



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Summarized Minutes**

Thursday, August 11, 2016

**City Hall Kiva
3839 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

PRESENT: Dustin Thomas, Chair
Marty Day, Vice Chair
Enid Seiden, Commissioner
Janice Eng, Commissioner
Josina Tishler, Commissioner
Denny Brown, Commissioner

ABSENT: Donald Nordlund, Commissioner

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director
Justin Boyd, Housing Coordinator
Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Manager
Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager
Joanne Meierdirks, Human Services Coordinator
Tim Miluk, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

1. Approval of the Minutes

a. Work Study Meeting: May 12, 2016

COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2016 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION WORK STUDY MEETING. VICE-CHAIR DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

b. Regular Meeting: May 26, 2016

VICE-CHAIR DAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2016 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

2. Open call to the Public

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

3. Families and Children Discussion Panel

Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Manager, facilitated a panel discussion on current issues and trends related to families and children. The panel consisted of:

Marybell Ramirez Deeds: Director of Outreach Services, Boys & Girls Club

Mary Ellen Tinsley: Executive Director, Scottsdale Prevention Institute

Carrie Zavala: Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)

Israel Montoya: Community Program Director, Scottsdale Prevention Institute

Joanne Meierdirks: Human Services Coordinator, City of Scottsdale Youth & Family Services

Mike Lopach: Human Services Specialist, City of Scottsdale Paiute Neighborhood Center

- **Please discuss the biggest challenges you see facing families today and how do these challenges differ from five years ago.**

Panel members indicated that today's families and children face a variety of challenges, including the prevalence of social media; parents in denial about and/or lack of communication regarding drug use and other issues; affordable child care; transportation; and the provision of mental health resources.

- **Please tell us about some of the families you've encountered who are in need of behavioral health or substance abuse assistance, and how factors such as domestic violence, suicide, and teen pregnancy have impacted them.**

The panel discussed how families struggle with behavioral health, substance abuse, domestic violence; and the loss of government funding. They discussed the challenges associated with identifying and assessing the needs of youth and parents struggling with depression and dependency.

- **Please discuss strategies your agency has developed to effectively meet the needs of families, and describe new resources and programs your organization plans to implement in the near future.**

Panelists said agencies are focusing on early education for kids, including homework help and targeted programming for students with academic deficiencies. The Police Department has introduced a program, made possible through RICO Funds, that trains individuals to work with youth. Other programs include peer-to-peer drug prevention support; a focus on the mental health needs of the LGBT community; bringing WIC to Scottsdale; immigration services; and community education and outreach.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Discussion ensued regarding the EVIT program; a proposal to hire interns from local universities as counselors; and how rising property values in south Scottsdale are impacting low-income families.

4. Funding Process Discussion

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, reviewed the upcoming HRC calendar. The November 10th work study session will feature updates on the master plan, and the CDBG and SRPMIC panel. The January 26th work study session at Paiute will be used to review the various applications. After the scoring process has been completed, the March 9th meeting will allow the HRC to informally discuss the funding applications.

Justin Boyd, Housing Coordinator, presented information regarding SRPMIC definitions of congregate meals, home delivered meals, and regional shelter services. The Commission will be given an opportunity to vote on funding once the 2017/18 budget has been confirmed.

Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Bestgen said it is anticipated that the City will receive SRPMIC grants for the upcoming year. Once that has been confirmed, the Commission will be able to provide input on incorporating that money into the funding process. Formal and informal process training can be made available for Commissioners if desired.

Mr. Boyd noted that the November meeting has room for presentations by four or five different agencies, including CDBG, Public Services, rehabilitation projects, roof projects, or CASS housing activities. Commissioners expressed an interest in learning how agencies have expended their funds in the past and about their needs for the upcoming year. It was suggested that individual case study presentations would be most helpful.

5. Staff and Commission Updates

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager, gave an in depth presentation on the Back-to-School event held on July 27th at Scottsdale Stadium. His presentation included information on the medical and dental assessments that were offered; planning efforts for middle-year applications, holiday and summer food boxes, and accommodating people on the wait list. He noted that the number of participants has grown to more than 934 this year.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.