



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2025
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Roger Lurie, Vice Chair Mary Jung (telephonic), Commission Members Jeff Jameson, Neal Shearer, Patrick Dodds, and Stuart Turgel

ABSENT: Commissioner Lee Cooley

STAFF: Kira Peters, Human Services Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Manager; Traci Weis, Family Resource Center Supervisor; Jessica Rapp, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

Bodo Diehn spoke about the Waste Not program that was at one point available to Scottsdale citizens through Granite Reef Senior Center. He encouraged the City to look into bringing the program back to the senior center.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2025
COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2025, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL

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

2. Family Resource Center Update

Traci Weis, Family Resource Center Supervisor, provided an update on the Family Resource Center at Paiute Neighborhood Center, which provides services to support families, parents, caregivers, expectant mothers, and children from birth through age five. Her presentation included an overview of services that are available through the Paiute Social Services, Housing and Community Assistance, and Paiute's partner agencies; programs available through the City of Scottsdale, including the community services department, Scottsdale Fire Department, and Scottsdale Police Department's PAL program; and support and referrals that are available for families. Ms. Weis highlighted the programming available through Scottsdale Public Library, the partnerships with Child Crisis of Arizona and Head Start/Early Head Start, as well as parent and family activities and events.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Weis said that the Family Resource Center receives a \$250,000 First Things First grant, which includes her salary. The grant is for four years with an annual renewal. Discussion ensued regarding concern about the stability of First Things First, which is funded through cigarette taxes. It was noted that First Things First is looking for other sources of funding because of the drop in cigarette taxes that are coming in. Kira Peters, Human Services Director, gave assurance that if First Things First funding were to decrease, the City would find alternate funding options to continue the program.

3. Human Services Strategic Plan Presentation

Kira Peters, Human Services Director, presented the 2025-2028 Human Services Strategic Plan for Human Services Advisory Board Commission approval. The presentation included information on the goals, objectives, and strategies that will guide the department's work over the next three years.

Ms. Peters reviewed in detail the objectives and strategies for each of the following Strategic Plan goals:

1. Senior Services: Enhance and expand Senior Service programs and facilities.
2. Volunteerism: Create a Human Services-specific volunteer program.
3. Skilled Employees: Employ and maintain a highly skilled, motivated, and productive workforce.
4. Supportive Services for Vulnerable Populations: Collaborate with community partners to improve service for and the self-sufficiency of vulnerable populations.
5. Awareness: Increase awareness of Scottsdale Human Services Department.

Ms. Peters said that the plan will be continuously monitored and adjusted as needed. The Human Services Commission can expect to get regular updates and reports on the outcomes associated with the plan. The plan conclusion stated that the Scottsdale Human Services Department's Strategic Plan aims to enhance service delivery, senior services, volunteerism, support for vulnerable populations, along with investing in

employee development. By increasing awareness, investing in skilled employees, expanding senior programs, and collaborating with community partners to meet the needs of vulnerable residents, the department will provide “Simply Better Service for a World Class Community.”

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Peters said that strategic plans do not typically go to City Council for approval. The plan will be posted on the City’s website, and City Council members will be provided with a copy of the plan. Ms. Peters explained that outcomes will be measured through Human Services data on programs and participants benefiting from programs as well as through input from department managers about progress being made towards achieving each goal. Programs and services will be evaluated and retained or eliminated based on whether or not goals are being achieved.

Ms. Peters explained that the goal of Skilled Employees, maintaining a highly skilled, motivated, and productive workforce came about through the in-person focus groups with Human Services staff. The leadership team was provided with feedback on some of the perceived deficiencies in the department relative to staffing, including customer service training, employee turnover, and trust in leadership.

Commissioners suggested that they be involved along with managers in facilitating the plan, because Commissioner involvement could provide leverage to aid in moving initiatives along more effectively. Ms. Peters agreed and noted that once the plan is approved, the leadership team will convene to review and execute the tactics. Subcommittees within the department will likely be formed to address specific areas, and Commissioner involvement in the subcommittees would be welcomed to ensure successful implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of ongoing evaluation, program adaptation, and maintaining a focus on senior services. Commissioners stressed the importance of ensuring the funding process not only supports nonprofit partners, but also explores federal funding avenues to bolster City programs. They commented about the lack of emphasis on positive youth development, which is a funding priority. The importance of connecting the Strategic Plan with the overarching general plan for long-term validation and success was stressed.

Chair Lurie shared comments sent in by Commissioner Cooley.

Commissioners expressed admiration for the speed and scope of the plan’s development, thanked staff for addressing Commissioners’ funding-related feedback, and expressed a unanimous appreciation for the team’s dedication and commitment to ensuring the plan remains active and impactful.

COMMISSIONER SHEARER MOVED TO APPROVE THE HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN AS AMENDED, INCORPORATING COMMISSIONER INVOLVEMENT WITH STAFF SUBCOMMITTEES. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SHEARER, DODDS, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming agenda items include:

- Funding process

Chair Lurie reminded Commissioners that any questions for applicants need to be turned in to staff by January 30th.

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SHEARER, 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 6:12 p.m.

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