



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 27, 2023  
Community Design Studio Nave  
7506 E. Indian School Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Neal Shearer, Vice-Chair Tricia Serlin, Commission Members Roger Lurie, Patrick Dodds, Mary Jung, and Stuart Turgel

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Jeff Jameson

**STAFF:** Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Chad Beougher, Community Development Supervisor; Jennifer Crane, Community Grants Specialist; Vania Torres, Administrative Secretary; Human Services Managers Kristy Hahn-McDonald

**Call to Order**

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 3:40 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 April 13, 2023

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 13, 2023, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JUNG, LURIE, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. Youth and Family Services Programming Update and Opioid Settlement Funds Presentation**

Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW, Youth and Family Human Services Manager, and Kaylan Fitch, MPH, Public Health Fellow for Maricopa County's Office of Organization Excellence, provided an update on the Youth and Family Behavioral Health Services programs. Ms. Hahn-McDonald reviewed annual statistics for the Adult Court program, education programs, and the Restorative Justice and diversion programs. She highlighted the successes of the Restorative Justice and diversion programs, which had 114 of 118 participants successfully complete the program. She noted that school resource officers have indicated that approximately 70 percent of students are using vape devices and that truancy cases continue to be a struggle, in part because of habits formed during the pandemic. The goal for the next year is to research community programs that offer parent education skills and work to incorporate a skill build program into the curriculum.

The recent appointment of the new presiding judge as well as a new court administrator has resulted in a decline in referrals and efforts have begun to restructure the Community Intervention Court. Presiding Judge Marianne Bayardi hopes to restructure the court to meet the needs of the community while fitting within the City's resources. She plans to build a solid framework with stakeholders to create a program that is sustainable and successful.

The Mayor's Youth Council this year participated in Arizona League of Cities and Towns, adopt-a-road events, packing food for seniors, Parada del Sol, and Unity Walk. Last week, they held their annual Youth Town Hall, featuring speaker Dr. Broberg and ASU students who spoke about "unleashing your passion." Online applications for the 2023/24 Mayor's Youth Council are currently being accepted and interviews will be held in June.

Kaylan Fitch, MPH, provided a presentation about the Opioid Settlement Fund in the City of Scottsdale. Her presentation included a review of the opioid lawsuit settlements, the Arizona distribution of opioid settlement funds agreement, the public health fellowship, and current activities within Maricopa County and the City of Scottsdale. Approved uses for the funds include a 70 percent use towards future opioid remediation, with 15 percent towards opioid crisis-related reimbursement and administrative expenses, and 15 percent maximum to non-opioid remediation expenses. Funds must be used on approved nationally recognized abatement strategies. Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) strategic plan has outlined nine core strategies, per the national distributor agreement. Ms. Fitch explained that prevention is geared toward youth and schools. A needs assessment specific to substance abuse is currently under way and will be repeated later to show progress achieved in the programs.

Ms. Fitch talked about the public health fellowship framework and outlined the assignments given to the seven fellows contracted through the county, including her role. Once the needs assessment is completed, work will continue with program design and implementation, outcomes and impact evaluation. Host agencies will be left with a guidebook containing resources, lessons learned, and things to look forward to. A symposium will be held to present projects at the county for fellows, mentors, and leadership and upon completion of the MCDPH substance use needs assessment, city departments will be invited to form an opioid response team.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Fitch said that there was hope that the needs assessment would be enough for city-specific data, but more than likely the report will be regional. The opioid response team will likely include a core group of city staff and key players. She explained the difference between the education programs and the diversion program. She said that education programs are voluntary and originate from the courts, including Scottsdale, Tempe, Chandler, and the regional veterans' court. Ms. Hahn-McDonald noted a medical record system is being implemented as part of the adult program and she expects to start receiving DUI recidivism rates so that she can start writing grants.

Ms. Hahn-McDonald explained that the restorative justice cases are referred from Scottsdale school resource officers, schools and the police department. Students are able to participate in the program as a one-time, one-offense option.

### **3. Annual Funding Process Evaluation**

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager and Chad Beougher, Community Development Supervisor, led a discussion to evaluate the funding process and scoring measures. Director Bestgen highlighted suggestions sent to staff by Commissioners. He said that comments focused on the following:

- Creating an understanding of the big picture of CDBG, HOME funds, staff behind-the-scenes work and how staff determinations are made, and how the Human Services Commission can be included in that discussion
- Requiring more succinct information in applications
- Redundancy in application questions and scoring elements
- Historical impact on funded organizations
- Inviting agencies to give presentations with Q and A throughout the year
- Allocating more SRP-MIC and Scottsdale Cares funds. Arranging a meeting with the SRP-MIC to present information on areas that are being benefited by those funds
- Setting a limit on CDBG funds similar to other categories

In-depth discussion ensued regarding Commissioners' suggestions and concerns regarding the funding process. In addition to the topics listed by Director Bestgen, Commissioners talked about having only one scoring system; refining the list of priorities; federal constraints; giving points not only for Scottsdale non-profit agencies, but also to programs addressing regional issues; continuation grants and quantifying the effect on top performing agency programs if they are not funded; and tracking individual program impacts.

Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, acknowledged that although there are a lot of wonderful organizations providing services in Scottsdale, the availability of funding has decreased over the past several years. In an effort to streamline the process and provide more for the community with fewer dollars, staff is proposing that a continuum of care model be established. Staff would look at a prevention model, addressing it from a primary, secondary, and tertiary standpoint so that organizations could come together and form a continuum of three to four agencies, with one agency taking the lead role, accepting all funding on behalf of the other agencies. Requirements for each group would be that one agency provide the prevention piece, one offers intervention services, one offers long-term support care services, and at least one agency be based in Scottsdale. The lead agency will work with the other agencies to obtain memorandums of agreement from participating agencies and submit them in advance as part of

their application. The program would be divided into the areas that were prioritized for the last funding cycle. Continuum of care areas would be identified as follows:

- Homeless continuum of care
- Families and individuals in crisis continuum of care
- Seniors' continuum of care
- Disabled continuum of care

Ms. Witkofski said that home delivered meals and congregate meals would be removed from the funding process and moved to a formal RFP process through the City's purchasing department. Home delivered meals have historically been funded by the AZ Cares and SRP-MIC and would continue being funded out of those funds, but through a competitive procurement process. Director Bestgen commented that the program would provide for a more collaborative effort, by asking the community non-profits to work together on particular areas rather than competing.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Mr. Beougher said that the process would relieve staff's workload, taking it from managing 15 to 20 contracts, some which are only \$5,000, to managing two to four contracts throughout the whole funding process. He clarified that set-aside funding projects are heavily vetted through consultations with multiple city departments. Staff anticipates being prepared to present the Commission with tentative set-aside project information by August and the final determinations that will be presented during the funding process will be based on changes in need and project budget projections. CDBG requirements determine the percentages going to public services to 15 percent, 20 percent to administration, and the remaining to non-public services.

Ms. Witkofski said that HOME funds set asides are for tenant-based rental assistance, designated directly for the City's senior population. Through a two-year pilot program, senior centers will provide referrals for seniors being displaced due to high rents or at greatest risk of instability or housing instability. As outlined in the administrative plan, at the end of the two years, seniors coming off of the tenant-based rental assistance plan would be given priority on the housing choice voucher wait list.

Discussion ensued regarding the continuum of care plan and the senior tenant-based rental assistance pilot program. It was requested that in planning for the senior tenant-based rental program questions be asked about extraordinary synergies could be available through other city departments and with the continuum of care that historic metrics of the service providers be considered. Commissioners commented about challenges that could be involved with collaboration of multiple agencies and suggested that each continuum of care group be invited to give a presentation as part of the funding process. Community Grants Specialist Jennifer Crane briefly talked about the benefits of creating a continuum of care model.

Ms. Witkofski clarified that the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy would not qualify for the continuum of care program, it falls under Endowment funds, which are managed by the Arizona Community Foundation guidelines and would be eligible for that funding.

#### **4. Director's Report**

Director Bestgen thanked staff for their hard work and talked about recent changes in leadership in the Human Services Department. He said in an effort to cross-train staff for future opportunities within the department, he recently transferred Rachel Smetana to the Paiute Neighborhood Center and Deanna Owens to Vista del Camino. Staff is working on the RFPs for continuation of Community Bridges work at Phoenix Rescue Mission and in an effort to bridge the gap that is expected when the CARES funding ends at the end of the month, is working with the purchasing director to find a solution for continuation of the day relief centers.

Director Bestgen said that another Welcome Home group meeting is being planned in a few weeks. The group will look at the Operation Fix It program and reaching out to the community for bring groups together to form a core group as the program moves forward.

#### **5. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items identified.

#### **6. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER TURGEL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JUNG, LURIE, AND TURGEL 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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