



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2023
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice Chair Mary Jung, Commissioners Patrick Dodds, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Tricia Serlin and Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Office Manager; Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW Youth and Family Services Manager; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 September 28, 2023

VICE CHAIR JUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. CHAIR SHEARER ABSTAINED.

2. Youth and Family Services Opioid Fund Settlement Update

Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW, Youth and Family Services Manager, introduced Mayor's Youth Counsel Student President, Nathan Cai, who worked as an intern for the department over the summer and assisted with benchmarking substance use coalitions in the state. Mr. Cai provided a general overview of coalitions, referencing a quote that successful substance use prevention coalitions focus on reductions of community-level risk factors. The data demonstrates that participation by youth populations in community coalitions benefits the community at large. This is particularly relevant when considering that substance abuse use often commences during the adolescent period.

Overviews were provided of sample Arizona coalitions, including:

- Fountain Hills Protect our Youth Coalition
- City of Maricopa Be Awesome Youth Coalition
- Rise Up Glendale Coalition

Implications include:

- Substance abuse coalitions hold immense promise
- Efforts should engage diverse stakeholders
- Initiatives should be both digital and in-person

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Cai noted some differences between the results of adult-member coalitions versus youth-member coalitions. In general, youth-member coalitions focus on hosting social events, such as Taco Tuesday and movie nights. Adult-member coalitions focused on initiatives such as drug take-backs, kit distribution and in-school education. In general, interventions and rehabilitations fall under the purview of hospitals and clinics, while coalitions focus on prevention. Based on the results of the research, there are plans for Scottsdale to create its own youth substance abuse coalition.

3. FY 2024/25 Community Development Block Grant Set Aside

Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, provided an overview of the process undertaken by the Community Assistance Office regarding the set aside. This begins with a review of the previous three funding years, including total amounts allocated by HUD for a Community Development Block Grant. The estimate for Program Year 2024/25 is \$1.1 million, with receipt of the official allocation expected in March 2024. Following determination of the estimate, there is a review of receipted program income from the prior year directly from Buildings 4 and 5 in the Hirsch Academy. It is estimated that there will be receipt of \$56,448 from the building rentals. The next step includes a review of unspent funds from previous year grant recipients. Some nonprofits do not expend all awarded funded and these amounts must be considered for reallocation. In Program Year 2022, \$14,296 was unspent in awarded CDBG funds. They must also reallocate approximately \$255,000 in a public facilities project. Currently four public facility projects are in the works: Apache Park, Paiute bathrooms demolition and rebuild, streets paving and cameras. A capital improvements budget is reviewed, which includes a reach-out to other department heads from Public Works, Economic Development and Parks & Recreation. There is a 20 percent cap for administration and planning, which equates to

\$243,926 plus program income. Public services consider nonprofit funding and human service needs. An estimated \$181,944 is derived from an estimated \$1.1 million plus program income times 15 percent. There is intent for continuation of a pilot project for caseworker needs in the Human Services Department at \$91,000. A cap is being implemented on the CDBG at \$43,500. The City received \$355,614 as a member of the Maricopa County Home Consortium. The new contract will be presented in the next few months with a subsequent request before City Council to accept an extension of the current IGA and continuation of the tenant-based rental assistance program.

4. Human Services Public Meetings and Communication Strategies

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, provided an update on recent projects and events, including:

- Renewal of the contract to continue the hotel program at the Independence 47
- Paiute projects
 - Bond replacement: Replacing aging infrastructure with 22,000 square foot building
 - Residence at Paiute with up to 28 affordable housing units
 - Tenant-based rental assistance program for 10 to 15 seniors
 - Neighborhood informational meetings and adoption of resolutions

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Given its value in the community, the intent is for the hotel bridge program is to continue for as long as possible. The majority of the Council supports continuation, as does the majority of the public. There has only been one call for service in a year and that was not a resident-related issue. Up until approximately a month ago, for budgetary reasons case management and support services has been handled by case workers in community centers. Staff is currently working on an RFP, as there is a requirement for a competitive process.

Communication strategies:

- Questionnaire via Speak Up Scottsdale
 - Final results October 31, 2023
 - 151 responses and 131 completed questionnaires thus far
 - Review of sample questions

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Citizens are concerned about homelessness issues from many perspectives, but are also generous and caring. Next steps will add additional definitions to community survey questions and to expand avenues to respond to the questionnaire.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Study on demographics of leadership of funded organizations during distribution season

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, AND COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, LURIE, SERLIN, 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 6:26 p.m.

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