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## Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### Commission Members:

Michelle Kavouras Crystal Duncan, Annette Evans,  
Amanda Roberts, Lawrence “Woody” Widmark, Sterling “Chip” Camden  
JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kavouras called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Crystal Duncan, Annette Evans , Michelle Kavouras,  
Amanda Roberts, Chip Camden, and Wood Widmark (via zoom)

Commissioners Absent:

Assembly Liaison: JJ Carlson

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk

#### III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

#### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(Public participation on any item off the agenda. All public testimony is not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual, not to exceed 3 minutes)*

Callie Simmons, a representative from a local food coalition, expressed interest in the Health and Human Services Commission's potential support for removing the sales tax on food to alleviate the cost of living for low-income community members.

#### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### A. January 15, 2025

Duncan moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2024. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

#### VI. REPORTS

Chair – None.

Commissioners – None.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison – Carlson expressed gratitude to the HNHS Commission for their efforts on the 2025 Goals and the report.

Other(s) – None.

#### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

## B. Approving the 2025 Goals

Kevin Mosher spoke about outsourcing the nonprofit grant program to an outside organization and clarified that the assembly was not being considered for this task.

Commissioners discussed goals such as suicide prevention, food security, and supporting underrepresented populations, referencing examples from Anchorage and Juneau. They agreed on assigning a lead person for each goal and presenting recommendations to the Assembly by year-end.

They focused on broadening mental health efforts, keeping suicide prevention central while emphasizing post-intervention support, grief processing, and stigma reduction. Discussions also covered the city's role in mental health, consistent messaging, a potential marketing campaign, and partnerships with nonprofits for awareness. They considered the city's social media policies and the idea of hosting an annual event to promote resources.

The Commission decided to focus on two goals for 2025: health and racial equity, and mental health and suicide prevention/postvention. They discussed the challenges of taking on three goals given limited capacity and time constraints

Duncan moved to approve the 2025 HNHS Goals to include health and racial **equity, and mental health and suicide prevention/postvention. Motion passed 6-0 by a roll call vote.**

**Yes- Evans, Widmark, Roberts, Camden, Kavouras, and Duncan**

- I. **PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(For items on or off the agenda, not to exceed 3 minutes)*  
None.

## VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kavouras moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Attest:  
Jess Earnshaw  
Deputy Municipal Clerk