



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2024
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

STAFF: Kathy DiNolfi, A New Leaf Chief Program Officer; Kelley Weilan, East Valley Men's Center Manager; Megan Wilson, TCAA Director of Programs; Juliet Armstrong Starkey, TCAA Senior Director of Operations; Jenny Adams, Scottsdale Community Partners Executive Director; Angela Bravo-Gallagher, Human Services Center Supervisor; Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Office Manager, Vania Torres Staff Coordinator, Rachel Smetana, Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Milke Lopach, Kristy Hahn-McDonald; Human Services Managers

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 January 25, 2024.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 25, 2024, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

CHAIR SHEARER, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. VICE-CHAIR JUNG ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. A New Leaf Men's Homeless Shelter Program Update

Kathy DiNolfi, A New Leaf Chief Program Officer, provided an update on the status of the FY 2023/2024 CDBG funded Men's Homeless Shelter Program. Her presentation included a review of the history of the program dating back to 1971, program goals, and statistics. She also reviewed the partnerships with community programs such as Circle the City and aftercare programs.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. DiNolfi explained that statistics show 12 Scottsdale residents served but one challenge is determining what city people are from. She said that issues faced by the program participants run the gamut. First priority is to determine if they can take care of themselves, then an assessment is done to determine barriers, and housing options are discussed from day one. Ms. DiNolfi said that approximately 1/3 of participants are ready for their own housing at the end of the program, another 1/3 need continued support, and another 1/3 leave and don't return. She noted that bridge housing has been a big step in having successful transitions. Ms. DiNolfi explained the coordinated entry system into the program. Kelley Weilan, East Valley Men's Center manager, said that since the end of the pandemic they are seeing a higher number of people who thought they would never face homelessness, including more older people.

Chair Shearer encouraged Commissioners to take an opportunity to tour the Men's Shelter.

3. Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) Home-Delivered Meals Program Update

Megan Wilson, Director of Programs, and Juliet Armstrong Starkey, Senior Director of Operations, provided an update on the status of the FY 2023/2024 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC)-funded Home-Delivered Meals Program. They have had a significant increase in the number of people needing their services. Their presentation included a review of the challenges and progress of the Meals on Wheels and Granite Reef senior lunch programs.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Wilson explained that there is a difference in the per meal allowance for the South Scottsdale program vs the North Scottsdale program. They are working with a variety of partnerships and funding programs to alleviate that disparity. Participants can be given an opportunity to make a monetary contribution, but they cannot be asked for payment. Area Agency on Aging requires that the meals be prepared in a certain way to meet federal guidelines, which precludes the option to take food donations from grocery chains because meal planning must be done in advance. TCAA participates in many programs through the Senior Center, which helps in promoting the program.

4. Scottsdale Community Partner's Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program Update

Jenny Adams, Executive Director, provided an update on the status of the FY 2023/2024 Scottsdale Cares-funded Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance program. She noted that

they work directly with Human Services to provide funding and volunteer support, working on various programs. The presentation included a review of criteria for program participation and current trends in the rental assistance program, including an increase in people needing assistance for the first time. At the same time, donations are dwindling due to the change in economy.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Angela Bravo-Gallagher, Human Services Center Supervisor, said that in 2021, the intake program was centralized, which expanded access to services, and caused an increase in the number of people who qualified to apply, resulting in an average of 150 applications per month, putting the processing time at approximately six weeks. She explained that eligible participants can access emergency rental/mortgage assistance once in a 12-month period. During the pandemic, the additional available funds allowed for multiple requests over the course of a fiscal year. She anticipates the backlog to dwindle and return to a more realistic wait time now that they have reinstated the one-time-per-year limitation.

5. Public Hearing: Solicit Public Testimony on FY 2024/2025 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan and the Estimated City of Scottsdale Allocation of \$1,163,185 and HOME Investment Partnership allocation of \$355,614

Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, gave a brief presentation regarding the public hearing. He reviewed the national objectives and activities for which Community Block Grant Funds (CDBG) can be used. Staff anticipates the city will receive approximately \$1,163,185 in allocations for FY 2024/25 and is proposing that the funds be used for public services to hire a senior services case worker, funding non-profit agencies, public facility improvements, housing rehabilitation programs, and planning and administration. He reviewed activities that HOME funds can be used for. Staff anticipates the city will receive approximately \$355,000 in allocations for FY 2024/25 and is proposing the funds be used for tenant-based rental assistance. Mr. Boucher said that in an effort to reach out to the community about the annual action plan, the city is partnering with Speak Up Scottsdale, which is an online platform that provides residents an opportunity to participate in planning processes and city events by completing polls that come out three or four times a month and participating in the planning process, including the annual action plan and other city events. Anyone who is interested in registering can sign up through [ScottsdaleAZ.gov/speakup](https://scottsdaleAZ.gov/speakup).

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

Chair Shearer closed the public hearing.

6. Director's Report

Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director, announced that Kira Peters has been selected as the new Human Services Director and will be joining the team starting on March 11, 2024. Her top priorities will be putting together a Human Services strategic five-year plan, marketing and outreach, enhancing the Scottsdale Cares program, and data reporting.

Ms. Doyle gave an update on the Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-Senior statistics for the past year. She said that the programs are made possible in collaboration with Vista del Camino,

Paiute Neighborhood Center, Partners for Paiute, and the senior centers with support from Scottsdale Community partners, local businesses, and community donors.

On January 17, 2024, Maricopa County notified the Human Services department that the client portal would be closing on January 19, 2024, for rental assistance applications due to unavailability of funding. The City of Scottsdale had ten applications in the queue that were closed and those applicants were notified by the County. The Community Action Program (CAP) office has been working with the County on new housing stability rental assistance that became available on February 5, 2024. Staff is still getting details from the County on how much the City can anticipate receiving and will update the Commission when more information comes available.

Ms. Doyle reported on the January 23, 2024 point in time count. The program is vital to providing the city, county and the state with information on how best to address homelessness. She thanked those who participated in the count and braved the rain and cold at 6:00 in the morning. Results of the count will be available in April.

Via Linda Senior Center hosted the fourth annual Mahjong Tournament on January 27, 2024. There were 78 participants who enjoyed social interaction, raffle prizes, lunch, coffee and refreshments. The next tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2024.

Ms. Doyle gave an update on the project that was approved on September 19, 2023, and included two separate capital projects to be built at Paiute Community Center. The first project was an existing Bond 2019 project to replace aging structures, and the second was to be funded separately with \$6.6 million in County funds and General Funds to construct 28 affordable housing units. The City has been notified that the County is reallocating the \$6.6 million to projects in the west valley that have already begun. Because of the loss of funds, the project is not viable and staff will be rescinding the associated resolutions. There was a third resolution that was approved to use \$1.2 million from the county, but because the project is not moving forward at this time, the department will be identifying other uses for the \$1.2 million.

Ms. Doyle gave an update on the Scottsdale Works program, which is a day labor program that will operate in collaboration with Phoenix Rescue Mission. The most recent contract ended over the summer and went out to bid. Phoenix Rescue mission has been awarded the new contract. The programs primary focus is to give day labor opportunities at City of Scottsdale work sites to people experiencing homelessness and to connect those people with appropriate resources. During the first contract period, there were 114 unduplicated participants, with 43 having positive outcomes related to housing.

The All Things Senior Expo and Tradeshow is scheduled for February 21, 2024, at the Center for Performing Arts from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Turgel asked if there were more people who could have participated in the Scottsdale Works program. Mr. Beougher said that the 114 unduplicated participants were the capacity of the program.

Commissioners expressed disappointment at the loss of funding for the Paiute Community Center project but currently were unable to further discuss items not on the agenda due to the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

7. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Moving funding allocations between funding sources
- Point in Time Count results

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, 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 6:12 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.