



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2022
Paiute Neighborhood Center Bldg. 9
6535 E. Osborn Rd.
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, Human Services Director; Mary Witkofski, Interim Housing Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Rachel Smetana, Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Managers; Jennifer Murphy, Human Services Center Supervisor; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; and Vania Torres, Human Services Administrative Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 October 27, 2022

VICE-CHAIR SERLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 27, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS AND JUNG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER TURGEL ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Senior Social Services Updates

Eugenio Munoz-Villafane MSW, Human Services Manager-Senior Services and Jennifer Murphy MSW, Human Services Center Supervisor, provided an update on Social Services currently offered at Via Linda and Granite Reef Senior Centers. Ms. Murphy talked about services available for senior clients through each of the centers. These include assistance with advanced directives; housing assistance; transportation resource; legal resources; benefits assistance; assistance with Social Security; and food resources. She noted that senior center program funding includes dental grants up to \$1,500 for low-income seniors (previously funded by CARES funds and now through SRPMIC); moving grants up to \$500; emergency rent assistance; bridge rental assistance. She noted that the Utility Assistance program is operated in partnership with Scottsdale Community Partners and is funded through the Home Energy Assistance Fund (HEAF) and is in addition to LIHEAP assistance. Additional assistance programs include the Brown Bag program, emergency food boxes for seniors, and the Medi-Loan closet which offers low-cost medical equipment rental.

Mr. Munoz-Villafane explained that the Brown Bag program is made possible in part through partnership with Honor Health Food Bank, Scottsdale Community Partners, and St. Mary's Food Bank. Additionally, emergency food boxes provided by Vista del Camino are available for emergency home visits. The rental programs are partly funded with funds from Scottsdale Community Partners. In addition to assisting low-income people, the rental program will take cases on merit for those who normally can pay rent and bills but have run into a circumstance of losing a job or not receiving regular benefits. Director Bestgen added that St. Vincent DePaul is another resource for emergency housing assistance.

Ms. Murphy reviewed details of special programs, including the Beat-the-Heat summer program, Adopt-a-Senior holiday program, and low-income Scottsdale seniors and adults with disabilities. Mr. Munoz-Villafane gave an overview of current trends, focusing on people experiencing Post-Covid isolation; an increased need for financial assistance; increased need for case management; and the need for affordable and attainable housing for seniors.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation. Discussion ensued regarding gaps in program funding and unmet needs. Director Bestgen noted that Mike Murphy will be giving a detailed presentation about funding statistics during an upcoming Human Services Commission meeting.

Ms. Murphy shared details of a recent case that exemplifies some of the extreme situations that Human Services staff address on a daily basis.

3. Scottsdale Cares Marketing Plan

Mary Witkofski, Interim Housing Manager, updated the commission on recent discussions regarding possible changes to the Scottsdale Cares Utility Bill program. The Human Services department was recently informed that the Scottsdale Cares logo is not in line with the City's branding. The Human Services leadership team will get feedback from the Commission and work with the Communications department to develop a new logo and will reconsider marketing options for Scottsdale Cares. Ms. Witkofski noted that

Scottsdale Cares is currently generating approximately \$9,600 per month and there is approximately \$220,000 currently in the fund.

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, noted that one reason that the fund has not been generating as much as it did in the past, is because the matching funds agreement with the Arizona Republic expired in 2010. The City marketing team will be updating the website and helping to develop a program to market various Human Services programs and installing a more user-friendly donation system. The City is planning to phase out of PayPal and start using a merchant services approach for all programs.

4. Human Services Capital Improvement Projects

Director Bestgen updated the Commission on Paiute Neighborhood Center and Via Linda Senior Center Bond Projects. He encouraged Commissioners to watch the November 21, 2022 City Council meeting where they will be revisiting the various 2019 bond and capital improvement projects. He anticipates that Council will reprioritize projects based on rising costs for materials. The human services programs that are part of the consideration include the Via Linda Senior Center expansion and the Paiute Neighborhood Center expansion. He noted that the staff report is available for review on the City's website.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Marketing and communications
- Update on programs and people served

5. Adjournment

VICE-CHAIR SERLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. 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 DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

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