



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
City Hall Kiva Forum  
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Neal Shearer, Vice Chair Tricia Serlin, Commission Members, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Patrick Dodds, Mary Jung, and Stuart Turgel

**STAFF:** Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; Jennifer Crane, Community Grants Specialist; Vania Torres, Administrative Secretary; Rachel Smetana, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Mike Lopach Human Services Center Supervisor

**Call to Order**

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 1:00 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**

Approve the regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9, 2023, HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSIDENTING VOTES.

**2. FY 2023/24 Scottsdale Cares Video Presentations for Aid to Adoption for Special Kids, Review, and Application Question and Answer Session**

Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Office Manager and Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, provided FY 2023/2024 Scottsdale Cares Video presentation for Aid to Adoption for Special Kids.

**Scottsdale Cares**

One non-profit agencies presented their requests for Scottsdale Cares funds. The agency that submitted video presentations and their representative was as follows:

- Aid to Adoption of Special Kids (AASK); Kinship Support Teams – Josie Gaieck

Following the video presentation, Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the agency.

**3. FY 2023/2024 Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and Endowment Funds Video Presentations, Reviews, Applicant Question and Answer Session**

Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Office Manager and Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, provided the FY 2023/2024 Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and Endowment Video Presentations.

**CDBG Housing**

Vice-Chair Serlin recused herself from presentations and all future discussions regarding Ability 360 and ARM of Save the Family Foundation of Arizona.

Two non-profit agencies presented their requests for CDBG Housing funds. The agencies that submitted video presentations and their representatives were as follows:

- Ability 360, Home Modifications – Darrel Christenson
- ARM of Save the Family Foundation of Arizona – Home Purchase – Allisia Fiorini

**CDBG Public Services**

Fifteen non-profit agencies presented their requests for CDBG Public Services funds. The agencies that submitted video presentations and their representatives were as follows:

- A New Leaf, Men's Homeless Shelter – Kathy Dilvolfi
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ), Youth Mentoring Program – Debbie Smith
- Catholic Charities Shelter Services, DV/Vet Shelters – Christina Faulkhauser
- Community Bridges, Inc., Day Relief Center – Maria Wildey

- Central Arizona Shelter Services, Inc, (CASS), Shelter and Services for Scottsdale Residents Experiencing Homelessness – Lisa Glow
- Chrysalis Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Transitional Housing – Patricia Klahr
- Duet: Partners in Health & Aging, Homebound Adults – Ann Wheat
- Elaine, Inc., Transportation Assistance – Eric Barr
- Family Promise – Greater Phoenix, Homeless Family Shelter – Ted Taylor
- Florence Crittenton, Shelter 12-18 – Amy Holstein
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS), Senior Counseling – Alexis Smith-Schallenberger
- McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Expedition Days on the Road – Melanie Tluezec
- Phoenix Rescue Mission, Homeless Navigation – Jussane Goodman
- Save the Family's (FACES), Homeless Family Case Management – Lisa Lopez
- Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. (STARS), DDD Employment – Michael Barry

### Endowment

Two non-profit agencies presented their requests for Endowment funds. The agencies that submitted video presentations and their representatives were as follows:

- Arizona Burn Foundation, Burn Prevention Education, Smoke Alarms, and Deaf Alarms – Christina Cornils
- McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Expedition Days Live STEM Lessons – Melanie Tluezec

### SRPMIC

Two non-profit agencies presented their requests for Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) funding. The agencies that submitted video presentations and their representatives were as follows:

- Area Agency on Aging, Region One, North Scottsdale Home Delivered Meals – Cindy Saverino
- Tempe Community Action Agency, South Scottsdale Home Delivered Meals – Juliet Armstrong-Starkey

Following the video presentations, Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of each agency. Vice-Chair Serlin recused herself for questions related to Ability 360 and ARM of Save the Family Foundation.

Videos will be available for Commissioners to reference as desired.

## **4. Landlord Engagement Initiative Update**

Christopher Groesbeck, Landlord Liaison, provided a presentation on the Landlord Engagement Initiative for the Scottsdale Housing Authority, giving details of efforts that have been taken over the past year to increase rental opportunities for Scottsdale

housing voucher participants. He reviewed problem areas that are being addressed and the core values of landlord engagement. Key indicators of the success the program is seeing is that in a period of less than a year there has been an increase in landlord participation, housing stability, and program satisfaction. To date, the incentive program has brought an increase in landlord participation of 71 new units added, 28 new landlord partners, and 43 units added by current landlords. The goal for the fiscal year is to reach 100 new units.

Mr. Groesbeck stressed that continued program success will depend upon funding, increased exposure within the community, and defining a brand. The current budget uses General Fund dollars to pay the \$1000 incentive for new leases and the additional \$500 to emergency security comes from CDBG funds. A next step will be to create a plan to secure funding to incentivize landlord partners to stay on the program. Mr. Groesbeck talked about marketing efforts and defining a brand/logo; using ambassadors to further the affordable housing initiatives; and using survey instruments to gain an understanding of landlord needs. The three-year goal is to increase the number of available units by 92 units per year.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Brief discussion ensued regarding incentives and how much social responsibility influences landlords to participate in the program. Ms. Witkofski explained that currently there is \$55,000 set aside in the general fund for the remainder of the fiscal year. A decision package for additional funds was submitted through the budget process for the next fiscal year, but it did not move forward.

Mr. Bestgen briefly talked about recent developments in the City's budget process that could affect the amount of General Funds available moving forward.

Commissioners expressed an interest in having a presentation in March so they can better understand the dilemma and take the opportunity to advocate for the prudent expenditure of General Funds as it relates to Human Services dollars.

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

There were no future agenda items suggested.

## **6. Adjournment**

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

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