

MEETING SUMMARY

REDMOND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Monday, January 12, 2026 - 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Commissioners present: Michaelene Fowler, David Poe, Kathleen Reynolds, Marilyn Lazaro, Ted Thornhill, Shravani Salgaonkar, Vartika Gupta
Staff present: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

2. Items From the Audience:

none

3. December 8, 2025 Meeting Summary

Summary approved by acclamation.

4. Ice Breaker

Michaelene asked people to share their name, how long they've lived in Redmond, what they like to do when not doing commission work, and what they think the most urgent human services need is in the city. Commissioners identified legal services for immigrants, youth services, connecting seniors to needed services, and affordable housing/cost of living as some of the most urgent needs.

5. Working Agreements

Group reviewed working agreements. These agreements provide guidance for how we work together as a group, which is particularly helpful during the application review process. No additional changes were proposed.

6. Confirm 2026 Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Michaelene and David were unanimously elected to chair and vice chair respectively.

7. Wage & Benefit Survey

Due to staff emergency, this agenda item was moved to the February agenda.

8. Funding Priorities

Staff provided an overview of the purpose of the City-Specific Information Sheet, which is to provide transparency for agencies applying to the City. All cities that participate in the application process provide this information which includes details about the City's anticipated budget, review process, and/or funding priorities. Commissioners were provided with the 25-26 template and asked to review proposed values and funding priorities. Concern was shared about use of equity language and whether this may have impact to City. Staff shared that these value statements are aligned with other City

messaging (e.g. website). Commissioners discussed updating the 2025-26 funding priorities including: categorizing previously used priorities into two categories, “values” and “funding priorities,” and the difference between the two categories, changing “mental health” to “behavioral health,” whether to emphasize small, grassroots organizations, and how to express a focus on marginalized communities. Staff will provide an updated version of the 2027-2028 Redmond Requirements based on commission feedback. Staff will bring back recommendations for language to address marginalized communities.

9. Review Tool

Michaelene and Brooke explained how the review tool is used and commissioners asked questions. Kathleen suggested some minor edits. Commissioners will have the opportunity test the tool and provide additional feedback.

10. Commissioner & Staff Updates

- Kathleen invited commissioners to share a meal with clients of Open Kitchen at Redmond United Methodist Church on January 28.
- Shravani has learned about The Welcoming Center outreach service at the Redmond Library, Saturdays, 11 am - 1 pm. The group provides information about resources for people new to the community, particularly immigrants and refugees.

11. Adjourned at 8:30 pm.