



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2022
Via Linda Senior Center – Room 5
10440 E. Via Linda
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice Chair Tricia Serlin, Commission Members, Jeff Jameson (arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Roger Lurie (arrived at 4:10 p.m.), Patrick Dodds, and Mary Jung

ABSENT: Commissioner Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW, Human Services Manager; Alexandria DeLash, LAC, Human Services Center Supervisor; Matthew Alexander, MA, BHT, Human Services Caseworker

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Approve the regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 13, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS AND JUNG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS JAMESON AND LURIE NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Refresher Training

Janis Bladine, Senior City Attorney, provided refresher training on the Open Meeting Law and conflict of interest, outlining the State of Arizona's open meeting laws and requirements. Open meeting law is a general policy statement and state law that provides that meetings should be conducted openly and in public and that notices and agendas be timely posted. Ms. Bladine's presentation included review of the definition of a "meeting;" violations that can occur by circumventing the open meeting law; how to avoid an "accidental meeting;" meeting notice and agenda requirements, holding executive sessions; undue influence on subordinates; the process for declaring a conflict of interest; and violation enforcement and penalties. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the rules for declaring a conflict of interest when volunteering or working for an agency that is applying for funding. Commission members will contact Ms. Bladine offline to discuss their individual situations.

3. Youth and Family Behavioral Health Services Program

Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW, Human Services Manager, Alexandria DeLash, LAC, Human Services Center Supervisor, Matthew Alexander, MA, BHT, Human Services Caseworker, provided an update on services offered through Youth and Family Behavioral Services including Scottsdale Court Programs, Community Intervention Court, Juvenile Programs and Mayor's Youth Council.

Mr. Alexander reviewed the history of the Scottsdale court programs, dating back to 2016. Screenings are used to determine the most appropriate treatment program for each individual based on behavior, habits, and criminal history and are available in person or online. Mr. Alexander noted that the Court program is a cost recovery program that generated approximately \$200,000 in revenue last year.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Alexander. He confirmed that the agency is also licensed to provide domestic violence screenings. Recurrences are not tracked as part of the program; however, the court is able to provide some recidivism information. Ms. Hahn-McDonald said that the revenue received through the programs goes into the City's General Fund, which in turn funds the program.

Ms. DeLash outlined the Community Intervention Court, established in 2020 to improve the justice experience for the most vulnerable in the community. The program works with the court to address low-level offenses that are rooted in social determinants of health, such as housing insecurity, mental health issues, unemployment, and chemical dependency. The Department works as a liaison to connect defendants with vital services and reporting progress to the court. The team works to establish clear and reasonable goals for defendants while also providing basic needs to help participants maintain compliance. To date there have been 40 graduates and there are currently 33 active cases.

Ms. DeLash talked about the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Fellowship Program, which is a two-year paid opportunity for fellows to work on research projects under the mentorship of a city mentor, to gain practical hands-on learning in working with multiple layers of government to plan and execute initiatives combating substance abuse and mental health

challenges. The City's fellow began working with Scottsdale in September 2022.

Ms. Hahn-McDonald reviewed information about the Restorative Justice program, which is a program where the court refers juveniles who commit offenses in areas such as alcohol, drugs, city code violations, curfew violations, misdemeanor theft, possession of marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia, truancy, or trespassing to participate. She compared the Restorative Justice Program to the Diversion Program. The diversion program is a program where juveniles are referred by a police officer, typically for a first-time offense. The victim, juvenile, and the parents must all agree to allow the offender to participate in the program. Once the program is successfully completed, the offense is wiped from the juvenile's record. Records are maintained in perpetuity for those who participate in the Restorative Justice program.

Ms. Hahn-McDonald gave an update on the Mayor's Youth Council activities. The council consists of approximately 30 students and the group is involved in many events and programs throughout the year. Mayor's Youth Council holds a town hall each April.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Hahn-McDonald said that the Human Services department has a great relationship with the police department and the crisis team and is continually working to implement more support services within Scottsdale schools. Efforts are being made to improve the record keeping system to track successes and recidivism through the police department.

It was noted that the Via Linda Behavioral Hospital offers 24-hour free assessments.

4. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Funding process
- Discussion potential FY 2023/24 budget issues
- Human Services Bond projects
- Adopt-a-Senior winter holiday program

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, AND JUNG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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