



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**
Regular Meeting – **MINUTES**
Thursday, March 27, 2025
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Roger Lurie, Vice-Chair Mary Jung, Commission Members Jeff Jameson, Neal Shearer, Patrick Dodds, Stuart Turgel, and Lee Cooley

STAFF: Kira Peters, Human Services Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Manager; Matthew Alexander, Human Services Case Worker; Taylor Wood, Human Services Case Worker; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager; Jessica Rapp, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 March 13, 2025

COMMISSIONER COOLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 13, 2025, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR

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

2. Youth and Family Services

Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, Youth and Family Services Manager, Matthew Alexander, Ma BHT, Youth and Family Services Human Services Case Worker, and Taylor Wood, Youth and Family Services Human Services Case Worker, presented information regarding their Scottsdale City Court and Scottsdale Police Department referral-based diversion, restorative justice programming for juveniles and justice support program, screenings, and psychoeducation for adults.

Ms. Hahn-McDonald highlighted the various programs and services offered by Youth and Family Services to support the community. The team operates out of two locations, the Indian Bend Wash Visitor Center and the Human Services offices at Scottsdale City Court, providing convenient access to resources for court-referred clients. Key services that are offered include adult court screenings and programs, juvenile restorative justice and diversion programs, a community intervention court, and short-term counseling, primarily for adolescents. They also oversee the Mayor's Youth Council and manage opioid settlement funds for prevention efforts through the Scottsdale Youth Substance Coalition. The Youth and Family Services Team consists of DeAnna Granado, who oversees adult and juvenile court programs; caseworkers Matthew Alexander, Taylor Wood, and Kelly Van Wave, who specialize in adult and juvenile programming; Deanne Meenan, who assists court visitors with navigating human services; and Mark Guemes, an MSW intern from Grand Canyon University.

Matthew Alexander provided background on his role at Family Services and insight into the Adult Court Program, which has been in place since 2017. The program conducts screenings for individuals guilty of misdemeanor offenses while recommending appropriate education or treatment programs, particularly for drug- and alcohol-related offenses, DUI cases, anger management, and domestic violence. He acknowledged the contributions of Alexandria Delash, who played a crucial role in program development, especially in designing educational programs such as the shoplifting workbook, which is currently being updated, and the underage drinking program. The program's referrals mainly come from Scottsdale City Court, the prosecutor's office, the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division, and private defense attorneys.

Mr. Alexander reviewed statistics for FY 2023/24, noting that the program provides significant support that is not always reflected in the data. He said that a significant development has been the expansion of their DUI education program. They currently offer a 16-hour virtual education course that has been successful, and they are developing a more intensive 20-hour treatment program focused on addressing addiction's root causes.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding Court-ordered screening and education. Mr. Alexander noted that there is a low recidivism rate among participants and that the screening statistics are primarily unduplicated. He said that the Court has designated four preferred domestic violence screening providers, which has led to a decline in cases that his office sees. The program continues to conduct assessments for prosecutor diversion cases and actively participates in domestic violence workgroups. Mr. Alexander said that during the pandemic, an online DUI education program was developed, offering classes to meet the

minimum 16 hours of education or 36 hours of treatment required by the Arizona Department of Health Services for alcohol and drug screenings. The 20-hour DUI treatment program is anticipated to be launched next year. Ms. Hahn-McDonald clarified that although it is a virtual program, participants are required to meet with case workers several times during the treatment modules. It was noted that the shoplifting program is being reworked in response to the increased number of cases. Mr. Alexander explained that clients are responsible for the costs of all screenings and programs. If a client has AHCCCS or Medicaid, he ensures that they are assigned to an agency that accepts those.

Ms. Wood provided an overview of the Juvenile Programs, including the Restorative Justice Intervention Program (RJIP) and the Juvenile Diversion Program. RJIP, established in 2016, serves as an alternative to arrest and court intervention for juveniles who commit certain offenses, allowing students to be referred directly by the police department with the agreement of all parties involved. Common offenses handled through RJIP include shoplifting, possession of substances, underage drinking, truancy, disorderly conduct, and criminal damage. Traffic violations are not eligible for the program. The program is a one-time opportunity, with each student receiving an individualized service plan. Once the program is completed, a report is sent to the police department, and the case is closed without a juvenile record.

The Juvenile Diversion Program applies to cases where an arrest has already been made and the court process has begun. This program typically requires a 90-day commitment, including community service and educational components tailored to the individual. Ms. Wood reviewed FY 2023/24 referral and trends statistics. A noticeable trend has been an increase in middle school students facing possession charges, particularly for marijuana products with higher THC levels. There is also a growing need for individualized education for younger participants, which has led to scheduling challenges due to high demand.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding Restorative Justice Intervention and Juvenile Diversion Programs. Ms. Wood explained that parents are required to attend the initial intake and exit appointments but are not required to be present for educational sessions. She noted an increase in marijuana-related offences, emphasizing the importance of educating students and parents on the differences between current THC levels and what was available in the past. Ms. Hahn-McDonald noted that the program charges a \$75 fee. She said there is concern about the increasing need for individual services, which affects staff's workload. A session-based fee structure for cases requiring more intensive, personalized intervention is being considered.

3. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Upcoming agenda items could include:

- Consolidated action plan and annual action plan presentation – April 10th
- A day in the life of City of Scottsdale case workers – April 10th
- Scottsdale Cares update – April 24th
- Funding process – April 24th
- Bridge Housing, homelessness, and heat relief – May 8th
- Arizona Housing Coalition presentation – May 22nd

Commissioners discussed scheduling a half-day tour to visit sites supporting unsheltered individuals in the community. Chair Lurie suggested May 12th, but a date was not agreed upon.

Kira Peters, Human Services Director, thanked Commissioners for attending the Via Linda Senior Center's 30th Anniversary celebration. She mentioned that Paiute Neighborhood Center will be hosting a spring event on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. Adjournment

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

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