC Board
Brandt	Lois	Newport Presbyterian Safe Parking
Buckingham	Brooke	City of Redmond Human Services
Carter	Christopher	Camp United We Stand
Collier	Greg	Newport Presbyterian
Cozzens	Susan	Eastside Friends Meeting & EISCC Board
de Michele	Barb	Eastside Human Services Forum
Dee	Mike	Continuum of Care Policy Workgroup
Delf	Bob	Old Friends Club
Donovan	Lindsay	VOAWW
Folkman	Katie	LDS
Folkman	Kevin	LDS & EISCC Board
Harris	Jean	Aldersgate UMC
Hillesheim	Linda	Unity of Bellevue & EISCC Board
Hutchko	Candise	Catholic Community Services
Jacobs	Nancy	Congregations for Kids
Jones	Carolee	St. Margaret's Thrift Shop
Kading	Ruth	Northshore United Church of Christ
Kalisa	Isabelle	Hero House
Kidd-Miller	Joyce	Baha'is of King County North & EISCC Board
Last Name	First Name	Organization
Lindsay	Natasha	VOAWW
Lovings	Chris	WA Department of Commerce
Machacha	Tony	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
Madden	Ciara	Plymouth Housing

Maris	Beatrice	Salvation Army, WA Lived Experience Coa.
Marquardson	Warren	LDS & EISCC
Maupin	Elizabeth	Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
Mbaye	Amina	Essentials First
Meyers	Laura	St. George Episcopal, Maple Valley
O'Hare	Pauline	First Congregational & EISCC Board
Oommen	Marc	Marc@nami-eastside.org
Pendgraf	Patti	The Salvation Army
Perry	Charles	Unity of Bellevue
Phelps	Ellen Weiss	Temple B'nai Torah & EISCC Board
Quijano	Nicolas	City of Bellevue
Rai	Ravnecki	The Sophia Way
Ranheim	Jayne	Newport Presbyterian
Richards	Diane	St. Margaret's
Riley	Latasha	The Sophia Way
Sheriff	Nikki	MCRC Muslim Community Resource Center
Sheriff	Khizer	Essentials First & EISCC Board
Spohn	Betty	Newport Presbyterian
Staiger	Joanie	Congregations for Kids
Tasy	Beverly	Saint Margaret's
Thomas	Ray	rayt2015@gmail.com
Treusch	Eileen	Congregations for Kids
Vermouth	Marc	The Sophia Way
Volchkova	Galina	VOAWW, Snohomish County
Waddell	Tammy	Nourishing Networks
Wallin	Scott	Nourishing Networks
Woodard	Steve	VOAWW
Yarmoshik	Olga	HERO House