



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting – **MINUTES**

Thursday, January 22, 2026

City Hall Kiva Forum

3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Roger Lurie, Commission Members Mary Jung, Neal Shearer, Sheila Roe, and Cynthia Hill

**ABSENT:** Vice-Chair Lee Cooley

**STAFF:** Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director; Jessica Rapp, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Youth and Family Services Manager; Kelly Van Wave, Human Services Case Worker; Geoff Gerstel, Operations Supervisor; Julia Bautista, Human Services Representative; Kiley Hunter, Human Services Representative II

**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 the January 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**

COMMISSIONER ROE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2026, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, COMMISSIONERS JUNG, SHEARER, HILL, AND ROE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 1. **Youth and Family Services Behavioral Health: Opioid Settlement Funds Strategic Plan and Scottsdale Youth Substance Abuse Coalition Efforts**

Kelly VanWave, Human Services Case Worker, provided information on the efforts of the Scottsdale Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (SYSAC) in the community. She noted that the youth-led initiative was made possible with the support of Youth and Family Services. The SYSAC is comprised of Scottsdale teens who are working together to educate and empower their peers, creating a strong and healthy community through substance abuse awareness, prevention, and advocacy. Ms. VanWave reviewed the history of SYSAC, which was founded in 2024, by a Scottsdale high school senior who brought forward the idea of involving youth in substance abuse prevention efforts, providing youth-influenced education and support while advocating for a healthier community. She highlighted recent marketing efforts.

Siddhant Gupta, Desert Mountain High School junior and president of SYSAC, expanded on the marketing efforts and partnering opportunities. He gave an overview of SYSAC prevention and education events, highlighting additional details associated with the following events:

- International Overdose Awareness Day
- Red Ribbon Week
- Escape the Vape and Beyond
- Take Down Tobacco Day

Mr. Gupta noted that in 2025, SYSAC brought forward a petition to update the City's smoking ordinance to include prohibition of the use of vape pens and electronic cigarettes in all public places, as well as in places of employment in Scottsdale. Students worked with the Scottsdale City Manager, the City Attorney, and public health organizations to strengthen language before presenting the final draft to the City Council for final approval in September of 2025.

Mr. Gupta talked about SYSAC's youth leadership opportunities. He said that involvement in SYSAC offers youth participants experience in public speaking and leadership development through experience and involvement with local government, community leaders, and professionals.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Gupta explained that SYSAC worked with City Council Members who brought the initiative prohibiting the use of smoking, vape pens, and electronic cigarettes near playgrounds, but they were not directly involved with the creation of the ordinance.

Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Youth and Family Services Manager, provided information regarding the most recent efforts to develop a strategic plan for the usage of One AZ Opioid Settlement funds. Her presentation included review of the history of how opioid settlement funds came about, noting that Scottsdale received initial funds in September of 2022. Arizona jurisdictions agreed to distribute the funds based on the population affected and the severity of harm caused by opioid misuse. Arizona is expected to receive over \$1 billion between 2022 and 2040, with Scottsdale receiving four percent of Maricopa County's approximately \$526 Million.

Ms. Hahn-McDonald presented findings from the Arizona youth survey and the three focus group sessions held with both internal and external groups. She anticipated that a second

student survey will be distributed to high school students next year. She said Scottsdale has participated in the Arizona Drug Summit, community outreach events, behavioral health education, and the Scottsdale Youth Community Coalition. To date, dollars received have helped to fund Phoenix Rescue Mission's day relief centers and five navigators, as well as addressing safety needs by increasing police presence at Visa del Camino.

Scottsdale has put in place a strategic plan and process to plan the expenditure of those funds. Ms. Hahn-McDonald reviewed the four goals of the plan:

- Primary Prevention
- Treatment and Recovery
- Connection to Care
- Leadership and Coordination

As part of the strategic plan process, LeCroy and Milligan Associates issued a report outlining 16 strategic goals and proposed actions associated with each goal.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Hahn-McDonald responded that Scottsdale has utilized approximately \$90,000 of the over \$3 million received. Ms. Witkofski noted that Scottsdale anticipates receiving approximately \$15.6 million over a period of 18 years.

Commissioners stressed that they are in an advisory role to the City Council and would like to be engaged in the decision making related to the One AZ Opioid Settlement funds.

## **2. Special Programs Update**

Geoff Gerstel, Granite Reef Senior Center Operations Supervisor, introduced Human Services Representative IIs Julia Bautista and Kiley Hunter. Ms. Hunter gave an update on the Adopt-a-Senior holiday programs and Beat-the-Heat 2025 program, including benefits of each program and statistics related to the amount of donations and number of participants. Ms. Bautista gave an update on the Adopt-a-Family and Back to School 2025 programs, including statistics related to the number of donations, participants, and program volunteers.

Chair Lurie encouraged Commissioners to volunteer for Special Programs.

## **3. Director's Report**

Interim Director Witkofski provided an update on activities in the Human Services Department. Her presentation highlighted the following items:

- Via Linda Senior Center
  - Annual New Year's Eve Bash
- Upcoming Senior Events
  - All Things Senior Expo and Tradeshow, February 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts
  - Third Annual Scottsdale Dementia Friendly Resource Fair, Tuesday, March 31, 2026.
- Vista del Camino

- Family Fridays: Winter Movie Night, January 9, 2026; Sprinkle Spectacular, January 23, 2026
- Free Tutoring Program: free homework help and academic support for students grades 2 through 8 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting on January 14th
- Elks Club donation of \$10,000 to Scottsdale Community Partners for a refrigerated truck
- Paiute Neighborhood Center
  - Movies at Paiute: Friday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. and Friday March 13th at 6:00 p.m.
  - Scottsdale Firefighters' Association donation of \$5,000 to Partners for Paiute
- Scottsdale Cares Update
  - City Council approved Ordinance 4699 on January 13, 2026, which will go into effect on July 1, 2026
  - Staff will participate in Parada del Sol on January 31
- Helping H.U.B. (Helping, Uplift, Build)
  - Program Overview and Objectives, located at Scottsdale Civic Center Library on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Federal Funding Update
  - Vista del Camino Community Action Program, supported by three federal grants
  - Housing and Community Assistance Office, supported by four federal grants
  - Review of programs, including funding status, risk level, staff-supported, FY 2025/26 funding status. and key implications for each
- Helping H.U.B. (Helping, Uplift, Build)
  - Program Overview and Objectives, located at Scottsdale Civic Center Library on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - Road to Housing Act and Housing Act of the 21st Century

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

Chair Lurie noted that Commissioners' questions about grants are due by January 30, and scores are due on February 19.

There were no future agenda items identified.

#### **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER ROE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, COMMISSIONERS JUNG, SHEARER, 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 6:40 p.m.

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