

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

July 12, 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

Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member
Lauren Lehman, At-large Member
Amanda Schwartz, At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member
Wesley Hickens, At-large Member

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala was present

Staff Present: Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

Guests who are interested in joining: Camille Knoll, community member and former nurse

RE: Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:44pm by Chair, Wanneh Dixon, and was recorded

RE: Community Forum

Camille Knoll attended

CM Pierzchala shared a few items at this time:

1. The Council of Governments presented at the June 27th Mayor and Council meeting about housing. Since the great recession of 2008-10, housing stock has not kept up with demand, so, housing prices are high, driving many out of Rockville. CM Pierzchala shared the link for the recording of the June 27th meeting and encouraged members to watch it. <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/06272022-6634>, see Packet page 18
2. CM Pierzchala recommended a book by Jennie Shuetz, Fixer Upper, How to Repair America's Broken Housing Systems
3. Three Rockville residents will be nominated by Mayor at next meeting for HSAC, Ricky Mui (at-large), Tal Shahr (Consumer, which is incorrect. She is a caregiver), and Leah White (at large).

Members asked about Camille Kroll and Anne Hamlin who have been attending meetings. CM Pierzchala asked Ms. Granger to email him the names and he will ask the City Clerk about them.

RE: Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2022

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

RE: Community Services Report

Ms. Granger shared that school-based services, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning all have started summer programming. Mentoring continues its Horticulture-KIDZ into the summer with weekly visits. They are doing summer enrichment and therapeutic recreation after summer school in July, with a field trip every Wednesday. Latino Youth Development students have soccer camp every day with lunch, Mon-Thurs. There are several middle schoolers who joined. One member who graduated is a paid coach and two are volunteering. One rising junior is helping as well. They were excited to be included in the inauguration of permanent soccer goals installed at Maryvale Park, where they practice. They were part of ribbon cutting ceremony at which CM Ashton spoke. Linkages to Learning has several summer activities. They just finished a 5th grade transition group at which they had the students watch the movie Wonder and discussed bullying and being bullied. The SCYS expansion into the high schools will be staffed by Sheppard Pratt because the City of Rockville would be unable to get staff in place by the beginning of the school year. The need to have a new scope of service to the SCYS contract with DHHS requires the Mayor and Council to approve and that could not be done until September. The current City SCYS staff will collaborate with the Sheppard Pratt staff and will move out of the high schools and into the middle schools once Sheppard Pratt moves in. REAP continues to not get many referrals due to the County's work with Covid rent relief.

RE: City of Rockville FY23 Budget and ARPA Updates

Ms. Granger shared that at last evening's Mayor and Council meeting that the ARPA funds for Bank on Rockville and the Needs Assessment were included in a budget amendment for the FY23 budget and submitted as a consent item. This was approved. Ms. Granger shared that Bank on Rockville is scheduled to receive clients in December/January if Ms. Powell is able to get a social work intern to help her. If not, then she will continue to work on it on her own. RFP for the Needs Assessment is almost ready to be published.

RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update

Ms. Granger shared that the contracts for caregivers are new and will be presented at the next Mayor and Council meeting on July 18th for consent. The caregivers have seen them. After July 18th, we will receive signed contracts from caregivers and begin drawing up purchase orders for them that are retroactive to July 1st, 2022.

RE: Caregiver Funding Task Force Recommendations

Ms. Granger shared details about her discussion with her director about the Application Review Panel consisting of only staff to take burden off volunteers, and for staff to review their recommendations with the HSAC because the focus is 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 work and serve as the review panel. Then they would present summarized information to the HSAC along with their recommendations. The grant cycle would be two years with the City Manager, Mayor, and Council approving only the lump sum for the Grant Program. They would also have the authority to withdraw or add funds in the middle of the two year cycle.

Building on previous discussion, the HSAC was again open to human service staff's being part of the panel including summarizing the needs assessment and data research. Yet, HSAC members indicated wanting to have community members on panel as well. They suggested HSAC members, community members, and those who work or volunteer on the front lines. They shared that they understand that having a process that includes studying the need, developing a scope of service, integrating HSAC input, and then matching the scopes of service with the best applicants is straight-forward, technical, and easily done by staff. Yet, HSAC members also indicated a need for a human touch and a moral compass. It was also stated that Rockville prides itself on being resident centric. They also shared that the review panel process helps HSAC members learn about human services within the city with panel membership assisting in better appreciating and understanding resident needs and service providers. Additionally, they repeated their desire to have consumers on the panel, with one saying that having a consumer on the panel may be awkward when deciding on funds that may not go in the consumer's favor with regard to funding services that the consumer uses.

Members also reminded each other that integrating this requirement into the review process would be an obligation for each HSAC member which has been difficult. It was suggested that it should be a requirement of HSAC members to serve at least once on the panel in a three-year HSAC term. When asked, Ms. Granger said again that the goal is to make the process efficient and to take the burden off of volunteers. HSAC agreed that staff could do the research and even provide summaries of the applications to other members of the panel. Ms. Schwartz shared that during Federal Reviews, panelists must read full applications including at least a hundred pages of applicant information. Ms. Granger shared that she values this input and will take this back to Department Director. She also shared that she would communicate via email and would have information on the process at next HSAC meeting in September. Additionally, she shared that the plans for Caregiver Grant Application Process would be presented at Oct 3 Mayor and Council meeting.

RE: Testimony to M&C Dates for testimony

- July 18th Ms. Schwartz will testify on mental health
- September 12
- September 19
- October 3
- October 10
- October 17

RE: Elect a New Chair

Ms. Dixon and CM Pierzchala shared about the role of the Chair and of Boards and Commissions in Rockville. Ms. Schwartz nominated herself and was voted in unanimously.

RE: Location of HSAC meetings and Recruitment

Location of meetings will be decided month to month. The next meeting will be on September 13th.

With regard to recruitment, Mr. Suskin shared that he is working with a consumer with hopes that that person will want to join HSAC.

RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)

Ms. Schwartz shared that the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program is going to expire now that five years is up unless a legislator “uses policy levers” to renew it. Legislators are consumed with Jan 6th hearings. Ms. Dixon shared a link about this <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/programs/home-visiting/maternal-infant-early-childhood-home-visiting-miechv-program>. This program has been funded with different Acts, most recently the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Schwartz also shared that she spoke with a staffer from Representative Raskin’s office who said that they addressed need for mental health in gun violence bill, which, Ms. Schwartz and others agreed is not enough. All agreed that mental illness should not be presented in connection with gun violence because many who suffer with mental illness are not violent. Governor Hogan vetoed the bill to make Maryland a safe haven for those from other states who want a safe abortion.

RE: Other Items

CM Pierzchala shared that Mayor and Council submitted a letter on gun control to state delegates and that HRC submitted a letter in support of that. He also shared that the M&C meeting last night had over 40 testimonies on the use of the County owned land where is now the detention center on Seven Locks Road and about the City Civic Ballet’s needing more space. He shared that this is a good illustration on how community interacts with policy. All thanked Ms. Dixon for her service.

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. Lehman seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:14pm