



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

**City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Raoul Zubia, Chair
Marty Day, Commissioner
Janice Eng, Commissioner
Enid Seiden, Commissioner
Josina Tishler, Commissioner
Donald Nordlund, Commissioner (arrived 5:21 p.m.)

ABSENT: Dustin Thomas, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director
Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager
Joanne Meierdirks, Human Services Coordinator
Phil Hershkowitz, Recreation Coordinator
Neal Hallihan, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Zubia called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

Chair Zubia introduced new Commissioner Janice Eng, who discussed her background and her interest in the Commission.

1. **Approval of the September 10, 2015 Minutes - Regular Meeting**

COMMISSIONER SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER TISHLER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER NORDLUND WAS NOT YET PRESENT, AND VICE-CHAIR THOMAS WAS ABSENT.

2. **Police Crisis Intervention Section (PCIS) Presentation**

Kelly Wills, Crisis Intervention Specialist for Scottsdale Police Department's Police Crisis Intervention Section, gave a presentation discussing the support PCIS provides to victims of domestic violence and the Family Advocacy Center. She announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. PCIS is stationed out of the Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center and was founded in February of 2003 by the Crimes Against Persons Department. PCIS together with Police Department employees and the Violent Crimes Unit partner with Honor Health to get exams for victims of domestic violence and strangulation. Strangulation became a focus when the crime was reclassified from a misdemeanor to a felony charge. Ms. Wills detailed the police process when responding to calls and services that are made available to victims.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Wills said that statistics regarding drug and alcohol usage associated with domestic violence have remained consistent over the years. She noted that domestic mental abuse that is not associated with physical abuse is not addressed through their program. Victims of mental abuse would be referred to counseling. Information gathering cards that are distributed for police officers use when responding to calls are kept with the victim's police report and in PCIS files.

3. **A New Leaf, Autumn House Presentation**

Dana Martinez, Program Manager for A New Leaf's Autumn House, gave a presentation on A New Leaf's centralized screening program for domestic violence shelters. She discussed the history of the program, which came after changes were made to HUD/HEARTH requirements for coordinated access. As part of the centralized screening program, all domestic violence shelters in Maricopa County are participating in a program using a standardized intake form and are consulted multiple times a day to keep track of available beds. If space is not available through the centralized screening process, people are moved into the DV STOP program and given a hotel room until space is available at a shelter.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Martinez said that the DV STOP program receives funding from DES, VOCA, and United Way.

4. **Chrysalis Presentation**

Kellee Ellis, Director of Residential Services of Chrysalis, gave a presentation discussing transitional housing for single women and men and adults with children who have successfully completed an initial domestic violence program. Transitional housing focuses on holistic and victim-centered services, including employment assistance,

counseling, and program referrals to address needs as they are expressed by the victim. Scottsdale's location is open to both men and women.

5. Staff and Commission Updates

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, introduced Human Services Manager Neal Hallihan who is in charge of the Adaptive Services program.

Neal Hallihan, Human Services Manager, introduced himself and talked about his background and about the Adapted Services program.

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager, said that the Adopt-a-Family program is in motion. It has a target of assisting 500 families and still has 45 spaces available. Vista del Camino is working with the Firefighter's Association and Safeway to ask the public for donations to pay for 500 turkeys during a two-day event.

Mr. Munoz-Villafane announced that Vista del Camino is collaborating with Scottsdale Unified School District and United Food Bank to provide food boxes to approximately 300 families during Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks from school.

Vista del Camino recently received notification from Maricopa County Human Services that Vista del Camino will be receiving additional LIHEAP funds.

Joanne Meierdirks, Human Services Coordinator, noted that part of what Youth and Family Services do is educate the community. During Domestic Violence Month it is especially important to provide education on domestic violence to the community in addition to the usual service of meeting individually with families in conflict. Ms. Merierdirks talked about the effects witnessing domestic violence can have on young children, including being a predictor of juvenile delinquency and runaways; ways in which children express the impact of domestic violence; and building resiliency.

Mr. Bestgen noted that the Adopt-a-Senior program has started and wish lists will be mailed out to seniors this week. This year the City will be working with agencies to expand their outreach and will as usual continue conducting wellness visits with the delivery of the care packages.

The Dog Days event will be held at Granite Reef Senior Center on Saturday, October 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Paiute Neighborhood Center will be hosting the Paiute Neighborhood Watch Bike Parade on October 16th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contact (480)312-2342 for more information.

6. Open call to the Public

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

7. **Adjournment**

Being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.