



City of Scottsdale  
Human Services Commission  
Regular Meeting

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Granite Reef Senior Center - Room 8  
1700 N. Granite Reef Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

**PRESENT:** Raoul Zubia, Chair  
Dustin Thomas, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)  
Janice Eng, Commissioner  
Enid Seiden, Commissioner  
Donald Nordlund, Commissioner (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)  
Marty Day, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Josina Tishler, Commissioner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director  
Neal Hallihan, Human Services Manager  
Tim Miluk, Human Services Manager  
Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager  
Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Manager

**GUESTS:** Ginny Dauler-Phinney, SUSD  
Isaac Sanft, Special Olympics, Arizona  
Darrel Christenson, Community Integration for Ability 360

**Call to order**

Chair Zubia called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as noted above.

1. **Approval of the November 12, 2015 Minutes - Regular Meeting**

**COMMISSIONER SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR THOMAS AND COMMISSIONER NORDLUND WERE NOT YET PRESENT AND COMMISSIONER TISHLER WAS ABSENT.**

2. **Services for People with Disabilities - Special Olympics Arizona**

Isaac Sanft, director of Support Programs, Special Olympics Arizona, gave a presentation on the programs offered to people with disabilities by the Special Olympics organization including athletic, wellness, and community outreach programs. He reviewed the opportunities that Special Olympics offers athletes (participants with intellectual disabilities) and partners (participants without intellectual disabilities), in Scottsdale, including integrated sports teams and talked about transition programs that are available and help young adults find a place in the community after they reach 22 years of age. Special Mix International is the largest public health organization in the world for people with disabilities and offers a variety of services free of charge. The general philosophy that the Scottsdale program has is "Play Unified, Live Unified," creating opportunities for special needs children to live in an inclusive society.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Sanft explained that one focus of public health is sports psychology because the organization focuses on sports. However, the clinical advisory team does have conversations about how to include behavioral health issues. Arizona Special Olympics is run locally and has partnerships with local clinicians and service providers.

3. **Services for People with Disabilities - Scottsdale Unified School District Transition Program**

Ginny Dauler-Phinney, Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Transition Specialist, gave a presentation on the programs offered to people with disabilities ages 18 to 24 enrolled in the Scottsdale Unified School District Transition Program. Her presentation included an outline of the program which focuses on life skills, transition into adult programs, and job preparation. She described the employment program that is run in partnership with local businesses, noting that there are three different types of employment, based on the individual's abilities. Supported employment offers supports such as job coach or accommodations throughout the lifetime of an individual. Traditional competitive employment individuals do the same job as a peer in a typical situation. Job shadowing offers an individual an unpaid position shadowing an employee to determine if they are capable of performing the job duties. SUSD has two transition specialists and job developers, two job coaches, and paraeducators working one-on-one with individuals to provide accommodations and adaptations and work with employers to provide qualified employees.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Dauler-Phinney explained that students are enrolled in programs such as vocational rehabilitation through the Department of Developmental Disabilities during their last three years of school so there is a seamless transition once they graduate. She further discussed employment opportunities, noting that students are limited to working 20 hours a week

so they can retain their benefits. District transportation is available to transport students to and from work and activities.

#### **4. Services for People with Disabilities - the Ability 360 Organization**

Darrel Christenson, Vice-President of Community Integration for Ability 360, gave a presentation on the programs offered to people ages 14 and up with disabilities by the Ability 360 organization. He explained that Ability 360's mission is to empower people with disabilities to be as independent as possible in the community. He highlighted the primary programs, which are advocacy, independent living skills, information referral, and peer support. Ancillary programs include transition out of high schools and reintegrating people leaving nursing homes into the community. The organization provides early intervention to people who are newly injured and letting them know there is life after a disability. Mr. Christenson highlighted the program's Sports and Fitness Center, employment services, the Paralympics team accomplishments, educational and recreational opportunities, and home care and home modification services.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Christenson noted that there is a bus stop in front of the building currently and a light rail stop is expected to be completed within the next 18 months.

#### **5. Additional HOME funds for Habitat for Humanity for FY 2015/16 contract**

Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Office Manager, proposed to allocate an additional \$93,519 in HOME funds to Habitat for Humanity's FY 2015/16 contract #2014-148-COS.

**VICE-CHAIR THOMAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$93,519 IN HOME FUNDS TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S 2015/16 CONTRACT #2014-148-COS. COMMISSIONER NORDLUND SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER TISHLER WAS ABSENT.**

#### **6. Staff and Commission Updates**

Neal Hallihan, Human Services Manager, gave an overview of Adapted Services programs. His presentation included a detailed explanation of the Teen Connection program; inclusion services offered through Scottsdale Unified School District; Tots with disabilities; the adult day program, which includes monthly adult activities; inclusion and accommodation services; adaptive recreation; youth programs including afterschool and summer programs; special education; social skills building; early childhood development intervention; the newly renovated adapted services center; community partnerships; Special Olympics Arizona; and the Career Center. Mr. Hallihan noted that the adult program has a waiting list for most activities and at this time the program cannot be expanded due to lack of funding.

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, said that scheduling programs is difficult as a whole in the city, because there are more demand for programs and classes than there is space available. Accommodation services offered through the Adaptive Services Program is challenging because the need each year is unpredictable. Mr. Hallihan will be meeting with the City Manager to discuss shortfalls in

accommodation funding. Mr. Bestgen thanked Ms. Albanese and Mr. Boyd for their efforts in making the adaptive kitchen come to fruition.

Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Office Manager, gave an update on activities of the Paiute Neighborhood Center. On November 25th the Boys and Girls Club hosted the annual Pizole Bowl which offered kids an opportunity to play flag football with City of Scottsdale Police Officers. The Paiute Toy Program is currently underway and several volunteer groups have volunteered to help sort and bag toys for distribution. Paiute Neighborhood Center and Conexiones held a community meeting for parents regarding available resources.

Tim Miluk, Human Services Manager, noted that a new fees and charges structure has been proposed for the fitness center, offering monthly and annual memberships. He talked about activities at the Granite Reef and Via Linda Senior Centers including a holiday light tour earlier this week; art galleries at Granite Reef last week and Via Linda on December 11th; programs at Scottsdale Center for the Arts; tours of the Railroad Park and the Airpark; dances; dinner and movie nights; the Senior Expo scheduled in February; the Adopt-a-Senior program; and the Historic Scottsdale Conference Room Display that will be opening at Granite Reef Senior Center.

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager, talked about activities at Vista Del Camino. The Firefighter's Association Turkey Drives provided turkeys to 403 households and had leftover turkeys that will be used during Christmas. Vista Del Camino participated in the Allie Ortega Empty Bowls Event on December 2nd. Scottsdale Center for the Arts has more bowls available for anyone who is interested in donating. Vista del Camino has 404 families that have been sponsored for the Adopt-a-Family program. The food bunker storage facility will be expanded and improved the first of the year thanks to proceeds donated from the Super Bowl events. The improvements will create enough room to house 90 days' worth of emergency food.

**7. Open call to the Public**

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

**8. Adjournment**

Being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.