



# City of Tacoma

## Human Services Commission

Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual and In-Person Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** Chair Naomi Wilson, Vice Chair Marvin Cooks, Secretary Andee Walton, Commissioner Laura Badeaux, Commissioner Kimberly Ellefson, Commissioner Carlos Lugo, and Commissioner Nikki Singh

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Noemi Cagatin-Porter, Commissioner Kristi Coyne, and Commissioner Connie Ladenburg

**Staff Present:** Vicky McLaurin, Interim Assistant Director (NCS)

- 1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:02**
  - Meeting chaired by Chair Wilson
  - Roll call.
- 2. Approval of the October agenda at 6:04**
  - Motioned by Commissioner Lugo to approve, seconded by Commissioner Singh. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Review/Approval of August minutes at 6:05**
  - Motioned by Secretary Walton to approve minutes and Vice Chair Cooks seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 4. Public Comment at 6:06**
  - No written public comments received.
- 5. Tacoma Mental Health Assessment at 6:07**
  - Presented by Dawn Couch of Berk Consulting
  - Project overview of how the city uses the Sales and Use Tax for Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Services or Therapeutic Courts since its inception in 2017 (RCW 82.14.460).
    - i. Project Objectives.
    - ii. Project Approach and Timeline.
  - During Q&A: request that Commission provide feedback in form of "I'd really like to know x" so that Berk Consulting can take it under advisement as possible demonstrated metric.
- 6. Capacity Building at 6:42**
  - Presented by Dr. Angela Silva and Zach Sims of Collaborative Partners Initiative, LLC.
  - LLC is all about giving support to those funded by the City, or would like to be funded; particularly BIPOC groups.
    - i. Most are smaller and/or newly formed.
    - ii. Works within capacity-building initiative.
    - iii. Serves as fiscal agent to these groups.
  - Staff introductions.



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- Responses during Q&A
  - i. Responses to Chair Wilson:
    1. Yes, LLC has capabilities to work with non-English candidates beyond Spanish-speaking.
    2. Provided outline of Proposal Training Program.
    3. Provided training topics.
    4. Staff may not look like the population they serve, but are educated and oriented towards leveling the playing field for those communities via DEI, vision, mission, and values.
  - ii. Response to Secretary Walton: names largest obstacles anticipated and how to overcome them.

### **7. Review and Excuse Absences at 7:20**

- Secretary Walton motions to excuse Commissioners Coyne and Ladenburg. Commissioner Singh seconds. All in favor.

### **8. Good of the Order at 7:21**

- Vicky McLaurin requests expiration of upcoming terms for some commissioners be kept in mind for either serving an additional term, or recruitment.

### **9. Closing Comments at 7:26**

- Chair Wilson expresses gratitude to Vicky McLaurin at tonight's meeting.
- Chair Wilson adjourns the meeting at 7:26