



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Meeting held electronically**

**PRESENT:** Chair Janice Eng, Vice-Chair Jayne Hubbard, Commissioners Ashley Blaine, Emily Reilly, and Andrew Song

**STAFF:** Greg Bestgen, Director; Human Services Specialist Alexandria DeLash, and Matthew Alexander; Mike Lopach, Homeless Outreach Supervisor; and Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Manager

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Eng announced that Cambria Bowman has resigned from the Commission, because she moved outside of Scottsdale.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Public Comment**

There were no members of the public who submitted public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2021

COMMISSIONER BLAINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 25, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, REILLY, AND SONG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. Youth and Family Services: Community Intervention Program**

Alexandria DeLash, LAC, Human Services Specialist, presented information regarding the Community Intervention Court (CIC), a specialized court program offered through Scottsdale City Court. The Community Intervention Court is a voluntary program that aids defendants who are experiencing homelessness or a mental health related issue. The program began in January of 2020 and is overseen by Presiding Judge Olcavage. She reviewed the intake process and compliancy requirements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, clients have been given the option to appear for hearings and meetings by phone or video chat in lieu of appearing in person.

Ms. DeLash noted that since inception, Community Intervention Court has had 135 cases referred to the program. Approximately 17 people have completed the program, with an average completion time of three months. Clients are expected to remain compliant and are removed from the program if they are non-compliant for 82 days. Currently, there are 49 active CIC cases with 20 active warrants. At this time approximately 69 clients have been removed from the process for non-compliance.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. DeLash explained that the most common reason for removal from the program is failure to stay in contact or to stay in compliance with their treatment plan. Clients are given multiple opportunities and are able to return to the program at a later time if they choose to. Approximately 80 percent of referrals have a mental health diagnosis. One part of the process is to help those individuals get treatment.

Commissioner Blaine suggested that information about the program be shared with CASS and Circle the City.

### **2. Youth and Family Services: Scottsdale City Court Programs**

Matthew Alexander, MA BHT, Human Services Specialist, presented information regarding the Scottsdale City Court referral-based justice support program and screenings for adults. His presentation included a brief history of the creation of the program. Referrals are received from both Scottsdale City Court and the City Prosecutor's Office. The program has been in operation for approximately four years and offers court ordered screenings; education; social services support; referrals to outside agencies for behavioral health services; assistance with DMV questions; home detention assistance; Mothers Against Drunk Driving classes; and assistance with applying for Medicaid or AHCCCS. The program operates under a cost recovery model, with program costs of between \$80 and \$100, paid by defendants. Offices are available at Scottsdale City Court and at Indian Bend Wash Visitor's Center.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many referrals were dropped, which prompted acceleration of an online alcohol and substance abuse education program that launched in March 2020. Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Alexander said that the pandemic created a situation where many non-profit organizations stopped accepting volunteers for court-ordered community service. Positions have been available through organizations such as food banks that have seen an increased need for volunteers and online non-profits offering opportunities for volunteers to write uplifting letters.

### **3. Brick by Brick Program Updates**

Mike Lopach, Homeless Outreach Supervisor, gave an update on homeless outreach activities and the Brick by Brick Scottsdale Works Program, which is working in partnership with Phoenix Rescue Mission. He shared a video depicting participants using the brick-making machine and described the brick making process. Participants consist of people experiencing homelessness, who receive breakfast, lunch, and \$60 compensation per day worked. The program started in December and has produced approximately 6,000 bricks, which equates to approximately 50 bricks per hour. Approximately 25 to 30 homeless persons have worked on the program.

Staff is working through the City Manager's office to identify project opportunities within the City's park system. Discussions are also underway with stakeholders across the Valley to build tiny homes. Mr. Lopach will provide additional information on those projects as information becomes available.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Lopach estimated that it would take approximately 1,500 bricks to build a 200 square foot tiny home. As the program expands to include volunteer groups, the number of bricks produced will increase substantially. The brick by brick program has been invited to partner with a local community to build three or four tiny homes in their community, but he is not at liberty to disclose additional information at this time.

Mr. Lopach said that in the future he hopes to create partnerships with organizations such as trade schools, that can provide services such as electrical, plumbing, and other engineering for the tiny homes at a reduced cost. Chair Eng suggested contacting Habitat for Humanity.

### **4. New Faces Day Relief Centers**

Bruce R. Johnson, D. Min., Pastor gave an update on the New Faces Day Relief Center. New Faces Day Relief Center is a Scottsdale Faith Community Collaborative that is partnering with Community Bridges, Inc., to provide persons experiencing homelessness with respite care, food, showers and laundry services, and wrap around/case management. The day relief centers have been in full operation for three months at two sites, Scottsdale Presbyterian Church on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He hopes that a third location can be opened next fiscal year. The program has seen 33 unduplicated clients so far and anticipates to see at least 60 unduplicated clients by the end of this calendar year. Efforts are being made to host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Johnson said that people are finding out about the program through word of mouth, through Phoenix Rescue Mission and through the faith community. Commissioner Blaine suggested providing area hospitals' case managers and behavioral health providers with information about the program.

Director Bestgen noted that Community Bridges provides extensive case management on site and maintains information about individuals and their interaction with other agencies. He can share statistical information with the Commission at a later date.

## **5. Senior Center Social Services Updates**

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Senior Center Manager, gave an update on the social services delivered through Granite Reef and Via Linda Senior Centers over the past year. His presentation included a review of program adjustments made because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on guidance from the CDC, the Governor's office, and leaders, the 2020 AARP tax program was cancelled. Staff focused on how to continue providing the meals programs and keeping in touch with seniors. Modifications were made to provide curbside services for both the congregate meals and brown bag program. Tempe Community Action Agency modified how they deliver the home delivered meals to accommodate social distancing protocols while maintaining contact with homebound seniors. Thanksgiving and Holiday meals were provided to over 350 seniors. CARES Act Emergency funds provided by the City assisted in purchasing lunches through a catering vendor and toiletries were able to be obtained to build toiletry care packs. Mr. Munoz-Villafane mentioned that the fire department sponsored restaurant lunches for 100 homebound seniors each Friday during the summer.

Mr. Munoz-Villafane said that the city was able to provide financial assistance with Scottsdale Community Partners funds, SRPMIC funds, and COVID funds. Funds were used for needs such as rent and mortgage assistance, utilities, and transportation vouchers.

Senior Centers, in partnership with Honor Health, hosted vaccine events for those 75 years of age and over on February 10th and March 3rd.

## **6. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER BLAINE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, AND SONG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES. COMMISSIONER REILLY WAS NOT PRESENT.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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