



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2023
Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice-Chair Mary Jung, Commissioners Jeff Jameson, Tricia Serlin, Roger Lurie, Patrick Dodds, and Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager; Jenny Mendoza, Administrative Assistant Supervisor; Angela Bravo-Gallagher, Human Services Center Supervisor; Sheila Williams, Human Services Caseworker; Chad Beougher, Community Development Supervisor; Rachel Smetana, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager; Community Grants Specialists Armando Olivares and Mario Alvarez; Sue Oh, Human Services Center Supervisor, Vania Torres; Staff Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2023

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR

SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Vista del Camino Center Updates

Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager, Jenny Mendoza, Administrative Assistant Supervisor, Angela Bravo-Gallagher, Human Services Center Supervisor, and Sheila Williams, Human Services Caseworker, presented updates on programs and services. Ms. Owens talked briefly about the importance of the Yaqui community in the establishing of Vista del Camino community center. Ms. Mendoza said that Vista del Camino's 50th anniversary celebration is scheduled for November 4, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Services available through the center include the food bank, emergency food boxes, SUSD food assistance program, bread program, health packs program, and pet food assistance. Through a recent partnership with Sprouts, the food bank is receiving approximately 3,000 pounds of fresh food a week.

Ms. Bravo-Gallagher gave an update on the social services program and partnership with Maricopa County to provide eviction prevention and utility assistance. She highlighted statistics over the past few years, noting that last year the primary federal program for low-income households that need assistance with utilities transitioned to DES. The center has transitioned the utility assistance program to LIHEAP navigation services. She talked about the emergency assistance program, which is scheduled to end in December. As of January 1, 2024, Maricopa County will be partnering with the center to roll out new funding that will be provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Ms. Bravo-Gallagher gave an overview of the Empowerment Pathway Program.

Ms. Williams gave an overview of the career services team responsibilities, services available through the Career Center, and job market trends and updates. She talked about difficulties in finding employment for a lot of job seekers and older individuals who wish to reenter the workforce. The Department is hoping to strengthen their dialogue with employers in hopes of finding ways to influence hiring opportunities.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Williams explained that people who are in need of help with job disputes are directed through the EOC process or the Industrial Commission, and sometimes encouraged to file a formal complaint with their corporation's Human Resources office. Community Legal Services is also available to consult with people in need of assistance with a job dispute. Ms. Bravo-Gallagher explained that the effects of the reduction between the ERA and the American Rescue Plan will not be clear until December. Director Bestgen said that the Department continues to consider other sources of funding, including working with groups such as Scottsdale Community Partners and is working to manage participant expectations of the amount of benefits they are able to receive. Ms. Bravo-Gallagher said that the root cause of problems continues to be complex socioeconomic issues, especially for those people who are on fixed incomes. Brief discussion ensued regarding perceptions about Scottsdale's homeless problem and educating the public about the number of people, primarily senior citizens, at risk of becoming homeless. Ms. Mendoza gave an overview of services available at the Day Relief Center, which is open two days a week.

3. Housing Rehabilitation Programs Updates

Armando Olivares and Mario Alvarez, Community Grants Specialists, provided an update on the Housing Rehabilitation Programs offered at the Community Assistance Office. Green Housing Rehabilitation Program provides cost effective, energy-efficient improvements to homes, provides funds to qualified homeowners as a deferred loan, with 50 percent of the loan being forgiven upon completion of repairs and 50 percent remaining as a lien on the home. The Roof Repair and Replacement Program is a grant program with a maximum amount of \$20,000 available for qualifying homeowners. The Emergency Repair Program is a grant program with a maximum \$10,000 per year made available to qualifying homeowners.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Olivares explained that the programs are marketed in utility billing, flyers, library presentations, and through word of mouth. Mr. Beougher said that social workers, code enforcement, and Operation Fix-It refer people to the programs. There was a time that signs were placed in yards, but participants were not in favor of neighbors knowing they were participating in a City program. Commissioners expressed interest in discussing how to effectively inform the public about resources offered by the City and utilizing community partner opportunities with contractors and vendors.

4. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Communication strategies
- Scottsdale Cares
- Funding process overview

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SERLIN, LURIE, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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