

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Annual Meeting

October 13, 2026

Hosted by the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS)

Present: 35 in the room, 13 online. The list of attendees appears at the end of the minutes. At the time of the meeting, EISCC had 17 faith community members. Representatives from 14 of those were present, thus meeting the required one-third quorum.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Sheikh Mohamad Joban, the imam of MAPS.

President Kevin Folkman thanked MAPS for hosting the meeting and Al-Jazeez Kitchen for preparing the food. He offered a land acknowledgement. Participants introduced themselves.

BUSINESS

- Elections. By unanimous vote, the following slate of officers and Board members for 2026-27 was elected:
 - Past President: Linda Hillesheim
 - President: Kevin Folkman
 - President-elect: Susan Cozzens
 - Co-secretaries: Ellen Weiss Phelps, Joyce Kidd-Miller
 - Treasurer: Destiny Bachman
 - At large members
 - Pauline O'Hare
 - Nicky Sheriff
 - Sam Basta
 - Mike Mathias
- Kevin thanked outgoing Board members David Bowling and Khizer Sheriff for their contributions.
- He recognized Warren Marquardson for his extraordinary service to Eastside Interfaith in many capacities, starting at least as early as 2010, when he joined the Board as an at large member. In the intervening years, Warren has served as President and most recently as Treasurer, along with stepping up for many other duties as the need arose. In appreciation, Kevin presented Warren with an engraved plaque.
- The membership approved revisions in the by-laws, including changing the word congregation to faith community throughout.
- Linda Hillesheim extended gratitude to EISCC presenters from the past year.
- Shauna Backus from Congregations for Kids shared that the school liaison for the project reports that Bellevue was seeing an uptick in ICE activity. Younger children are having trouble getting to school and food insecurity is increasing.

- Participants were referred to eiscc.net for minutes and financial reports.

PROGRAM

Human Needs and Human Services in East King County

Linda Hillesheim, the EISCC representative on The Collaborative steering group, introduced the two guest speakers.

- Paul Lwali is the President and CEO of Friends of Youth, a Seattle-area nonprofit serving vulnerable youth and young adults through child welfare, homeless services, and behavioral health programs.
- Rochelle Clayton-Strunk is the Director of Programs at Encompass, a non-profit organization in Snoqualmie Valley focused on early learning, family enrichment, and pediatric therapy programs that include speech, physical, occupational and mental health therapy.

Paul was the last chair of the Eastside Human Services Forum and Rochelle was leader for many years of the Alliance of Eastside Agencies. The Forum and Alliance were combined this year into the East King County Human Services Collaborative (“The Collaborative”) which is operated by the Together Center. Paul and Rochelle described the challenges facing each of the organizations when they were separate and the synergies that have come from joining together, with each other and with the Together Center. It is now easier for human services organizations to connect in addressing the many-faceted problems residents of East King County face.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Erin Funk (efunk@hopelink.org) briefly shared the services [Hopelink Mobility](#) provides, both for seniors and for the general public, including a community van program and a trip planner to help find alternative transportation services.
- Kevin Folkman invited participants to join the [Turtle Shelter Project](#), which sews highly functional vests for people experiencing homelessness. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is gathering to assemble vests on Saturday, November 14, 9 -11:30 am and 12:30-3 pm, at 10115 172nd Ave NE, Redmond. All are invited. Volunteer [here](#).
- Tammy Waddell drew attention to the opportunity to crochet warm, colorful hats, which [Essentials First](#) will distribute. Katie Folkman designed the pattern and makes dozens herself.
- On October 18th from 4-5:30pm, Faith United Methodist Church ([3924 Issaquah-Pine Lake Rd, Sammamish](#)) will be hosting a Faith Housing Coalition Summit. Come

to learn more about the housing crisis in Sammamish and Issaquah and to consider joining the coalition.

- The Issaquah-Sammamish Interfaith Coalition needs help with technical aspects of the work. Contact Elizabeth Maupin (eli410maupin@gmail.com) to volunteer.
- The Mormon Central Bishop Food Project is delivering 40,000 pounds of food to the area on October 15. The food is going to food pantries, other non-profits, and Little Food Pantries. Request for food from future deliveries can be directed to Kevin Folkman (kfolkman@gmail.com).
- Gul Siddiqi drew attention to the formal opening of the MAPS Active Living and Wellness senior center on the MAPS Vibe campus, Thursday, October 15, at 1:30. All are welcome.
- Essentials First invites us to its first [Community Fundraiser](#), Saturday, October 24, 5 pm at the Together Center in Redmond. This event will support their efforts to expand access to essential hygiene supplies while building lasting solutions through advocacy and collaboration.
- Fabiola Bogarin from Hopelink provided links to [Hopelink overview flyers](#), which list all their services. The flyers are available in multiple languages.
 - Hopelink is taking special care to ensure that everyone who comes to their center leaves for home with food. Here is the [enrollment link](#).
 - Hopelink's 31st annual [Reaching Out celebration](#) is coming up on October 15.
- Aldersgate United Methodist is having their annual [Trunk or Treat](#) on October 24, 2-5 pm, with games as well as cider, donuts, and other treats.

CLOSING PRAYER

Warren Marquardson closed the meeting with prayer, giving thanks for the good hearts and messages of the day and asking for help to extend our hearts and eyes and hands to those that we can serve.

ATTENDEES

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Agassiz	Sarah	Unity of Bellevue
Arndt	Sarah	North Urban Human Services Alliance
Arrabi	Muhammed	MAPS Innovation
Bachman	Destiny	LDS Bellevue South
Backus	Shauna	Congregations for Kids
Basta	Sam	St. Louise Bellevue
Bien	Alaric	City of Redmond Human Services
Bogarin	Fabiola	Hopelink
Buckingham	Brooke	City of Redmond Human Services

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Burrus	Sue	Eastside Friends Meeting
Clayton-Strunk	Rochelle	Encompass NW
Cozzens	Susan	Eastside Friends Meeting & EISCC Board
Dibba	Adam	Africans on the Eastside
Flores	Marisa	Together Center
Folkman	Kevin	LDS & EISCC Board
Folkman	Katie	LDS
Fornelius	Eric	Just Serve
Funk	Erin	Hopelink Mobility
Gerson	Jonathan	St. Stephens (Renton)
Getzinger	Karen	St. Andrews Lutheran
Hakim	Farida	Muslim Associate of Puget Sound
Harris	Jean	Aldersgate UMC
Hillesheim	Linda	Unity of Bellevue & EISCC Board
Hutchko	Candise	Catholic Community Services
Jacobs	Nancy	Congregations for Kids
Joban	Muhammed	Muslim Associate of Puget Sound
Johnson	Michael	St. Louise Bellevue
Kalisa	Isabelle	Hero House
Kidd-Miller	Joyce	Baha'is of King County North & EISCC Board
Mabbott	Art	All Saints Episcopal
Madden	Ciara	Plymouth Housing
Mathias	Mike	Anything Helps
Maupin	Elizabeth	Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
Mbaye	Amina	Essentials First
Mercer	MaryAnn	Unity of Bellevue
Motafram	Mahrukh	Parliament of World's Religions
Nassif	Mary	First Congregational Bellevue (The Sophia Way)
O'Hare	Pauline	First Congregational & EISCC Board
Phelps	Ellen Weiss	Temple B'nai Torah & EISCC Board
Richards	Diane	St. Margaret's
Sheriff	Nicky	MCRC Muslim Community Resource Center
Sheriff	Khizer	Essentials First & EISCC Board
Siddiqi	Gul	MAPS
Spohn	Betty	Newport Presbyterian
Stangard	Christy	Bellevue Human Services
Waddell	Tammy	Nourishing Networks
Weisel	Nancy	Cross of Christ