



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

Summarized Minutes

Thursday, September 8, 2016

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

PRESENT:

Dustin Thomas, Chair
Marty Day, Vice Chair
Enid Seiden, Commissioner
Josina Tishler, Commissioner
Donald Nordlund, Commissioner
Denny Brown, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Janice Eng, Commissioner

STAFF:

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director
Neal Hallihan, Human Services Manager
Joanne Meierdirks, Human Services Coordinator
Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager

GUESTS:

Ursula Stevens, CASS
Nicole Delgado, Family Promise
Ken Lynch, Tumbleweed
Mark Holleran, CASS

Call to Order

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Regular Meeting – August 11th, 2016

COMMISSIONER TISHLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2016 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR DAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER ENG WAS ABSENT.

2. **Open call to the Public**

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

3. **Homeless Service Providers Discussion**

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager, mediated a panel discussion. Commission members posed questions to the panel. Panel members included:

Ursula Stevens, Chief Operations Officer, CASS
Nicole Delgado, Social Work Manager, Family Promise of Greater Phoenix
Ken Lynch, Chief Communications Officer, Tumbleweed
Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Parks and Recreation Manager, Vista del Camino Social Services

Each panelist was given an opportunity to introduce their agency and discussed the current successes and challenges they are facing.

- **What are some of the current trends or challenges experienced by the population that you are serving?**

Panel members indicated that the biggest challenges of the target population include funding; increasing homeless youth and senior populations; shelter employee turnover; shelter maintenance; difficulty accessing information regarding services and shelter options; decreasing next-step housing availability; access to mental health care, particularly for youth; and shelter space limitations.

- **With waiting lists of hundreds and limited funding, how does the unavailability of affordable housing affect individuals or families experiencing homelessness?**

Panel members indicated that the unavailability of affordable housing affects homeless individuals and families because there can be a lack of continuum of care due to location and lack of transportation; the unwillingness of property owners to participate in low-income housing options; children are traumatized with each move; landlords raising rents from "affordable" rates on month-to-month to force lease signing or move out; and a lack of Section 8 housing voucher program housing availability. The panel discussed a need for laws that would require

developers to open a percentage of their property to Section 8 and coordinating with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

- **If you've received any funding from the City of Scottsdale, what has been the outcome and any challenges posed with lack of funding?**

Panel members indicated that funding received from Scottsdale has helped programs grow and offers the opportunity to respond to local issues including youth homelessness.

- **If you could, what would you do differently?**

Panel members indicated that if it were possible, they would collect data for the purpose of tracking the success rate of people who complete a program; gathering statistics on specific groups such as those released from jail and falling into homelessness; track recidivism rates; collect data on various circumstances such as communal housing; and create programs that would offer more preventative services.

- **How as a Commission can we help get your message across to the community?**

Panel members indicated that the most effective way to get the message across is through educating the community about the issues; pushing for creation of sustainable supportive affordable housing; and encouraging the formation of laws requiring developers to offer affordable housing options.

Mark Holleran from CASS spoke about the importance of having a regional plan for fighting homelessness.

4. HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The Item was tabled.

5. Staff and Commission Updates

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, noted that he expects to receive information on the SRPMIC funding soon. He thanked staff for their hard work on the Paiute Community Center fencing project. Mr. Bestgen mentioned that he and Mr. Munoz-Villafane will meet regularly with the Penjamo Yaqui to discuss collaborating on projects, including reenergizing the Gateway Artwork project. He noted that the adopt-a-family programs are gearing up for the holidays.

Chair Thomas and Vice-Chair Day thanked Commissioner Seiden for her years of service.

Commissioner Seiden said a few words of gratitude and offered her availability in the future to help with special projects.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.