



## Community Involvement Commission (CIC) February 2026 Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 370

**Commissioners present:** Rachelle Olden, Gabriel de los Angeles, Tim Turner, Chelsea Affleck, Kamryn Yanchick, Elise Herwig, Heidi Morisset, Nada Ramadan

**Commissioners to Be Appointed (Attending):** Olivia Barlow and Negash Hassen

**Commissioners Not Present:** Julio Perez, Jalen Smith

**City of Seattle Staff present:** Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards

**Guest Presenter:** Jacob Adams, Chief of Staff – CARE Department

**Public Comment:** No public comment received.

Transcriber's Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in the video recording and available upon request.

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### Call to Order and Roll Call

Staff Liaison Alvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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### Approval of January 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- January 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

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### Presentation

**CARE Department Overview – Jacob Adams**

Jacob Adams presented an overview of the **Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department**, Seattle's third public safety department.

### Key Points

- CARE was officially launched in October 2023 and oversees Seattle's **911 call center and Community Crisis Responders (CCR)**.
- The department aims to provide non-police crisis response for behavioral health and welfare concerns, improving public safety outcomes and reducing unnecessary police deployment.
- CARE teams currently operate seven days a week from 12:00 PM–10:00 PM, with plans to expand staffing from 24 to 48 responders and extend coverage from 6:30 AM–1:00 AM citywide.

### Crisis Response Model

CARE responders focus on:

- De-escalation and interpersonal support
- Referrals to social services and treatment programs
- Basic needs support (food, hygiene supplies, etc.)
- Crisis stabilization and safety planning

### Dispatch and Response

CARE teams may respond to:

- Welfare checks
- Reports on individuals in crisis
- Non-violent public safety concerns

Limitations currently exist due to labor agreements and safety restrictions (e.g., weapons present, criminal activity, or private indoor locations).

### Data and Impact

- CARE response time averages **approximately 14 minutes**, compared with longer wait times for non-urgent police responses.
- Over **10,000 calls** have been handled by the program with minimal safety incidents.

### Discussion Highlights

Commissioners discussed:

- Cultural responsiveness in crisis response services
- Funding sources including Seattle's public safety tax
- Workforce training and national best practices
- Data systems for coordinating services and case management
- Public awareness and outreach strategies

## **Opportunities for Collaboration**

CARE leadership encouraged the Commission to support:

- Community education and advocacy
  - Public awareness initiatives
  - Legislative support for crisis response protections and information-sharing improvements
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## **Committee Updates**

### **Retreat Planning Committee**

Updates were provided regarding the upcoming Commission retreat.

#### **Location**

The initially proposed venue was unavailable. Alternative sites under review include:

- Rainier Community Center
- Yesler Community Center
- Green Lake Community Center
- International District Community Center

Rainier Community Center was identified as the preferred option pending availability.

#### **Proposed Retreat Details**

- **Date:** March 14, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

#### **Potential Guest Speakers**

Commissioners proposed inviting community engagement leaders from King County to share best practices on:

- Community outreach strategies
- Effective engagement with diverse communities
- Event tabling and public communication methods

Commissioners on the Retreat Planning Committee also showed interest in hearing from the LGBTQ Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA).

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## **Staff Liaison Updates**

- Letter to the Mayor was sent to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods communications team.
  - The Annual Report template was forwarded to the Research and Assessment Subcommittee.
  - Discussion continues regarding CIC social media presence and communication strategy.
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### **Subcommittee Breakouts**

Due to presentations from CARE department running longer, Commissioners did not participate in breakout discussion.

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### **Decisions Made**

- Approval of January 2026 meeting minutes.
  - Confirmation of March 14 retreat date and tentative schedule.
  - Agreement to continue collaboration discussions with the CARE Department.
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### **Action Items**

#### **Staff Liaison**

- Confirm availability for Rainier Community Center and alternative retreat venues.
- Continue developing retreat agenda and guest speaker invitations.

#### **Commissioners**

- Explore opportunities to support CARE Department advocacy and community awareness.
- Provide input on retreat planning and engagement strategy.
- Coordinate subcommittee follow-ups and report progress at the next meeting.