
Health Needs and Human Services Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2022 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Commission Members:

Cecilia Dumouchel, Tristan Guevin,
Doug Osborne, Lakota Harden, Ellie Lo Re, Albert Duncan
Crystal Duncan (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Cecilia Dumouchel, Tristan Guevin, Doug Osborne,
Lakota Harden, Albert Duncan

Commissioners Absent: Ellie Lo Re

Assembly Liaison: Crystal Duncan

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes)*

Laurinda Marcello about the difficulties of finding and accessing childcare in Sitka and the cascade of effects that a lack of childcare creates.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 18, 2022

Guevin moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2022. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – None.

Commissioners –Guevin mentioned that he had put his name for the Sitka School Board, and that he was appointed.

City Staff –None.

Assembly Liaison –Dunan and Harden reported that progress was being made on setting on a date for the town hall this fall. Osborne noted the 2022 Sitka Health Summit would be on September 15th.

Other(s) – None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Sitka Health Equity Report

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Strategic Plan Presentation by Melissa Henshaw, Public & Government Relations Director

Henshaw gave the commission an overview of how a strategic plan worked and how it was different from a comprehensive plan. She stated that a strategic plan gave the “marching orders” for city staff over the next five years, and it would provide an operational plan for a specific time.

D. Presentation on Childcare by Blue Shibler (Executive Director of the Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC))

Blue provided an overview of the barriers to accessible childcare in Alaska and gave specific examples of municipal and legislative action taken in Juneau to address the problem. She identified numerous causes for the lack of accessible and affordable childcare in Juneau, highlighting low wages for childcare workers resulting in staffing shortages and low retention as one of the primary causes.

She offered a few initial ideas for approaching the problem in Sitka:

- a. Try to find available space that could be given or rented at low cost to an independent operator to run a childcare entity.
- b. Encourage city and state governments to offer revolving loan programs to childcare entities.
- c. Encourage City and state governments to provide a monthly operating subsidy to childcare entities on a per child served basis with specific funds earmarked for subsidizing training for childcare employees (workforce development grants).
- d. Consider a private option through a large employer in town.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

M- Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Attest:
Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk