



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2022
Meeting held electronically**

PRESENT: Chair Raoul Zubia, Vice Chair Emily Reilly, Commission Members Jayne Hubbard, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Tricia Serlin, and Neal Shearer

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Manager; Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; Matthew Alexander, Case Worker; Alexandria DeLash, Interim Human Services Center Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zubia called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public submitted comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021

COMMISSIONER SHEARER MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, VICE-CHAIR REILLY, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, LURIE, SERLIN AND SHEARER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Human Services Commission Annual Report

Greg Bestgen, Director, reviewed the Human Services Commission draft annual report.

Commissioners commended Ms. Hollamby and her staff for the amazing work that they have done in addressing new challenges and managing new programs.

COMMISSIONER HUBBARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT. VICE-CHAIR REILLY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, VICE-CHAIR REILLY, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, LURIE, SERLIN AND SHEARER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Human Services Scottsdale City Court Programs

Matthew Alexander, Human Services Caseworker, gave a presentation on Human Services Court Screenings mandated by the Court. He reviewed the history of the program, which he initiated approximately five years ago. The Court started using the program when the contract that they had with local licensed behavioral health agencies was not renewed. Over the past year, as the Court reopened following the pandemic, referrals have returned and currently assessments are offered on a walk-in basis and by appointment. Screenings are available for alcohol/drug, domestic violence, anger management, and mental health. On average, approximately 120 screenings are conducted each month. Programs are also available for underage drinking, shoplifting, DUI, alcohol, and drug education. Referrals are received from the city of Scottsdale, MVD and police department. The City also partners with Tempe, Gilbert and Chandler in the East Valley Regional Veterans Court.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Alexander said that the averages screening takes about 30 minutes. He follows up with clients as they go through their treatment programs to assist them with meeting requirements. Mr. Alexander explained that programs are funded through a cost recovery structure. Funding for the programs comes from the participants and is competitively priced with other social services programs.

Alexandria DeLash, Interim Human Services Center Supervisor, presented the Community Intervention Court Program. Since January of 2020 Scottsdale City Court and Youth and Family Services have worked to improve the justice experience for the most vulnerable in the community. The Court recognizes that low level offenses are rooted in social circumstances such as homelessness, mental health issues, unemployment, and chemical dependency. The Community Intervention Court serves to bring resources into the judicial process to meet the defendant's needs where they are. The program works by serving as a liaison between the defendant and vital services, while communicating treatment progress to the courts during a monthly hearing. Adherence to treatment plans results in compliance. To date, 28 participants have successfully met case requirements and graduated from the program which typically has resulted in dismissal of charges.

Commissioners commended staff on developing a program that is not a typical service thought of when it comes to social service, but is vital to the community and has shown amazing results, including dismissals due to intervention.

3. FY 2022/23 CDBG, Scottsdale Cares, General Funds, Endowment Funds Orientation: Funds, Funding Process, and Proposal Review

Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor, provided an overview of the proposals received for the FY 2022/23 funding process for Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG), HOME, Scottsdale Cares, General Funds, and Endowment Funds and anticipated funding available. As part of the presentation, she reviewed blue sheet evaluations, spreadsheets, and the related requests.

Proposals were due electronically by 4:00 pm November 5, 2021, and responses to the Human Services staff evaluations were due in mid-December. Agencies have been requested to submit prerecorded three-minute presentations in lieu of in-person presentations. The video presentations will be presented on February 10th and February 24th and will provide a high-level overview of their business, why they submitted the project, the activity that they will provide, the number of unduplicated Scottsdale residents that will be served, and will discuss partner agencies participating in the activity.

Each agency is limited to submitting one electronic funding proposal per funding source. Scottsdale Cares requests cannot exceed 15 percent of the total funding amount available, which is \$22,500. General Funds requests cannot exceed 20 percent of the total funding amount available, which is \$40,000. The scoring system ranges from zero to three. Agencies not funded but requested funding in previous years will receive 2's; agencies funded in the preceding year will be scored based upon that year's performance; agencies that requested Scottsdale Cares and General Funds in the fiscal year are transitioning or transitioning to CDBG will receive a neutral score of 2. Agencies requesting funding for a new activity will receive a neutral score of 2. Any agency that fails to either submit a video or does not attend the Commission meeting on the 10th or 24th will receive zero points for their presentation. All agencies responded in a timely manner, but had they failed to respond to the Human Services evaluation or submitted their response after the December deadline they would have received a 10 point reduction. Any agency that fails to attend and present at the agency presentation will be disqualified from the funding process.

CDBG Public Services anticipated available funding is approximately \$179,000. \$48,765 was set aside for crime prevention and a total of eight proposals were received before the set aside.

CDBG non-Public Services and Housing Rehabilitation and public facility projects has an estimated available funding of \$726,000. Housing rehabilitation program set asides were approved at \$276,000 and the road improvement set aside was approved at \$501,000.

Twenty-one proposals totaling \$338,000 were received for Scottsdale Cares. Approximately \$150,000 is available for Scottsdale Cares activities, leaving a deficit of approximately \$188,038.

Eleven proposals requesting a total of \$385,396 were received for General Funds. Anticipated funding is approximately \$200,000, leaving a deficit of \$185,000.

Three proposals requesting a total of \$15,600 were received for Endowment Funds. This year's anticipated allocation is \$8,600, leaving a deficit of approximately \$7,000.

Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, provided training on utilizing the SharePoint website. The website includes all tools and information needed, including agency proposals, presentation videos, evaluation tools, guidelines, and previous fiscal year funding allocations. Commissioners have the ability to edit scoring sheets at any point prior to the March 3, 2022 deadline.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions during the presentation. Commissioner Hubbard said that in her experience, it is helpful to read through the materials prior to seeing the interviews. She commented that she felt that she learned more from watching the prerecorded videos last year than in prior years when interviews were done in person.

Mr. Beougher said that videos will be stopped at the three-minute mark no matter the length of the presentation and agency representatives will be available via ZOOM to answer questions.

4. Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2021 HOME Investment Partnership Program – American Rescue Plan, City of Scottsdale Allocation of \$1,442,098

Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor, solicited public testimony on the Fiscal Year 2021 Home Investment Partnerships Program-American Rescue Plan (ARP), City of Scottsdale allocation of \$1,442,098. She explained that funding may be used for activities that benefit qualified individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, at risk of housing instability, and cost burden, or other vulnerable populations. As a condition of receiving the federal funds, grantees must submit a consolidated plan or an annual action plan stating their intended uses. Funds must be used for development and support of affordable housing, tenant-based rental assistance, provision of supportive services, acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units, and administrative costs for administering the project. City of Scottsdale proposed uses for the funds are tenant-based rental assistance, partnership for non-congregate shelter, and supportive services. At this point, the funds are a one-time federal program and the City has the ability to expend funds through 2030. The funds will not be put out for people to propose uses for it. These dollars will fund Scottsdale Community Assistance Office programming.

Annual Action Plan adoption is expected to go before City Council in May or June of 2022. Staff will complete a plan on how the money will be best spent before presenting to Council. A follow-up presentation will be brought to the Human Services Commission within that same time frame.

5. Director's Report

Director Bestgen announced that Vania Torres is his new administrative assistant.

He commented that tonight's presentations are a good example of how things develop over time and that relationships are the catalyst for ingenuity. He offered kudos to past employees who contributed to the programs that are now in place and commended current employees for their contributions to the success of the department.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER HUBBARD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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