



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting – **MINUTES**

Thursday, April 9, 2026

City Hall Kiva Forum

3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Roger Lurie, Vice-Chair Lee Cooley, Commissioners Mary Jung, Cynthia Hill, Neal Shearer, Sheila Roe, and Carlee Shexnayder

STAFF: Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director; Gayle Bass, Public Information Officer; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor

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.

Approval of Minutes

Approve the March 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER ROE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 26, 2026, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER JUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR COOLEY, COMMISSIONERS HILL, JUNG, ROE, SHEARER, AND SHEXNAYDER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Scottsdale Cares Communication Strategy

Chair Lurie noted that the City Council recently approved an increase to Scottsdale Care from \$1 a month to \$2 a month, enabling the City to provide services to more vulnerable residents.

Public Information Officer Gayle Bass conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Agenda; Scottsdale Cares Impact; Ordinance 4699; and Scottsdale Cares Campaign/Communication Strategy.

Commissioner Shearer spoke about his passion for the program, which was created when he was the Human Services Director. This increase is intended to keep up with inflation. He pointed out that no administrative costs are taken from the \$2 monthly fee; all of it goes directly to nonprofit organizations. He expressed gratitude to staff, the City Council, and the communications team. He hoped this campaign would result in an increase in household participation. He noted that the Human Services Advisory Commission rigorously reviews all potential participating nonprofit organizations.

Commissioner Roe commented that she has no option to increase her monthly payment when paying online, and she hoped part of the campaign would be to educate people on how to do so. Ms. Bass said she would communicate that both with her team and the Information Technology team. Responding to Commissioner questions, Community Assistance Manager Mary Witkofski indicated that anyone currently paying the \$1 will see that fee automatically increase to \$2 unless they opt out.

In response to additional questions, Ms. Bass responded that staff is considering asking people who have participated in the program to share testimonials, along with having discussions with Commissioner Shearer about how the program impacts people's lives. Chair Lurie suggested exploring the potential for matching donations. Ms. Witkofski added that donations can be made by check to the City of Scottsdale with a memo specifying that the funds are only for Scottsdale Cares. She described the process staff follows to process donations.

Ms. Bass stated all elements of the campaign will begin on May 1. Commissioner Shearer thought there were additional opportunities to generate funds beyond the utility bill program, referencing the large number of places that allow customers to round up their payments to be donated to organizations. Regarding utility customers who choose to opt out of the program, Ms. Bass did not believe they would have the ability to continuing paying \$1 each month, but they can choose to make recurring payments on the website if they wish.

Several Board members briefly spoke about their satisfaction at knowing the types of organizations that receive funding through the utility bill program.

2. Rental Initiatives Supporting Education (R.I.S.E.)

Interim Human Services Director Mary Witkofski, Housing Supervisor Chad Beougher, and Human Services Manager Sue Oh conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Program Overview; Funding Source – HCV Model; Nonprofit Procurement & Program Administration (2 slides); Program Administration & Partnerships; and Performance Measures.

Ms. Witkofski noted that adults over 18 can be eligible for the R.I.S.E. program provided they are enrolled in school. She said the \$725,171 allocated for rental subsidies will fund approximately 25 families over two years. Participants need to be below 50 percent of the area median income in order to qualify for the program, and they will be required to pay between 30 and 40 percent of their adjusted income toward rent, with the remainder of the rent costs subsidized through the program. The goal for the program is self-sufficiency.

Mr. Beougher indicated that no bids were received by the request for proposal deadline, so it was extended for three weeks, and staff planned to reach out to organizations who do this sort of work. The evaluation team, he continued, consists of himself, a participant from the Police Crisis Unit, and one from Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD). He noted that 2030 was the deadline for expenditures. Ms. Oh described some of the responsibilities that will be handled by the nonprofit agency awarded the contract with respect to screening, case management support, and how they will work with the program's key partners.

The Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. In response, Ms. Oh stated that as of the last update, there are 83 students in SUSD identified with McKinney-Vento, though she did not know their ages. Ms. Witkosfki stated that the \$1.4 million grant amount is one-time funding and will no longer exist once expended. She said the City of Scottsdale, as a member of the Maricopa County Home Consortium, received this funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. It was originally allocated for a different project that did not move forward, and this project was identified in a partnership with SUSD.

Vice-Chair Cooley expressed frustration that there were no bids. If no bids are submitted, Ms. Witkosfki explained, the scope of work would need to be amended to utilize the funds in a way that benefits the community. The nonprofit organization selected needs to be strong in managing federal funds and have previous tenant-based rental assistance experience, though it would be up to the agency whether they wanted to subcontract any of the work. Tenant-based rental assistance is labor intensive, she pointed out, and staff is at maximum capacity. She preferred that the program be managed by a nonprofit organization, and she listed several with relevant experience who the City has contacted. It was her goal to expend the funds by 2030 to help families in the Scottsdale area. She said landlords would enter into agreements in order to be guaranteed the rental assistance funds. She noted there are more than 175 participating landlords in Scottsdale, so the major issue is getting a nonprofit organization to run the program.

3. Identification of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were suggested.

4. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER SHEARER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR COOLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR COOLEY, COMMISSIONERS HILL, JUNG, ROE, SHEARER, AND SHEXNAYDER 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.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.