



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2024
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

STAFF: Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Sue Oh, Human Services Center Supervisor

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 November 9, 2023

VICE-CHAIR JUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2023, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, AND COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Human Services Advisory Commission Annual Report

Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, reviewed the details of the annual report.

Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director, announced that Greg Bestgen has retired. Recruitment for a new Human Services Director is underway, and she is hoping to begin holding interviews in the next two to three weeks.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ANNUAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, AND COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. FY 2024/2025 Budget Planning and Funding Sources Update

Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director, and Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, presented information on the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Planning and Funding Sources Update impacting the Human Services Department and Community Assistance Office.

Ms. Doyle reviewed key dates for the budget process, which opened on November 20th. The City budget department is currently reviewing departmental budget requests, and the final presentation to City Council, budget adoption, and property tax adoption are scheduled for June 4, 2024. Her presentation included an overview of the Economic Outlook for the upcoming five years, including the effect of the elimination of the rental tax slated to occur in January of 2025; the step down of the flat income tax rate, effective January 1, 2024; recent growth in sales tax and the anticipated slowdown in tax collections; the anticipation of a mild recession, affected by inflation and labor shortages; and the effects of the expenditure limitation and explanation of direction given to city departments by the budget department.

Ms. Witkofski presented a breakdown of the Human Services Division budget by service area from FY 2021 through FY 2025. Information was presented on the overall Human Services division and then broken down into areas, including the Paiute Neighborhood Center, Youth and Family Services, the Granite Reef and Via Linda Senior Centers, Vista del Camino, the Human Services Administration, and the Community Assistance Office.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski explained that the HOME funds are dropping off because of the receipt of \$1.4 million in HOME-ARP for affordable housing and \$4 million in ARPA funds that are being carried forward through capital improvement projects. It was requested that staff keep the Commission apprised when dollars may be reduced for services that the Commission considers critical so that they have an opportunity to advocate before the budget is finalized.

Ms. Witkofski gave an overview of how reduction in funding could have an effect on services, noting that the City cannot provide assistance to the same levels as were possible during the

pandemic. She said that other options to consider in terms of funding include increasing donations for Scottsdale Cares and increasing funding to local non-profits so they can meet the needs not met by the City.

Discussion ensued regarding understanding who is being served, specific funding requirements, the implications of reductions in federal dollars, and suggestions for increasing Scottsdale Cares contributions. Ms. Witkofski noted that the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) will come to an end on January 19, 2024. Reduction in funding for Vista del Camino will not affect staffing because staff who assist with LIHEAP are paid through Maricopa County. Ms. Doyle explained that if City Council were to increase the expenditure limitation, that change would have to go to voters for approval.

4. City of Scottsdale Homeless Programs and Services Update

Sue Oh, Human Services Center Supervisor, provided an update on the current programs and services for people experiencing homelessness. Her presentation included information on the following programs:

- Day Relief Centers, which are conducted in partnership with Community House at two locations, Vista del Camino Community Center and South Scottsdale Presbyterian Church. Two outreach navigators are contracted through Community Bridges and are available to work with clients who are ready to work on ending their homelessness. Since the program's inception in December of 2020, over 700 clients have been served, with 209 of them finding stable/habitable housing.
- Two navigators provided through Community Bridges agreement work with the police department to conduct targeted outreach by visiting parks and community centers and through referrals and are also available at Civic Center Library. Staff is currently working on an RFP for four additional navigators, which will be funded through opioid funding.
- Bridge Housing Program was made possible through a grant of \$940,000 from the Arizona Department of Housing, which allows for partnership with a local hotel for the use of rooms to provide safe, secure, non-congregate shelter for seniors and single parents with minor children who qualify for up to 120 days. Participants are referred by human services community centers, the police department, the school district, shelters, the faith community, and non-profit providers.
- The Scottsdale Works program will provide five participants day-labor opportunities three times a week at various city locations. Participants will earn minimum wage, paid daily, will be given breakfast and lunch during their shift, and will be provided with navigation services.

The annual Point in Time Count is scheduled for January 23, 2024, from 6:00 a.m. to noon. The information from this count allows the City and the Maricopa County Association of Governments to better tailor resources to help people access services and find housing and identifies trends and the need for overall resources in the community. Results of this year's count will be available in April. Staff is working on an interdepartmental team with several departments, including the police department, fire department, parks and recreation, and marketing, to discuss homeless programs and services ideas and to educate departments on the services that are available.

Discussion ensued about the Point in Time Count. Ms. Oh said that they have enough volunteers; however, Commissioners are always welcome to participate. Comments were made about the weather and time of day that the count is conducted affecting the numbers. They were of the opinion that, based on statistics from city programs, the numbers do not accurately reflect the number of people experiencing homelessness in Scottsdale. It was suggested that numbers obtained from other sources, such as hospitals and the police department, be included when submitting applications for program grants.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Scottsdale Cares
- Marketing of Human Services programs
- Point in Time Count results

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER SERLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, AND COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, 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 5:43 p.m.

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