

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2021**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex**

**Members Present:**

Wesley Hicken, At-large Member	Anne Wallerstedt, At-large Member
Amanda Schwartz, At-large Member	Leon Suskin, At-large Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member	Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member

**Members Absent:**

Wanneh Dixon, Chair and At-Large Member  
Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member  
Lauren Lehman, At-large Member  
Kelly El' Amin, Consumer Member

**Mayor and Council Liaison Present:** Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

**Staff Present:** Frederika (Rika) Granger, Community Service Manager  
Allison (Ali) Hoy, Grants and Program Analyst

**RE: Call Meeting to Order**

Nancy Sushinsky volunteered to chair the meeting in Ms. Dixon's absence. She called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

**RE: Community Forum**

No community members in attendance.

**RE: Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes from July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were approved unanimously with a motion from Leon Suskin and seconded by Deborah Moore.

**RE: Community Services Division Report**

Frederika Granger provided the following updates regarding the Community Services Division:

- Community Services programs had in person summer programming including Summer Enrichment, therapeutic recreation, and the Latino Youth Development Program. As well the youth and family counselors met with clients in person and virtually. Currently the school counselors are busy so not referring yet but will soon.
- There may be additional programming for School and Community Youth Services to provide, through para professionals supervised by clinicians, therapeutic recreation services for METS students at RMHS and RHS. METS students are recently arrived students with little schooling, lifetime of poverty and recent and/or chronic trauma. The

County has asked for such services and has offered \$70K for such. The City is currently reviewing the terms.

- The program coordinator for the Latino Youth Development Program has taken a job at the Rockville Senior Center, so HCD is actively recruiting for that position.
- SCYS staff are using Greenspace, software to collect outcomes for SCYS, so that the County and the City may use the data to support funding for the programs.
- For recent flood victims, SCYS staff has and will continue to provide therapeutic recreation services to the children affected. DHHS is providing other supports to the families. Many families are staying in the Comfort Inn in Gaithersburg.
- Our Department has submitted wish lists for the ARP funds, which the City finance department is managing. Funding requested for Community Services: VistaShare (electronic client recordkeeping software), Needs Assessment, and a wide range of mental health education workshops and groups for parents and students. This will help parents and students with the effects of the pandemic on them, returning to school in person, and for many, recent arrival to the US.
- We are preparing the RFP for an FY23 Community Services Needs Assessment.
- We are addressing again the Caregiver Funding Task Force recommendations with the possibility of implementing more in FY23.
- FY22 Caregiver Grantees have started FY22 services. We welcome two new grantees, So What Else and NAMI.
- We continue to promote the HRC/HSAC Survey and will do so through October.
- Finally, Community Services has been part of Rockville Goes Purple, an opioid addiction and recovery awareness initiative in September, Recovery Awareness Month. Community Services moderated a panel discussion of experts that is aired on Rockville 11 throughout the month, premiered on September 1<sup>st</sup> and there was an event last night at which Judge Debra Dwyer, Adult Drug Court, spoke, and Community Services had several public and private providers provide resource tables.
- There was no increase in applications for REAP funding.

Ms. Schwartz suggested that outreach be done to PTSAs since school counselors are so busy. Since this meeting, this has been done. Ms. Sushinsky shared that Interfaith Clothing Center has received so many donations, in response to needs of flood victims, that they are having additional sorting sessions. Ms. Sushinsky sent information to Ms. Granger who shared it with HSAC members via email.

#### **RE: FY 22 City Budget**

Ms. Granger shared that the Mayor and Council will begin to address American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding distribution requests from City Government Departments at October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilmember Pierzchala encouraged members to consider testimony during budget hearings, specifically on October 25<sup>th</sup>, as the ARP funding is 9.6M and City has a few years to spend it. He also suggested that members consider testifying about what Mayor and Council should support at the State level.

#### **RE: Bank on Rockville/IDA Program proposal follow-up**

Ms. Granger shared on behalf of Niambi Powell that we are currently working with University of Maryland SSW to secure MSW interns to help administer the program once it launches (hopefully January). I am also working on a logic model and 1-sheet of the program's intended

benefits for HSAC members to reference, should the commission choose to advocate to the Mayor and Council during the October session when ARP funds allocation is discussed.

**RE: HRC Community Survey Partnership Update**

Ms. Granger shared that the Survey of the Wellbeing and Needs of the Rockville Community has been out since June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be out through October and that there have been 300 responses so far. Mr. Suskin offered two afternoons to distribute paper copies of surveys to people who would not do it only, i.e. homeless shelters, assisted living, senior living. Ms. Granger said she would connect Mr. Suskin with Andrew Lin, HRC, who is in charge of distribution.

**RE: Caregiver Grants Update (FY22)**

Ms. Granger and Ms. Ali Hoy shared that the grantees have started FY22 services, and that there are two new grantees, So What Else and NAMI. As well, Ms. Hoy shared that the grantees would be submitting their reports through grant portal. Ms. Schwartz shared about goodr.org as an organization in Atlanta that provides leftover restaurant meals to those in need and is expanding. Ms. Hoy shared that Manna Food and Nourish Now have that as part of their model. During pandemic when restaurants not open and had less business, there were fewer meals available but now things are better.

**RE: Scope of Needs Assessment for FY23 RFP Timeline**

Ms. Granger shared that she is working on RFP and will share draft by end of month. Ms. Schwartz shared that she is ready to help.

**RE: HSAC FY21 Accomplishments and FY22 Goals Presentation to Mayor and Council**

It was decided that this agenda item be moved to next meeting since Ms. Dixon, Chair, is not in attendance. These accomplishments and action item were in the last month's minutes:

- Healthcare Position Paper generated by M&C as HSAC had written a letter to M&C about concern for healthcare for Rockville residents
- Discussions racial justice and police relations and later on equity and social justice to include review of City Community Services documentation, i.e. resolutions, grant application.
- Discussion on findings of Board and Commissions Taskforce
- Elected new Chair
- Welcomed new City Department of Housing and Community Development, a new Community Services Manager and four additional Community Services staff.
- Commission training needs
- Update on Rockville Climate Action Plan
- Testimony to M&C for Needs Assessment and for Eat Fresh Program
  - AND, the Survey of the Wellbeing and Needs of Rockville Community, joint effort with HRC.

**RE: Updating Website and Publications to include what HSAC has accomplished**

Ms. Granger shared that this is easily done and is waiting for the training for staff liaisons to Boards and Commissions. She will look into when it will be scheduled.

**RE: Federal Legislative Advocacy**

Ms. Schwartz shared that, at the Federal level, legislation is stuck due to 1/6/21 and COVID items. There is a logjam on what Congress will do. However, at the State level things are moving, i.e. a state wide mask mandate was passed. Ms. Wallerstedt shared about the eviction moratorium's ending and that residents will likely need help with rental assistance through County. As well, unemployment enhancement ended after Labor Day and gig workers and the like are no longer receiving unemployment. Councilmember Pierzchala spoke about the Mayor and Council's tracking bills of interest at the State and Federal level and that any social field is complex. He also suggested that members consider testifying about what Mayor and Council should support at the State and Federal level. Ms. Sushinsky shared that Jewish Community Relations Council met with Chris Van Hollen and shared at a meeting that Ms. Sushinsky attended, especially on racial equity work.

**RE: Other Items**

None.

**RE: Plan Agenda for October 12, 2021 Meeting**

Will continue meeting virtually:

- Community Forum
- Community Services Report
- City Budget Update
- Annual Report – HSAC Accomplishments and Goals to be reported to Mayor and Council at a meeting this fall via written report and oral testimony
- Update on Bank on Rockville
- Community Survey Update
- RFP for Needs Assessment continued discussion
- Training on advocacy – ask Wanneh
- Website update
- Testimony in October on budget and ARP.

**RE: Adjourn**

Ms. Schwartz motioned to adjourn. Mr. Suskin seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.