CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SUMMARIZED MINUTES
Thursday, October 13, 2016
City Hall Kiva
3839 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

PRESENT: Marty Day, Chair
Janice Eng, Commissioner
Josina Tishler, Commissioner
Denny Brown, Commissioner

ABSENT: Edmund Portnoy, Commissioner

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

GUESTS: Tracey Wilkinson, Police Crisis Intervention
Corie Billingsley, A New Leaf
Leslie Mar ‘Na, Catholic Charities
Alissa Heyer, Chrysalis

Call to Order
Chair Day called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call
Members present as noted above.
Chair Day noted that Donald Nordlund resigned his position on the Commission early in order to allow for the incoming Commissioner to participate in the entire funding process and not come in in the middle of the process. On behalf of the Commission, she thanked Mr. Nordlund for his service.

Mr. Bestgen thanked Mr. Nordlund for his years of valuable service to the City of Scottsdale.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2016

COMMISSIONER TISHLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ENG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER PORTNOY WAS ABSENT.

2. Open call to the Public

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

3. Election of Vice-Chair

CHAIR DAY NOMINATED JOSINA TISHLER FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED THE NOMINATION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER TISHLER ABSTAINED AND COMMISSIONER PORTNOY WAS ABSENT.

4. Domestic Violence: Service Providers Discussion

Joanne Meierdirks, Human Services Coordinator, mediated a panel discussion. Ms. Merierdirks announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She distributed the Paint Phoenix Purple flyer, which outlines Arizona Domestic Violence Statistics and information on raising awareness/intervention/prevention. She then read a newspaper article about the importance of domestic violence prevention.

Commission members posed questions to the panel. Panel members included:

Tracey Wilkinson, Crisis Intervention Supervisor for Scottsdale Police Department's Police Crisis Intervention Section
Corie Billingsley, Manager, A New Leaf Autumn House & East Valley Women's Shelter
Leslie Mar ‘Na, Senior Program Manager, Catholic Charities, My Sister's Place
Alissa Heyer, Coordinator, Chrysalis Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc (Transitional Housing)

Each panelist was given an opportunity to introduce their agency and discussed the current successes and challenges they are facing.
• How is the crisis hotline advertised?
Panel members explained that the crisis hotline is advertised through word of mouth, is provided by referring agencies, on the victim's rights form, by law enforcement officers; and on various websites.

• What are the current trends or challenges experienced by your organization when helping those experiencing domestic violence?
Panel members indicated that the biggest challenges of the target population include the new protocol to investigate strangulation injuries; increased police awareness of danger thanks to the newly implemented lethality assessment; and better coordination between agencies. Brief discussion occurred regarding police reporting, partnership with the adult probation department and PCIS involvement without a police report.

• What are the current trends or challenges experienced by your organization when helping those experiencing domestic violence?
Panel members indicated that the biggest challenges experienced by the population include lack of long-term transitional housing; a lack of affordable housing; meeting educational and employment goals; availability of affordable child care; and an increase of substance abuse; mental health issues; availability of services for those homeless who do not want to go to a shelter; and keeping schooling consistent for children in families experiencing homelessness. Discussion ensued regarding the ways in which the funding received from the City of Scottsdale is used and challenges that could be faced if that funding were to be lost or reduced.

• What would you identify as the greatest needs in meeting the needs of persons experiencing domestic violence?
Panel members indicated that the greatest needs that could be mediated by additional funding are emergency shelter; transitional housing; additional case managers; and an ability to have flexibility in funding use.

Panel members talked about the increase in staff training on same-sex relationships being seen as a result of the increased number of LGBT domestic violence situation; the process that is implemented when dealing with homeless couples and parents under the age of 18; domestic violence in teen dating; and domestic violence by teens towards authority figures such as parents.

Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Manager, explained that agencies are required to indicate a specific use of funding as part of their applications. If funding needs change, they are able to apply for a contract amendment. General flexible funding is not allowed under federal guidelines.

5. Staff and Commission Updates
Michelle Albanese, Community Assistance Manager, announced that 41 agencies attended the FY 2016/17 funding process applicant orientation held on September 28th. Funding proposals are due on Friday, November 11, 2016 by 4:30 p.m.
On Saturday, October 22, Paiute Neighborhood Center in collaboration with the National Charity League will be hosting the Annual Fall Festival from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, said that the final plans for the Paiute Neighborhood Center fence project have been completed and will be presented to the community during upcoming community meetings. Results of citizen input from the community meetings will be shared with the Human Services Commission.

The Scottsdale Farmer's Market will be opening its season on Saturday, October 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. "Senior Day" will offer cooking demonstrations and activities as well as trolley service from Granite Reef Senior Center one Saturday out of each month through March.

Community Assistance office staff members will be participating in the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29th.

Director Bestgen congratulated staff on the increase in Scottsdale Cares donations and thanked Justin Boyd for his efforts.

Commissioner Brown noted that on October 6th Vista Del Camino provided 14,900 pounds of food to SUSD families in need.

Chair Day noted the importance of informing the community about the needs of our citizens and the activities that are available through Community Services.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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