

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Rockville City Hall**

Members Present:

Shelagh Van Saanen, At-large Member, Chair	Laurie Gira, Caregiver Member
Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member	Joel Nantais, At-large Member
Julie Pelletier, At-large Member	Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member
Eric Wang, At-large Member	

Members Absent:

Joyce Lipman, Consumer Member	Deborah Moore, Consumer Member
Denise Thomas, Caregiver Member	

Staff Present: Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, HSAC Staff Liaison
Sarah Dickinson, Community Services Program Analyst

Guests Present: None

Re: Call Meeting to Order

Shelagh Van Saanen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Re: Community Forum

No discussion.

Re: Approve December 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, moved that the November minutes be approved, and Julie Pelletier, At-large Member, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Re: Guest Speaker: Jackie DeCarlo, Chief Executive Officer, Manna Food Center

Jackie introduced herself and informed the commission that Manna is partially funded by the City of Rockville. Manna served approximately 32,000 people in Montgomery County last year and coordinates food recovery and pickup. As part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the organization will be coordinating food drives at Giant Food stores.

While Montgomery County does not have designated food deserts, transportation is a challenge for many clients. To respond to this community need, Manna responded by creating a pop-up mobile food pantry, named “Manny.” A further need was identified for a commercial kitchen to host cooking classes and demonstrations. These programs align with recommendations made to Manna by a recent agency evaluation suggesting a slight organizational shift to providing more nutrition education in their clients’ communities. A grant from the Community Foundation allowed for the purchase of a bus, and children’s instruction is provided using the Common Threads curriculum. In its function as a pop-up pantry, the bus will go to senior apartments and

community events, which will provide opportunities for further outreach. Beall, Meadow Hall, and Twinbrook Elementary Schools have invited Manny to host events for students.

Manna formulated a strategic plan for 2017-2020 focusing on being recipient-centered and data-driven. The strategic plan focused on serving the right people in the right places with the right products and the right partnerships. The planning process found that some areas are being adequately served by other organizations and allowed for a higher degree of targeting for areas in need. Manna saw 30-40% growth rate at the height of the recession, which entailed some degree of sacrifice on the focus of high-quality, healthy food and welcoming spaces in an effort to meet the spiking need. In recent years, fewer clients have been using Manna's services, and staff are calling past clients who did not access services this holiday season to discover any perceived barriers. Some clients have responded that transportation is a barrier, but the survey process is still underway. Manna will be piloting delivery to senior households this year to residents of 80 years and above using volunteers.

Manna's strategic plan entails outcomes such as having a presence in vulnerable neighborhoods and providing programming for those populations. Manna is experimenting with school-based pantries, and an associated outcome would include establishing a pantry in partnership with a school and/or Linkages to Learning. Barriers include limited staff time and suitable spaces for food storage. Eric Wang, At-large Member, expressed concern that canned foods contain an unhealthily high level of sodium, and Jackie responded that food boxes meet USDA requirements, and the organization does request low-sodium foods from donors. Carlos added that Manna has worked to customize food boxes to clients' dietary needs.

Re: Guest Speaker: Trish Evans, Villages Coordinator, Senior Services, City of Rockville

Trish started working for the City a year ago in a new position of Villages Coordinator. Villages are neighbor-to-neighbor support networks, and the Village Movement started 15 years ago in Massachusetts. Villages are not governed by any government entity, and each is individualized with different scopes to meet its community's needs. Trish has been going to neighborhoods and community events to inform residents about the village concepts. There are currently four villages in the process of formation in Rockville, including one in Twinbrook involving young adults and seniors. From a Rockville perspective, the city can support villages by allotting some staff support through Trish and the Senior Center, and by providing community center space and other logistical resources. King Farm's village has been in existence for two years and has 501(c)(3) status, and the West End neighborhood has a village currently covering four streets that may expand. The Rockville Area Villages Exchange (RAVE) is a new organization whose mission is to support villages, including eventually providing funding and informational resources as a complement to Trish's position. Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, informed Trish that his neighborhood in Rockshire has a small village of eight households on one street which partner for snow removal, mail retrieval, etc. Villages have communicated through Nextdoor.com and listservs to coordinate neighbors. Trish invited commission members to a wine and cheese Villages event on January 23 at 4:30pm at Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Community Services Division Report

Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, provided the following updates regarding the Community Services Division:

- The *Rockville Holiday Drive* concluded successfully, and service figures are included in the commission's monthly report. The city passed along about 200 leftover toys to A Wider Circle and more to a Linkages to Learning school in Gaithersburg. The Toy Shop went extremely smoothly thanks to great volunteers.
- Mariella Correal, Community Services Outreach Worker, coordinated a tour of the *George Washington University* campus for the participants of the Latino Youth Development Program including a basketball game. The high school participants were extremely engaged and asked informed questions about the college process. Mariella is planning another trip to the Universities at Shady Grove, and the program obtained Chromebooks for students to complete homework during the after-school component of the program.

Re: FY 2019 City of Rockville Budget Process

The City Manager's proposed budget will be issued on February 26, public hearings are scheduled for March 19 and April 9, and the public record will close on April 13. The caregiver grants will be in their second of two years in FY 2019, and there is a proposed increase which will be made public in the City Manager's budget and will be subject to approval by the Mayor and Council. The Human Services Advisory Commission has traditionally provided testimony to the Mayor and Council during the budget process to advocate for human services funding. Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, recommended that the commission discuss at the February or March meeting the content of testimony and which commission member would present it.

Re: FY 2019 Caregiver Grants

Discussed in "FY 2019 City of Rockville Budget Process" above.

Re: Rockville 2040 Open House Meetings

Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, distributed information regarding upcoming Rockville 2040 strategic plan open houses planned for the coming months. These meetings provide an effective avenue for residents to express their views on the future of Rockville, including as it relates to human services.

Re: Old Business

- **Rockville Holiday Drive:** Discussed in "Community Service Division Report" above.
- **Caregiver Task Force:** The Mayor and Council's decision on the final composition of the task force has been rescheduled to January 22 due to inclement weather.
- **Montgomery County Budget:** The County Executive instituted a cost-savings plan for FY 2018, and the Department of Health and Human Services is basing cuts on elimination of personnel costs. Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, offered to send the commission the County Executive's memo regarding planned cuts and eliminations for FY 2018.

Re: Other Items

Shelagh Van Saanen, Chairperson and At-large Member, asked whether the Rockville Police Chief could be asked to speak at a commission meeting, and Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, suggested that an invitation be deferred until the position is filled permanently.

Re: Plan Agenda for February 13, 2018 Meeting

- *Guest Speaker:* Diane Beaver, Vocation Director, Cornerstone Montgomery
- Advocacy for human services requirements for Rockville real estate developers
- Content of human services testimony to Mayor and Council

Re: Adjourn

Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member, moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.