

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES DRAFT
April 12, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex**

Members Present:

Wanneh Dixon, At-large Member and Chair	Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member	Lauren Lehman, At-large Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member	

Members Absent:

Wesley Hickens, At-large Member	Amanda Schwartz, At-Large Member
Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member	

Mayor and Council Liaison Present: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

RE: Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Chair, Wanneh Dixon, and was recorded

RE: Community Forum

None.

RE: Approval of Minutes from March 8, 2022

Because there was not a forum, these minutes will be addressed at next meeting.

RE: Community Services Report

Ms. Granger shared that school-based services, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning continue to be busy. Mentoring will begin its Horticulture-KIDZ program later this month in which there are two garden plots at Wootton Mills Park for the students to plant and harvest vegetables. As well the mentees have a soccer team with the COR Dept. of Rec. Latino Youth Development students started their soccer season as well, with SAM Soccer in Germantown. Also, LYD Program Coordinator is recruiting a few more high school students and middle school students, mostly from JWMS. Counseling caseloads continue to be full, with a waitlist for Richard Montgomery HS. Ms. Granger shared that MCPS is hiring social workers for the high schools and that there is already a social worker at Wootton HS and one at Rockville HS, which has taken care of waiting lists at those schools. Hopefully the two COR therapists will have room for more Richard Montgomery HS students.

Ms. Granger also shared that the County Council wants to have Wellness Centers in every high school and is starting this year with at least a family case manager and a therapist in some high schools. RHS will have a full time case manager and therapist expansion, which will free up some of the hours currently used at RHS for RMHS. Ms. Granger shared that ultimately the Wellness Centers will have a nurse practitioner and other nursing assistance, a family case manager, a therapist and a site coordinator. The therapist is to be able to bill for billable services, i.e. for Medicaid clients. COR therapist cannot do that, which will be addressed when the Rockville HSs are outfitted to have Wellness Centers and/or SCYS contract is modified with that change. Linkages to Learning still has a 16 hour vacancy for mental health therapist. REAP continues to not get many referrals due to the County's work with Covid rent relief, however, with the moratorium on rent increases in the City having expired, more people are in need of assistance. Finally, a Housing Policy Analyst has been hired in the Department of Housing and Community Development and will start soon.

RE: City of Rockville FY23 Budget and ARPA Updates

Ms. Granger shared that Bank on Rockville will be discussed on April 25, 2022 M&C meeting when the budget is addressed in fine detail and ultimately balanced. At that time, the Needs Assessment will be addressed again and CM Pierzchala will request that it be funded, since a one time only expense. If DHHS budget for expansion of SCYS services in RHS is approved by County Executive, then 1.8 FTEs will be added to HCD, fully funded by DHHS. Electronic client record keeping system will be purchased with surplus funds from FY22. Tax Duplication funding from the County has doubled per legislation passed by County Council. That funding will be given to COR over a few years and will go into the General Fund. There is no specific project earmarked for that funding. CM Pierzchala encouraged HSAC to have someone testify during Community Forum on April 25th on the Needs Assessment. He also shared that this is the wishful thinking phase of budget process in that many hope their requests make the cut in balancing the budget.

RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update

Ms. Granger shared that site visits to all caregivers are almost done and that it is amazing the work that each does. FY23 recommendations from grants panel to City Manager are still in City Manager's Proposed FY23 budget and are expected to be approved by Mayor and Council. Ms. Granger asked that the Caregiver Grant Program application process be added to next month's agenda so that the Caregiver Funding Task Force recommendations may be addressed, again, and a plan considered for implementing parts of it, in addition to what has already been implemented (grant portal and simplification of application). Questions were asked about what recommendations are still to be considered to which Ms. Granger answered that changing the timeline such that the City Manager recommends only the total amount to Mayor and Council, not how much each applicant is funded, thereby moving the application approval and funding consideration to the Grant Panel and staff. Also, who is the grant panel may be discussed—members appointed as are commission members and/or HCD staff with input from HSAC and Caregiver Coalition (which will begin again in late summer). A two year grant cycle is another recommendation, which is a more complicated consideration due

to its impact on Finance Dept. Recommendations may be implemented in phases as Ms. Granger's predecessor had presented to Mayor and Council.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Granger will email to HSAC the background material from Caregiver Funding Task Force and HCD to review again before next month's meeting.

RE: Discussion on Feedback from M&C on HSAC items at March 7 and April 4 M&C Mtgs. And Budget Hearings (Mental Health, Needs Assessment, Caregivers, Bank on Rockville) Ms. Dixon reviewed the feedback from Mayor and Council as did CM Pierzchala. Commissioners shared that encouraged by impact HSAC has had. CM Pierzchala acknowledged that Stacey Gold's written testimony was received and put in brief book since she was skipped in oral testimony on April 4th. Several caregivers testified at April 4th meeting, included four from Community Reach and CEO from Interfaith Works.

RE: Testimony to M&C Dates for testimony

All shared that testimonies were good and heard and contributed to HSAC's making an impact at M&C meetings. Ms. Dixon apologized for her not testifying at last two meetings as she had planned.

ACTION ITEM: In email to HSAC members, Ms. Granger will add that it is encouraged by commissioners and CM Pierzchala that someone testify during Community Forum or with written testimony on the Needs Assessment as a last effort to get it into the FY23 or ARPA budget.

Testimony for HSAC has to be approved through voting by HSAC members, so allow enough time for that when preparing to testify.

- **Testimony Calendar (Budget hearings are in bold)**
 - December 20th Community Forum (3 min): Bank on Rockville, Lauren Lehman
 - **March 7th Budget Hearing (5 min):** mental health in City schools, Amanda Schwartz
 - **March 7th Budget Forum (5 min)** Needs Assessment, Deborah Moore
 - **March 21st Budget Hearing (5 min):** Caregivers 1% Amanda
 - March 28th Community Forum (3 min)
 - **April 4th Budget Hearing (5 min):** Leon, Stacey
 - April 25th Community Forum (3 min) – Needs Assessment?
 - May 2nd Community Forum (3 min)
 - May 9th Community Forum (3 min)
 - May 16th Community Forum (3min)
 - May 23rd Community Forum (3 min)
- **Possible Topics for Testimony:**
 - Needs Assessment
 - Bank on Rockville
 - More mental health services
 - Caregiver additional funding, 1%
 - More affordable housing
 - Rent and utility assistance
 - Caregiver Funding Task Force recommendations
 - Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs excludes water utility assistance from their program that provides an ongoing electric/gas utility subsidy for low-income household-
 - on this one, M&C write to State?

RE: Location of HSAC meetings

Members present decided that best to have next month's meeting virtual with the uncertainty right now of some indoor mask mandates' being reinstated. Every month, this can be on agenda to address. Ultimately,

group can decide to stay virtual or do a hybrid meeting at City Hall. Could meet outside in warmer weather as well.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Granger will put in email to members that this is the plan right now.

RE: Rockville and Ukraine

Ms. Granger shared that there are blue and yellow lights at the Rockville buildings. As well, with support from the County, HCD can help newly arrived immigrants from Ukraine. CM Pierzchala shared that it is hard to know what a municipality would do as it is the County that is in charge of safety net services. It was noted that with current immigration policy and that there is no embassy for Ukrainians to arrange for a Visa, that not many Ukrainians would have gotten to the US at this point. Several shared about groups who are helping Ukraine:

- NNIA (New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (Montgomery and PG Counties), which started with Afghan refugees
- Ukrainetakeshelter.com to help house Ukrainians as if you were an Air B&B.

RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)

- Delay of student loans
- Juvenile Justice Reform bill at state level will pass
- Interrogation bill at state level will likely pass, that children should have parent/guardian present to be interrogated.

RE: Other Items

- Boot Camp idea for SSL hours will be discussed next month when more people here
- All will try to recruit new member, with goal to have full Commission by July. Prospective members may come to a meeting. Here is link for Expression of Interest if someone already knows they want to join. CM Pierzchala said he would try to expedite the approval and appointment of new members with M&C. <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/592/Join-a-Board-or-Commission>.
- ACTION ITEM: Ms. Granger will email Caregivers to ask if any Consumers might be interested, or others for At-Large positions.

RE: Agenda items for next meeting, May 10th, 2022, Virtual

- Usual report items: Community Services, Caregivers, ARPA, FY23 budget
- Caregiver Funding Task Force recommendations
- SSL Credit Spring Break Boot Camp
- HSAC Goals refresher
- Vacancies
- Future meetings
- Federal Legislation
- Other Items

RE: Adjourn

Ms. Moore motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Gold seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourned at 7:47pm