



City of Scottsdale
Human Services Commission
Regular Meeting

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

5:00 P.M., Thursday, March 27, 2008
Paiute Neighborhood Center
6535 East Osborn
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Building 2, Room 3

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reid called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Roll Call

Present: Chairwoman Donna Reid, Vice-chair Kathleen Hemmingsen
Commissioners: Angela Bowers, Katherine Weaver, Carol Erickson and Jo Ann Woodward

Also Present: Connie James, Hugh McGill, Cindy Ensign, Justin Boyd

Absent: Commissioner: Dave Bachmann

1. Approval of the March 13, 2008 Minutes – Regular Meeting.

Chairwoman Reid called for a motion to approve the March 13, 2008 minutes.

Approved 6-0; Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the March 13, 2008 minutes; seconded by Commissioner Erickson.

2. School Prevention Services Update-Scottsdale Prevention Services

Mary Ellen Tinsley, CEO of Scottsdale Prevention Institute (SPI), provided an update on the programs they provide in the Scottsdale Unified School District regarding drug and alcohol abuse prevention. Ms. Tinsley indicated SPI has provided school based prevention programs to Scottsdale residents for the past 21 years. SPI's mission is to advocate and provide prevention services that will improve the quality of life and well-being for children and families in the community and schools. SPI serves children who are experiencing trauma, having difficulty fitting in, feeling isolated, and who are experimenting with drugs or alcohol. SPI helps families who want to strengthen relationships and improve parenting skills, address school and/or family difficulties, learn about the value of their children's development, and help their children achieve greater success in school. SPI assists the school administration by helping personnel who have students with special emotional or social needs, students that are disruptive in the classroom, and providing classroom presentations to students on specific social skills. SPI has provided prevention services to 34,900 students and Prevention Specialists have provided over 8,000 hours to school-based programs.

Commissioner Bowers asked if SPI is keeping some kind of data to see if the programs are working.

Ms. Tinsley indicated that at the end of the year, SPI does an evaluation of the children and parents and they are keeping that data on file, which they take very seriously.

Chairwoman Reid asked if some of the children ever come back for more opportunities to experience the Chemical Awareness Program (CAP) for a second time.

Ms. Tinsley indicated that yes they do get requests and they have to refer them to outside sources because it is a one time class.

Commissioner Woodward asked if there are any programs in place for informing these children about getting pregnant or catching a sexually transmitted disease (STD), for kids who are sexually abused, and kids who are trying to find their identity, who become suicidal because they get bullied at school.

Ms. Tinsley indicated SPI hosts parent nights where the school picks the topic, and they have also partnered with classes at Paiute's Centro de la Familia for health education programs.

Commissioner Weaver asked how they connect with children while they are in school during the day, besides during their lunchtime.

Ms. Tinsley indicated that SPI usually only pulls them out of classes during electives and sometimes during their 15-minute break after lunch and has a copy of each child's schedule.

Commissioner Erickson asked what grade level they start the peer mediation at, and how many staff members they have.

Ms. Tinsley indicated they start between fourth and fifth grade and they have 20 staff members.

Commissioner Erickson offered a suggestion that a series of 5 minute videos on various topics might work for both parents and children to check out.

Commissioner Bowers asked if SPI offers any classes on education for internet etiquette and cyber bullying while using sites like MySpace.com.

Ms. Tinsley indicated the school resource officers (SRO) at each middle school, address internet etiquette, and SPI staff also talks to elementary age children about this topic.

3. School Prevention Services Update-Community Bridges

Kristin Polin, Director of Community Programs, Community Bridges, Inc. provided a presentation on the services they provide in the Scottsdale Unified School District regarding drug and alcohol prevention and abuse. Ms. Polin indicated that the programs are designed to promote health and wellness in our community. Community Bridges offers school based programs at Pima Elementary, Hohokam Elementary, Kiva Elementary, Pueblo Elementary and Sierra Vista Academy. Ms. Polin talked about prevention support for students, key roles for the prevention specialists, parent academy and faculty training, Chemical Awareness Program (CAP), and community collaboration.

In addition, Kristin talked about the duplication of services between Community Bridges and SPI but that that was a function of the contract negotiated by the school district.

Connie James, Human Services Director reminded the Commission the City provides the school district money, and that the City does not design the services provided.

Chairwoman Reid asked if more prevention earlier on would help.

Ms. Polin indicated that the right programs are in place, but the problem is that there is not enough time allotted since the contract is for 6 hours per week.

Commissioner Erickson stated that she doesn't see any overall assessment happening in the district and thinks it's important.

Commissioner Bowers suggested that in order to reach more parents maybe they could focus on large employers and have learning lunches where a topic was covered.

4. School Gang and Violence Activity

Scottsdale Police Officers were not available to provide an update on gangs in Scottsdale and violence in the schools and the community. They had to attend to a call situation.

5. Intergovernmental Agreement with Scottsdale Unified School System Update

Hugh McGill, Human Services Manager of Youth and Family Services, gave an update on the agreement between the City of Scottsdale and the Scottsdale Unified School District. Mr. McGill informed the Commission that this agreement has gone through the City's Legal Department and will be voted on during the next commission meeting.

6. Human Services 2008/2009 Proposed Budget

Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner/Budget Specialist provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Human Services Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Project Requests. Included in her presentation were the dates, times and locations of the upcoming Special Budget meetings and also the three (3) public hearings on the budget and various ways the Commissioners could provide input if they so choose.

7. Conflict of Interest- HOME First Time Home Buyer Program

Justin Boyd, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator of the Community Assistance Office informed the Commission that Federal regulations establish conflict of interest provisions, prohibiting certain persons from obtaining a financial interest or benefiting from HOME funds. A part-time employee of the City of Scottsdale Police Department has applied for the First Time Homebuyer Program. The City Attorney's office has reviewed the request and has determined that a conflict of interest does not exist under state or local law. Public disclosure is required before HUD will consider a request for an exception to the conflict of interest regulations. Mr. Boyd reviewed pertinent information for the record as a condition of submitting the request to HUD.

8. Staff and Commission Updates

Ms. James reminded the Commission that the Vista del Camino Grand Opening is this Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 11:00 to 2:00pm. Dedications and the blessing of the building will be at 12:30pm, followed by Joan Barron, a local artist, doing the alley tile art project to commemorate the event. On April 1, 2008 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Human Services will have an open house to say good bye to Rita Koppinger, Human Services Manager at Vista del Camino. The next Human Services Commission meeting will be at the City Hall Kiva on April 10, 2008 at 5:00pm.

9. Open call to the Public (A.R.S. §38-431.02)

Chairwoman Reid made an open call to the public for comments/announcements or other business. There were no requests.

10. Adjournment

Chairwoman Reid called for a motion to conclude the meeting. Vice-chair Hemmingsen made the motion and Commissioner Weaver seconded that motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM.

This information is available in an alternate format upon request.

Note: In accordance with provision of the Arizona Revised Statutes, the summarized minutes of the Human Services Commission Meetings are not verbatim transcripts. Only the actions taken and discussion appearing with quotations marks are verbatim.

*Signatures needed when APPROVED by Commission

Officially approved by the Human Services Commission at the _____ meeting.

Submitted by:

**Jonathan Montoya
Administrative Secretary**

Reviewed by:

**Connie James
Human Services Director**

Date: _____

Date: _____