

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 14, 2022**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex**

**Members Present:**

Wanneh Dixon, At-large Member and Chair

Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member

Deborah Moore, Consumer Member

Wesley Hickens, At-large Member

Lauren Lehman, At-large Member

Amanda Schwartz, At-Large Member

Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member

**Members Absent:**

Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member

**Mayor and Council Liaison:** Councilmember Mark Pierzchala was not present

**Staff Present:** Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

**Guests who are interested in joining:** Ann Hamlin, Community Reach of Montgomery County, Camille Knoll, community member and former nurse

**RE: Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by Chair, Wanneh Dixon, and was recorded

**RE: Community Forum**

Ann Hamlin attended again as did Camille Knoll.

**RE: Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2022**

Minutes approved with first motion by Mr. Suskin and seconded by Ms. Schwartz, all approved.

**RE: Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2022**

There was not a quorum at April 12, 2022 meeting, so nothing was voted upon. However, decided to have minutes approved as a meeting did occur. Minutes approved with first motion by Ms. Moore and seconded by Ms. Ms. Sushinsky, all approved.

**RE: Community Services Report**

Ms. Granger shared that school-based services, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning are soon to end their school year programming. Mentoring continues its Horticulture-KIDZ into the summer with weekly visits. They will do summer enrichment and therapeutic recreation in the summer after summer school in July, including volleyball, basketball and another sport. Latino Youth Development students finished their soccer season. They have three high school graduates who will attend Montgomery College. They will have an everyday half day soccer and community service camp over the summer. New high school and middle school students will attend. Counseling caseloads

continue to be full, with a waitlist for Richard Montgomery HS. Ms. Granger shared again 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, who have checked in on waiting lists at those schools. Ms. Granger also shared that the County Council wants to have Wellness Centers in every high school. Until the Wellness Centers are built out to include somatic health, through SCYS contracts with DHHS, of which the City of Rockville has one for Rockville schools, a family case manager, a positive youth development specialist and a therapist in every high school that does not already have a Wellness Center. Linkages to Learning still has a 16-hour vacancy for mental health therapist. They will have a therapeutic rec camp, transition group for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, a nutrition group for families and a camp later in summer for Maryvale ES students. REAP continues to not get many referrals due to the County's work with Covid rent relief. County has launched phase 4 of Covid rent relief. May is Mental Health Awareness Month that Mayor and Council proclaimed at a meeting earlier in May. LTL had daily messages in morning announcements as well as a Friday event in which students were encouraged to wear green and have their photo taken with greet accessory items such as glasses, boas, etc. Finally, the Newcomer program has no staff still. Ms. Granger interviewed one and reviewed a few resumes. No suitable candidates yet.

#### **RE: City of Rockville FY23 Budget and ARPA Updates**

Ms. Granger shared that FY23 budget has been adopted and that the following are funded through budget or through ARPA funding: Bank on Rockville, Needs Assessment, and additional \$60K for Caregivers.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will share vendors with Ms. Schwartz to see if all the main vendors are included. Ms. Granger will ask Ms. Powell about timeline for Bank on Rockville.

#### **RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update**

Ms. Granger will share with the FY23 grantees their allocation for FY23. There is a new contract, to make the contract more legally binding. Mayor and Council will have to approve contracts before they are presented to Caregivers, which will happen in July.

#### **RE: Revisit HSAC Goals FY22-FY23**

Ms. Dixon shared the goals. Ms. Moore emphasized the need for training, to know the reasoning behind the Open Meetings Act for Maryland, and ethics requirement for Boards and Commissions. Ms. Granger shared that a partial FTE for a grant writer, a 0.5 for a volunteer coordinator for Boards and Commissions and a full time FTE for a Diversity Equity and Inclusion employee have been added for FY23 and that the Diversity Equity and Inclusion person s starting very soon. Training is a priority for Boards and Commissions in FY23. HSAC also wants to pursue having students on the HSAC even as a learning opportunity. Mr. Suskin offered to take HSAC brochures to schools and to talk to classes about this opportunity.

#### **RE: Caregiver Funding Task Force Recommendations**

Ms. Granger shared details about her and her director's discussion about the Application Review Panel's being only staff to take burden off volunteers, and for staff to review their

recommendations with the HSAC since the services are human services. Ms. Granger discussed the burden of reviewing needs assessments and other data that provide information that includes social determinants of health, human rights and dignity, and determining scopes of work. Staff would do that and be the review panel and they would then present that to HSAC along with their recommendations. The grant cycle would be two years and the City Manager and Mayor and Council would approve only the lump sum for the Grant Program and have the authority to withdraw or add funds in the middle of the two year cycle. Ms. Granger had provided the attached information for review before this HSAC meeting. HSAC was open to human service staff's being part of the panel and doing the needs assessment and data research but wants to have community members on panel as well. They suggested HSAC members, community members, and those who work or volunteer on the front lines. Ms. Schwartz said that Federal Review of grants is much like this—reviewers are recruited while application is out. There is a background section of application along with response to scope of service need and a section on evaluation criteria. Comment were made that Needs Assessment will change who gets funding and for what scope of service. Determining the need based on research can also provide HSAC and Mayor and Council data for advocating at the County and State level for what is needed. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will take the recommendation of HSAC to have community members on the Application Review Panel still, with staff being on panel and doing the research need on needs and scope of service.

**Testimony to M&C Dates for testimony**

- June 27<sup>th</sup>
- July 11<sup>th</sup>
- July 18<sup>th</sup> Ms. Schwartz will testify on mental health

**RE: SSL Hours for Spring Break Boot Camp (Amanda Schwartz)**

Ms. Schwartz shared about Wash, DC's having teens learn about emergency preparedness during spring break and that they could then teach it to others. This is something that could involve nonprofits and multiple City departments, i.e. Community Reach and the City's Rec and Parks, Housing and Community Development.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will bring to next meeting the City (and County) Departments that could be involved in this.

**RE: Location of HSAC meetings and Recruitment**

Meetings will be decided month to month. Due to increase in COVID cases, meeting for July will be virtual. Ideas floated were that could meet twice a year in person and rest virtual as are effective virtually.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will put in email to members that this is the plan right now. And, Ms. Granger will ask caregivers, faith groups for help to recruit consumer members.

**RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)**

Ms. Schwartz shared that it is effective for members to advocate in other states for family and friends to support gun violence and mental health bill at Federal level as well as mental health and suicide prevention. In Maryland, there is a gun storage bill.

**RE: Other Items**

Ms. Dixon announced that she is moving this summer and that July will be her last meeting. The members need to select a new chair. Please let Wanneh know if you would like to be chair so that HSAC can vote at next meeting.

**RE: Agenda items for next meeting, September 13, 2022, Virtual**

- Usual report items: Community Services, Caregivers, HSAC goals, testimony update
- Vacancies
- Budget updates
- Future meetings
- Federal Legislation
- Other Items

**RE: Adjourn**

Ms. Moore motioned to adjourn at, and Ms. Schwartz seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:20pm