

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

October 11, 2022

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present:

Tal Shahar, At Large Member
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member
Wesley Hickens, At Large Member
Lauren Lehman, At Large Member

Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member
Ricky Mui, At-large Member
Leah White, At-Large Member
Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member
Amanda Schwartz, At Large Member and
Chair

Members Absent:

Nancy Sushinsky left at 7:15pm

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala was absent

Staff Present: Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

RE: Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Amanda Schwartz, Chair

RE: Community Forum

No guests

RE: Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2022

Minutes approved unanimously

RE: Presentation of Mobile Integrated Health Program and Data, Cole Ettingoff, Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, and Avital Graves, County Fire and Rescue Service, Mobile Integrated Health Program

Mr. Ettingoff and Ms. Graves presented about the history of this program and the data to show its success. RVFD has been a nonprofit for over 100 years. It is staffed during weekdays by career staff and on nights and weekends by volunteers. Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) was started because of frequent callers in need of non-hospital help, i.e. getting back into wheelchair, minor illness or injury, help with medicine, etc. Many had not followed up on discharge instructions after hospital visit. Many have behavioral health and/or substance use issues. Many are isolated, elderly, disabled. Too often, someone is taken to ER to wait several hours and not really need hospital care. The EMS personnel are obligated to stay only 25 min to transfer client to hospital care but often have to stay much longer, which puts them out of service for emergency calls. Frequent callers tend to need a care coordinator, medication management, mobility help, homebased assistance. MIH started in 2014, with help of Ike Legett, who facilitated Fire and Rescue to work with DHHS and APS. MIH has MOUs with hospitals and

coordinates with APS, Nexus Montgomery, Primary Care Coalition, DHHS Crisis Center, DHHS Mobile Crisis Units of which there are three, Now, with CRISP, which is a healthcare database that providers share, many providers can be more coordinated on behalf of a client. Ms. Graves comes with expertise in healthcare administration and home care. Now, MIH has her fulltime and staff in social work, data analysis and paramedics to do house calls and set up appropriate care and collect data on efforts. 6700 calls per year that need care management, which can be done sometimes from a phone call. There is CRISP, which is ability for healthcare providers, i.e. hospitals, EMS, DHHS, FMS to share data. This is key to coordinating care and preventing someone from falling through cracks. To be part of MIH, one must be a EMS caller. In 2021, once person called 911 193 times. So far in 2022, she has call 15 times. This speaks to MIH success. This person received a new wheelchair to prevent falling out of it, home health aides, meds, and fail-safe measures in her home. 15% of all EMS dispatch is substance use or behavioral health. There is a tremendous shortage of providers for substance use and behavioral health at the state and local level. 443 suspected overdoses in Montgomery County, 37 in Rockville, both of which are underreported due to NARCAN use. The hope for more behavioral health and substance us providers is also a hope for enhanced crisis response. There could be low acuity medical respite beds at shelters, expansion of what MIH can provide, more staff, telehealth, alternative transport (i.e. to urgent care), pre- and post-hospital care more effective, more capacity for non-English speakers. The Needs Assessment being done in City of Rockville can assist Rockville Volunteer Fire Department and MIH with determining next steps in expanding their efforts.

RE: Community Services Report

Ms. Granger shared that **school-based services**, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning all are busy with fall programming. They are all happy to have a more normal start to the school year and report that all in the school community seem less anxious than this time last year. There continues to be a great need for mental health services. LTL has a new full time bilingual therapist. LTL will continue Edutainment and parent enrichment. They will also have a transition group for 5th graders. SCYS is in the middle schools since the County's Bridges to Wellness initiative that puts mental health, care management and youth development in every high school in the county is provided by Sheppard Pratt in the Rockville high schools. Twinbrook ES now an SCYS therapist two days a week and a new Community School Liaison which is part of the State BOE Funding Community Schools program, much like LTL, which is county funded. The Department of Housing and Community Development will do its first fully in person Holiday Drive since 2019, so is collecting donated food and toys for November and December in addition to monetary donations which are used to purchase fresh produce and baked goods to supplement donations. This is a volunteer opportunity for all to help sort, deliver, and wrap! LYDP will have two middle school groups, one at JWMS and one at Wood MS. In the spring, they each will form a soccer team. There will be a Latina girls group starting late November, as a lunch bunch at first. The Mentoring Program will expand into 6th grade at Wood MS with a lunch bunch to start. There are plans to have the LYDP boys and girls attend art classes at VisArts so that they may see all that goes on at VisArts and so they can learn expression through art. The

Department will apply for grant funding for this. REAP referrals as well as utility and energy efficiency referrals are increasing. due to the County's work with Covid rent relief.

RE: City of Rockville FY23 Budget and ARPA Updates

- Bank On Rockville has two social work interns now so outreach for clients will begin soon.
- The Human Services Needs Assessment is in draft form with procurement. The goal is to have it completed by the selected vendor by September 2023.

RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update

Caregiver grantees are providing services. They have submitted their first reports. All are doing well. Kaseman Clinic is back at its home after repairs due to major flooding.

RE: Caregiver Grants Program Process

Ms. Granger shared that the change the program is to have 1)a two year grant cycle, 2)a modified timeline that reflects that City Manager present only the Program funding allocation in his proposed budget rather than grantee level funding allocations, and 3)the application review panel to include two staff and four commission members (two of whom are from HSAC). Ms. Moore asked if consumers could be on panel to which Ms. Granger said that as long as there is no conflict of interest it is fine.

RE: Testimony to M&C

It was shared with newer members that HSAC members testify often, written or orally, to M&C about issues that are priorities to HSAC, i.e. human services. Ms. Granger said she would email the FY23 HSAC goals to new members to give them an idea of HSAC priorities.

- October 17
- October 24
- November 7 Amanda on Mobile Integrated Health
- November 14
- November 21
- December 5
- December 12
- December 19

RE: Future HSAC meetings and Recruitment

Location of meetings will be decided month to month. Next meeting, November 9th, will be virtual. It is on Wednesday the 9th instead of Tuesday the 8th because the 8th is Election Day. There is a vacancy for a consumer member.

RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)

Ms. Schwartz shared that Federal Budget has been approved. Encouraged all to vote and to encouraged friends and family to vote.

RE: Other Items

Mr. Mui asked about the role of this Commission with the activities of the City. Discussed the Policies and Procedures document for Boards and Commissions given as part of orientation packet. Ms. Schwartz offered to meet with Mr. Mui and any other new members if they wish.

RE: Agenda items for next meeting, November 9, 2022, Virtual

- Usual report items: Community Services, Caregivers, HSAC goals, testimony update
- Vacancies
- Budget updates
- Testimony
- Future meetings
- Federal Legislation
- Substance Abuse programming

RE: Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:30pm