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## Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 12:00 p.m.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### Commission Members:

Rachel Worthey, Crystal Duncan, Annette Evans, Elise Davidson Kitka,  
Woody Widmark, Amanda Roberts, Paul Bahna

JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

- I. CALL TO ORDER**  
Chair Worthey called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- II. ROLL CALL**  
Commissioners Present: Rachel Worthey, Annette Evans, Amanda Roberts, Paul Bahna  
Commissioners Absent: Elise Davidson Kitka (excused), and Woody Widmark (excused)  
Assembly Liaison: JJ Carlson  
Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk
- III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES**
- IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** (*not to exceed 3 minutes*)
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- VI. REPORTS**  
Chair –None.  
Commissioners – None.  
City Staff – None.  
Assembly Liaison – None.  
Other(s) – None.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
None.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**  
**A. Presentation: Early Childhood Coalition/Childcare Now**  
Lauren Wild and Kari Sagel from the Early Childhood Coalition presented their findings, highlighting the shortage of affordable and available childcare facilities, particularly for infants and toddlers. They pointed out that the high cost of childcare, nearly double the cost of sending a child to university, and the lack of workforce were major issues. They suggested solutions such as a trained workforce, dependable revenue stream, infrastructure for the industry to operate at lower costs,

and employer contributions to support their employees with childcare benefits. They stressed the importance of childcare for the first six years of a child's life as it contributes to 90% of brain development.

The commission discussed potential solutions such as integrating workforce career pathways in high school curriculums, repurposing public facilities for childcare, funding for teachers, and establishing an apprenticeship program.

**B. Discussions on 2024 Goals**

The Commission discussed opportunities and plans to move forward. The decision was made to focus on new goals for 2024, which will be presented for review and approval. There was a discussion on the difficulties faced during work sessions, particularly with quorum issues and the formal nature of the meetings.

**C. Establishing Working Groups**

The Commission discussed the childcare working group was the only one established. They suggested the possibility of establishing subcommittees to follow up on issues before the next meeting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**

Attest:  
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk