

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

June 21, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present:

Jessica Peterson, Consumer Member
Camille Kroll, At Large Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member
Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member

Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member (30m late)
Ricky Mui, At-large Member
Amanda Schwartz, At Large Member and
Chair

Members Absent:

Wesley Hicken, At Large Member
Tal Shahr, At Large Member
Leah White, At Large Member

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

RE: Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Amanda Schwartz, Chair

RE: Community Forum

None

RE: Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2023

Minutes as is approved unanimously.

RE: Rockville Rainbow Youth Alliance

Dr. Peterson invited Genevieve Diamond to do a presentation on inclusion for HSAC. The slides are attached. Some highlights from the presentation:

- LGBTQ youth are the largest group by far to try and/or succeed at suicide (55% vs 37%)
- Trevor Project, a 2021 survey
- Call me by my name
- RYA is a program of social justice in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville.
- Other churches who support LGBTQ community are congregation specific
- School often feels safer than home to some youth, however, many incidences of microaggression, bullying, abuse, assault, and sexual assault happen within school buildings and too often, adults in the building turn a blind eye.
- A solution is training and better oversight
- City offers gender specific activities which should be addressed

- HSAC could work with Education, Police, Recreation and Parks, commissions on this violence against the LGBTQ community.
- Resources should be available before and after something happens.
- How LGBTQ community is treated and has access to human services could be part of Needs Assessment being conducted in the City soon – systemic look at how people feel within and how inclusive is environment – what policy change is needed.
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Ms. Granger will add to Needs Assessment, address gendered activities under her supervision.
 - CM Pierzchala will address city-wide gendered activities, i.e. with Rec and Parks.
 - HSAC will include this in collaborative work with other commissions, i.e. Education, Human Rights, Rec and Parks, Police Advisory.

RE: Annual Report on HSAC Debrief (Amanda Schwartz)

Ms. Schwartz reviewed her presentation to Mayor and Council on June 5 of HSAC annual report. M&C impressed—liked that HSAC has roundtables, encouraged work with other commissions, supports the Coalition for Nonviolence and spoke of new Mental Health person, Beth Loftus, with Rockville Police, as possible presenter to HSAC. Supports need for mental health and mentioned an app done by a student that is like Meet Up for teens to combat social isolation.

RE: Community Services Report

Ms. Granger shared highlights from her Community Services written report that she had sent to the HSAC members. Summer programming will begin soon. A common theme among teachers, staff and school-based providers is that children missed the structure, routine and socialization provided in the school setting and as a result lack respect for each other and suffer with regard to social skills. Therefore, mentoring is needed. A question was asked about the Newcomer Program for which Community Services was never able to hire. This rendered a suggestion that job openings be part of HSAC agenda. Ms. Granger shared that this program, fully funded by the County, was give back to the county because Rockville could not provide fulltime benefited opportunities for qualified candidates so, they went elsewhere. There is a general shortage of human service providers, especially bilingual.

RE: City of Rockville FY24 Budgets and ARPA Updates

- In FY24, HCD will add, from other arenas, \$30,000 to the Needs Assessment so that \$113,000 will be full amount. This will afford a consultant’s being able to provide the entire scope in the RFP.
- Bank on Rockville is continuing.
- Ms. Granger shared about the City’s Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds for FY23 and FY24 and over the next 18 years. There are specific areas in which funds may be spent, i.e. education, intervention, awareness. Rockville Goes Purple will be funded by this. HSAC asked if workforce development, including training, for substance use and mental health treatment sector could be funded by way of scholarships and tech grants. The needs assessment could include substance use and treatment needs of community, which ties into mental health needs as well. It was also asked if recovery housing could be

included. With the central point of entry for homeless services, the county does an acuity screening to determine needs. So, substance use and suffering from that and from mental illness are considered with regard to living independently or with supports. A diagnosis has to exist. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will look into recovery housing being funded by Opioid Litigation Funds

RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update

Caregivers are doing well. For FY24, grant agreements are being drawn up and will go out soon.

RE: Testimony to M&C

Topics include affordable housing, mental health, food insecurity, homelessness, support of LGBTQ+

- July 17 – Tal Shahar?
- July 31 – Rick Mui?
- Aug 7 – Camille Kroll

RE: Caregiver Coalition and Salute to Nonprofits

Ms. Granger shared that Special Events suggested that Salute to Nonprofits be held as part of MLK event. For MLK, planners are wanting more nonprofits. Nonprofits could have a table and/or activity for residents to see/do. HSAC likes this idea. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will talk to HRC Staff Liaison, Tyree Davis IV, about this. As well, nonprofits may have tables at National Night Out locations in Rockville, Aug 1. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will talk to points of contact for each location to find out if there is an opportunity for resource/outreach tables.

RE: Roundtable Discussions

Ideas for future Roundtables include Beth Loftus, Mental Health for Rockville Police, HUD, recovery and mental health supportive housing. For July, we will Beth Loftus, Mental Health Specialist with Rockville Police Department.

RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)

Legislative standstill currently. Support for education initiatives. Colorado Sit In generated interest in being replicated. News talking about 28th Amendment. Ms. Granger presented HR3405, the Federal legislation on HUD funds being available for housing for those wanting substance use recovery etc. Some are against it because it seems contrary to the Housing First model. HSAC discussed some and raised that people could choose such rather than being told you have to go through treatment before being housed.

RE: Other Items

- Leon Suskin announced that he has resigned from HSAC. His life has become very busy and what he wanted to see accomplished through HSAC has been: The Caregiver Funding Task Force and the Needs Assessment.
- Chair, Ms. Schwartz, shared that accomplishing HSAC's FY24 goals, i.e. collaborating with other commissions and working on the Coalition for Nonviolence, require all of HSAC to be proactively involved. She encouraged all to consider what they want to take on. Subcommittees could be formed as well. FYI, non-commission members may be part of a subcommittee. Goals are:

1. Testimony every other month
 2. Collaboration with other Boards, Committees and Commissions
 3. Training
 4. Needs Assessment and Survey
 5. Caregiver Application Review Panel and support
 6. Equity and Social Justice in all we do
 7. Health and Mental Health
 8. Outreach
 9. Coalition for Nonviolence
- Hybrid meetings to be considered to start in the fall, after August break (no HSAC in August) ACTION ITEM: Ms. Granger will identify space for such.

RE: Agenda items for next meeting, June 21st, 2023, Virtual

- Usual report items: Forum, Minutes, Community Services, Caregivers, budget update, testimony update, Federal Legislation, job openings, space for hybrid meetings in fall
- Roundtable: For July, Beth Loftus, Mental Health Specialist with Rockville Police Department
- Salute to NonProfits/Community Health Fairs
- Needs Assessment

RE: Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; unanimous vote to adjourn at 7:47pm.