



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting – **MINUTES**
Thursday, November 13, 2025
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Roger Lurie, Vice-Chair Lee Cooley, Commissioners Cynthia Hill, Jeff Jameson, and Neal Shearer (MS Teams)

ABSENT: Commissioners Mary Jung and Sheila Roe

STAFF: Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Jessica Rapp, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Jenny Mendoza, Human Services Supervisor; Liz Havenrich, Human Services Operations Supervisor

Call to Order

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

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

Approval of Minutes

Approve the October 23, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 23, 2025, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER HILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR COOLEY, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SHEARER, AND HILL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Vista del Camino Community Center Updates

Sue Oh, Human Services Manager, introduced the Vista del Camino supervisors.

Jenny Mendoza, Human Services Supervisor, provided an overview of the recreation programs and funding updates for Vista del Camino. Her presentation included an overview of social service contacts for FY 2024/25, including client intakes for those in need of either Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and wildfire utility assistance, information and referral contacts, community day relief services, the total number of social service contacts, transportation assistance programs, community day relief services, and the total number of hours for volunteers. She shared photographs of Community Program and Family Recreation Program activities.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Mendoza explained that under the Transportation Assistance Program, bus pass limits are determined by case managers based on the client's needs. During the last month, she continued, there has been a tremendous increase in phone calls. They have been able to meet the needs through various resources and have referred people to the food bank. Staff has not heard any comments about the Systemic Alien Verification for Entitlements posters that have been posted at centers. Ms. Mendoza said the food bank truck is currently in the process of getting insulation installed so that refrigerated foods can be transported. Ms. Oh confirmed that the Scottsdale Firefighters Association, Honor Health, and Blue Zone provided the funding for the food truck improvements. The Commission can expect to see a presentation on the Food Bank during its January meeting.

Liz Heavenrich, Human Services Operations Supervisor, provided information and funding updates for Scottsdale's Community Action Program (CAP). Her presentation included an overview of the CAP program, FY 2024/25 rent and mortgage assistance and utilities assistance statistics, as well as funds that have been allocated to the Housing Stability Rent Program, the Utility Assistance Program, and through the Arizona Department of Housing. She noted that case workers are responsible for reviewing applications and determining eligibility for funding.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Heavenrich said that the Maricopa County allocations have provided consistent funding for local funding since COVID-19. Local funding is more limited, so they do look at that spending in monthly or quarterly amounts. Ms. Heavenrich explained that the City has a higher income threshold than Maricopa County, so it is rare that people are over income for utility assistance. Case workers do contact the utility companies to negotiate more time for clients they are working with.

2. Scottsdale Senior Services Update

Human Services Managers Jessica Rapp and Eugenio Munoz-Villafane provided an update on senior services at Granite Reef Senior Center and Via Linda Senior Center.

Ms. Rapp reviewed programs at Granite Reef Senior Center. She talked about the pilot program that has been launched where Tempe Community Action Agency's Congregate Meal Program is using the Granite Reef kitchen to prepare meals. Numbers are up for the meal programs, and people have had positive comments about the fresher food. The Brown Bag Program was moved to the Food Bank on July 1, 2025, for more efficient operations. Seniors are able to drive through to pick up their food. A pilot program in partnership with Vista del Camino has begun, providing trolley service on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Ms. Rapp highlighted the collaboration with Scottsdale Library to manage Pony Express lockers for people to pick up books from lockers located outside the Granite Reef Senior Center entrance. The Library is also sponsoring monthly book discussion groups at both senior centers. Ms. Rapp gave an overview of other opportunities, including the Forever Fit Program, special events and recreation programming, Dementia Friendly Scottsdale, and the Vintage Voice Video Podcast.

Mr. Munoz-Villafane reviewed programs at Via Linda Senior Center. He said that the congregate meal program at Via Linda is more of a social program in collaboration with Area Agency on Aging. Annual activities that are shared by both senior centers include the Arts and Crafts Fair, the Annual Art Show scheduled for December 13th, and the Annual Senior Expo on February 8, 2026, at the Center for Performing Arts. He highlighted free tax services available through volunteers from Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Master of Coin, and AARP. Mr. Munoz-Villafane reviewed a list of social service grants that are available to seniors and talked about outreach that is being done in far north Scottsdale.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Munoz-Villafane explained that there is currently not a program for seniors to read to children, but next year there will be children's art activities available that could offer an opportunity for seniors to volunteer. He said information on all programs is available in the Senior Center's newsletter and through City website subscriptions. Commissioners expressed interest in reviving the reading program.

Ms. Rapp mentioned that she is working with City of Scottsdale departments to arrange for guest speakers to come to Bagels and Banter.

3. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lurie noted that the next meeting will be Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Adjournment

VICE-CHAIR COOLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER HILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR COOLEY, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, SHEARER, AND HILL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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