



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 22, 2024  
City Hall Kiva Forum  
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

**STAFF:** Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Mike Lopach, Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Rachel Smetana, Deanna Owens; Human Services Managers; Vania Torres; Melissa McNeal, Community Grants Specialist

**Call to Order**

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 1:33 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 February 8, 2024

Vice-Chair Jung noted a mistake with her title on the attendance list.

VICE-CHAIR JUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 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. FY 2024/2025 Community Development Block Grant, Scottsdale Cares, General Funds, Endowment, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community funding applicant question and answer**

Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, and Chad Beougher, Community Development Supervisor, facilitated a question-and-answer session with selected applicants of the FY 2024/2025 Community Development Block Grant, Scottsdale Cares Program, General Funds, Endowment, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community funding. The following agencies appeared and responded to questions as follows:

**Central Arizona Shelter Services Inc.**

Lisa Glow, Chief Executive Officer, responded to questions regarding Central Arizona Shelter Services' CDBG application for Shelter and Services for Scottsdale Residents Experiencing Homelessness. She said that they have three shelters located in Phoenix, a 600-bed shelter, a family shelter, and soon, they will have a senior haven. All of that will be available to house Scottsdale residents. She explained that they are very focused on the most vulnerable populations, with approximately 30 percent of the people they serve being aging adults and 30 percent being chronically homeless, while 100 percent of the homeless report disabling conditions.

In response to questions regarding Central Arizona Shelter Services' Scottsdale Cares application for the Flexible Financial Assistance (FFA) program, she said that the organization has strong partnerships with Glendale and Mesa and is hoping to evolve their relationship with Scottsdale to a similar level. Mesa has confirmed continuation of their commitment to flexible funding with them, and they have a large federal grant through Glendale. She explained that their program model is to develop deeper partnerships with municipalities, and they hope to evolve their relationship to work with City of Scottsdale Human Services social workers to identify those in need and provide services. The organization has measures in place, such as an eligibility screening process and intake for their housing programs. Information is tracked through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to ensure federal eligibility.

**Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.**

Reyna Yslas, Program Manager of Supportive Housing; Francis Aprile, Program Supervisor of Supportive Housing; and Erin Garcia, Vice President of Supportive Housing Pillar, were available to respond to questions regarding Chicanos Por La Causa's CDBG application for Housing Navigation Services. They explained that they have a system where they provide a portable printer, hotspots, and laptops to facilitate housing navigation services at remote locations. They explained that during the pandemic, they were not able to provide in-person services, but they were able to partner with the Scottsdale Housing Authority to secure housing.

Those referrals had housing vouchers, which decreased their numbers, and it was difficult to conduct outreach to individuals in Scottsdale. They have projected an increase in units of service based on the ability to provide mobile services. Updates to program outcomes and indicators for the current proposal are available in their application in Neighborly.

### **Catholic Charities Community Services Inc.**

Dawn Curtis, Program Director, responded to questions regarding Catholic Charities Community Services' General Funds application for My Sisters' Place: Domestic Violence Shelter Services. She explained that the reason for projecting nine Scottsdale clients over the next year. She said that they participate in a coordinated entry process for victims of domestic violence through safe DVS and are unable to dictate where clients come from or where they move after shelter. They actively work with domestic violence advocate communities to coordinate services for clients. The program aims to provide shelter to people from neighboring communities for safety and security, and their partnership with the City of Scottsdale represents the safety net. In FY 2025, a question will be added on intake forms asking for a list of cities that clients have lived in in the past, which will more accurately reflect the impact on Scottsdale.

### **A New Leaf**

Michelle Boyle, Director of Housing Support Services, responded to questions regarding A New Leaf's Scottsdale Cares application for Hayden Apartments. She clarified that these are permanent supportive housing units, and with support services, the goal is to improve the clients' situations. They estimated serving 12 unduplicated families because the seven units are two-bedroom shared housing, and house types are singles or couples that have a bedroom and shared living space, and some of the participants opt out of their services. She said that A New Leaf owns the property and units are permanent supportive housing units paid for through AHCCCS funding. Their goal is to connect clients with the supportive services City of Scottsdale has available.

### **Aid To Adoption of Special Kids**

Josie Gaieck, Development Specialist, responded to questions regarding AASK's Scottsdale Cares application for the AASK Mentoring Program. She explained the difference between AASK's mentoring program and the CASA program provided through the court system, noting that the mentoring program is a volunteer program that offers an opportunity for the child and their mentor to build an independent relationship. She said it is difficult to estimate how many children from Scottsdale will qualify for the program, and she gave a breakdown of how money will be spent to fund the volunteer mentor program, including the cost of training mentors and interviewing children for the program.

### **Community Bridges, Inc.**

Raeann Buckingham, Senior Director of Crisis Services, and Anthony Dunkerley, Operations Administrator, were available to respond to questions regarding Community Bridges' Scottsdale Cares application for Mobile Community Outreach and Crisis Stabilization Services. They said that referrals from police departments range from 20 to 50 percent.

### **One Step Beyond, Inc.**

Jacquelyn Ahrenberg, Grant Writer, responded to questions regarding One Step Beyond's Scottsdale Cares application for Spellers to Communication. She elaborated on the statement that Scottsdale has a lack of support and resources for nonspeakers. She said it's hard to quantify the number of nonspeakers, because many are not self-reporting and/or have augmented communication devices. Individuals who are non-verbal or unreliable speakers have a variety of ways to communicate. Their staff is ready to be trained on the Spellers to Communication methodology once funding is received for the purchase of materials.

### **Phoenix Rescue Mission**

There were no representatives from Phoenix Rescue Mission.

### **R.O.S.E. Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly**

Joyce Petrowski, Founder and Board President, responded to questions regarding R.O.S.E. Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly's Scottsdale Cares application for Safeguarding the Financial and Emotional Security of Seniors. She said that she estimated an average of 25 attendees at each seminar and a goal of 20 presentations each year. The organization works with case managers or social workers in the area to choose locations that will attract the most seniors. She said she will update the program outcomes and indicators section of their response in Neighborly based on information obtained through surveys given to attendees following presentations. It was suggested that they give attendees an opportunity to sign up for a monthly newsletter so that the organization can capture their contact information. Ms. Petrowski said that they have not implemented a hotline yet but do accept calls from people on their regular line.

### **Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Family YMCA**

Damian Vega, Executive Director, responded to questions regarding Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Family YMCA's Scottsdale Cares application for YMCA Outreach Program for Aging Seniors (Y OPAS). He said that the biggest need they saw was transportation for seniors, not only to the YMCA and senior centers, but for medical and grocery. Volunteers provide free transportation using their own vehicles and stay with the seniors during their appointments.

### **Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center**

Lauren Smith, Director of Community Engagement, and Beatriz Orr, Director of the Community School, responded to questions regarding Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center's Scottsdale Cares application for Community School-Paiute Campus. They said that they are projecting to serve 24 children with autism and 24 children without autism. The numbers have increased over the past few years due to an increase in classrooms. People travel from all over the valley to the Paiute Neighborhood Center location. Enrollment for Scottsdale residents is not limited, and Scottsdale employees are offered a 25-percent discount. The projected cost is an estimate based on the projected number of participants.

Mr. Beougher said that agency questions requesting responses via email and responses to questions to staff will be posted to the SharePoint site by the end of the day on February 23rd.

**3. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items identified.

**4. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER SERLIN 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, 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 2:20 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.