



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting – **MINUTES**

Thursday, August 14, 2025

City Hall Kiva Forum

3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Roger Lurie, Vice-Chair Mary Jung, Commission Members Jeff Jameson, Neal Shearer, Lee Cooley (via MS Teams), Cynthia Hill, and Sheila Roe

**STAFF:** Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor; Jennifer Murphy, Operation Supervisor; Traci Weis, Family Resource Center Supervisor; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Manager; Jessica Rapp, Human Services Manager

**Call to Order**

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:00 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**

COMMISSIONER SHEARER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 24, 2025, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR 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, COOLEY, HILL, AND ROE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. Family Resource Center Update**

Traci Weis, Family Resource Center Supervisor, provided a presentation and update on the Family Resource Center (FRC). Her presentation included the history of the FRC, which was established in 2017 and is grant funded through First Things First to provide support to families with children from birth to the age of five. The FRC provides support including service referrals, economic support, healthcare, childcare, early education, community support, and an emergency pantry.

Ms. Weis gave an overview of the various workshops and family programs that the FRC provides in coordination with partners such as Child Crisis Arizona, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Scottsdale Unified School District, the Arizona Science Center, Scottsdale Library, and Cafecito parent support group. New partnerships are currently being developed with Wolf Trap and Compudopt, and a grant application for outdoor playground equipment is being prepared.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Weis said that the FRC is funded through a \$250,000 First Things First grant and is currently in year two of a four-year cycle. She explained that the MyPlate University of Arizona Cooperative Extension has lost its federal funding, and the program is being eliminated. She noted that the FRC will provide Scottsdale families with a new car seat and has certified car seat installers available to install both new or used car seats.

## **3. Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program update**

Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor, and Jennifer Murphy, Human Services Operation Supervisor, provided an update on the TBRA program. Mr. Beougher gave an overview of the program, which began in September of 2023 and provides tenant-based rental assistance and case management to seniors who are at or below 30 percent of average market income. The program is limited to a maximum of 15 participants and is limited by TBRA funding to two years of assistance. The initial intent was to act as a bridge for participants who have reached the two-year limit to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued guidance that the HCV program is no longer available for that purpose, so case workers are preparing participants to be self-sufficient when they reach the end of the program term.

Ms. Murphy reviewed case management services that are provided to TBRA participants. She said that caseworkers work with participants to develop individual plans, assist with budgeting, manage benefits, and access community resources. Case workers make quarterly visits to participants' homes and meet with them throughout the month as needed. Ms. Murphy shared several success stories.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Beougher explained that staff is waiting for further guidance from HUD regarding the transition out of the TBRA program. Case workers are preparing clients to have sustainable living once they transition out of the program. Staff will provide an update once additional information is available.

#### **4. Federal Public Benefits, Continuum of Care and Local Jurisdictions**

Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director, and Sue Oh, Human Services Manager, provided a presentation on federal public benefits, continuum of care, and local jurisdictions. Ms. Oh explained that Maricopa County Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community-wide initiative led by the Maricopa County Association of Governments (MAG) to end homelessness. MAG primarily uses data from the Point-in-Time count and the Homeless Management Information System to guide decisions. The City of Scottsdale contributes to and benefits from regional data collection and analysis, and it partners in joint initiatives and regional planning. CoC applies for grant funding on behalf of the City of Scottsdale and other participating jurisdictions.

Ms. Oh reviewed the CoC updates issued by MAG. As a result of a July 2025 reinterpretation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, agencies have announced policy changes regarding how the term "federal public benefit" is interpreted. As a result of the reinterpretation, immigration status checks may be required for individuals accessing shelters and other federal public benefits. City of Scottsdale homeless programs are not affected by this change. The City of Scottsdale legal department has directed Human Services staff to verify immigration status for other public benefits using federal funding. Ms. Oh said that HUD will be releasing the updated FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity for CoC programs.

Ms. Witkofski gave a detailed explanation of the difference between "appropriations" and "reconciliation" in relation to the Big Beautiful Bill. She continued with an overview of funding appropriations and the related MAG updates, highlighting the following bills:

- Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream, passed by the Senate on July 29, 2025.
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth, related to the McKinney-Vento Act. The Senate diverted and made a recommendation to increase funding.
- Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. Calls for HCVs to be made into a state block grant. The House is recommending removing HOME. The Senate is recommending a \$1.2 billion in HOME Investment Partnership funds.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski said that she will know more about how public housing programs will be affected once the House and Senate return from summer recess. The House and Senate expect the budget to be appropriated by September 30, 2025, and take effect on October 1, 2025. She noted that the current HCV program is funded on a calendar-year basis through December, and CDBG is funded on the fiscal year through June 30, 2026. Ms. Oh explained that the money used by the CAP office for rent and utility assistance comes from Maricopa County and does not flow through the CoC.

Ms. Witkofski said that those who wish to advocate to elected representatives could get more information by searching the One Big Beautiful Bill for keywords relating to programs of interest.

## **5. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Upcoming agenda items could include:

- Funding application presentations/FY 2024/25 accomplishments
- Funding process orientation
- Impacts of executive order regarding homeless encampments

## **6. Adjournment**

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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