

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Rockville City Hall**

Members Present:

Shelagh Van Saanen, At-large Member, Chair	Laurie Gira, Caregiver Member
Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member	Deborah Moore, Consumer Member
Joel Nantais, At-large Member	Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member
Eric Wang, At-large Member	

Members Absent:

Jen Lafferty, At-large Member	Joyce Lipman, Consumer Member
Julie Pelletier, At-large Member	

Staff Present:

Councilmember Beryl Feinberg, HSAC Council Liaison
Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, HSAC Staff Liaison
Sarah Dickinson, Community Services Program Analyst

Re: Call Meeting to Order

Shelagh Van Saanen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Re: Community Forum

No discussion.

Re: Approve April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, moved that the April minutes be approved, and Debbie Moore, Consumer Member, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Re: Elect Chairperson

Shelagh Van Saanen, Chairperson, stated that due to family reasons, she would prefer to relinquish the role of chairperson. Shelagh further indicated that she would like to remain on the commission, but would evaluate if continuing is possible given her family's needs. In the absence of volunteers during the meeting, Shelagh will continue as acting chair until another member is nominated, or until she can no longer continue due to family concerns.

Re: Community Services Division Report

Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, provided the following updates regarding the Community Services Division:

- Carlos attended a Montgomery County *homelessness committee* meeting which included discussions of individuals' eligibility to be qualified as chronically homeless in accordance with HUD guidelines.
- Ama Kyere, *Youth and Family Counselor*, is planning a group over the summer at Rockville High School.

- Kate Bouwkamp, Community Services Program Coordinator, received a certificate of appreciation from the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center her work in providing *parenting education* to incarcerated parents.
- Carlos is exploring the possibility of expanding graduate-level *internships* for social work students to support community programming in the city.
- One of the division's *mentoring* sites may be shifting to the new elementary school based on youth need as reflected by Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) rates.

Re: Caregiver Task Force Report

Joel Nantais, At-large Member, reported that the group has begun setting its scope and expectations to achieve the objectives stated in the charter given the time allotted. Councilmember Feinberg reported that the members are engaged and bring a variety of experience to the group. Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, informed the HSAC that the Mayor and Council agreed to extend the task force's time limit for a year, in time for recommendations to be considered for implementation in the FY 2021 budget process rather than FY 2020. Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member and Director of Rainbow Place, discussed the difficulty of measuring client outcomes over a one-year grant period and reported that other jurisdictions have implemented extended multi-year contracts, which facilitates long-term outcome tracking. Councilmember Feinberg suggested that the HSAC could hold a joint meeting with the caregiver funding task force to share expertise, and Joel agreed that the taskforce will seek input from a variety of stakeholders as part of its information-gathering process.

In regard to the eligibility of HSAC members to serve as chairperson, Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, stated that the resolution establishing the commission stated that both At-large and Consumer representatives may serve as chair.

Re: Caregiver Funding Advocacy Plans/Report on Testimony to Mayor and Council

In response to the commission's budget testimony to the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mark Pierzchala asked how much funding would be necessary to bring caregiver grant funding to 1% of the city's general operating fund. Councilmember Feinberg reminded members that if the commission wishes to continue to advocate for 1%, they should speak at Community Forum in the fall, while the Mayor and Council are setting budget priorities for the next fiscal year. Members agreed to continue human services advocacy strategy discussions at the June HSAC meeting. Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, reminded the commission that their purview includes human services issues beyond caregiver grant funding, to include City operated programs and legislation at various levels of government.

Re: Site Visit Report: Home Builders Care Assessment Center, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, reported that he is impressed by the scope of services provided to clients, including employment assistance and health care. He observed that client bunk beds are arranged with little space between, which allows limited living space. Ciriaco's impression of the staff was mixed, with some staff members appearing to him to be more engaged and helpful than others. The program has implemented a tiered 30-, 60-, or 90-day stay model to maintain clients' focus on finding housing while considering their level of stability

upon entering the shelter. Staff place an emphasis on case management to increase income and linkages to services.

Re: Site Visit Report: Stepping Stones Shelter

Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, reported that this shelter has experienced challenges with staffing, and all the staff are relatively new. He observed that the environment in the shelter had not changed since the last site visit he attended, and a large volume of household goods and clothing are stored in the attic and basement. Shelagh Van Saanen, At-large Member, stated that she found the shelter to be well-organized, but the configuration of the bedrooms was not ideal, as, in one section of the house, one family must walk through another's room to reach theirs. Ciriaco stated that he smelled mold in the attic and asked that the site visit report include a recommendation to control humidity.

Eric Wang, At-large Member, expressed his viewpoint that families in shelters such as Stepping Stones, should be more willing to accept any housing available and to work multiple jobs in order to earn a living. Carlos pointed out that for many parents, childcare responsibilities interfere with their ability to maintain even one job.

Re: Caregiver Site Visit Scheduling

Sarah Dickinson, Community Services Program Analyst, informed the commission that two additional caregiver site visits have been scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, May 30. Sarah will email the site visit details to commission members. Laurie Gira, Caregiver Member, volunteered to attend the MobileMed visit.

Re: Old Business

- **FY 2019 City of Rockville Budget:** The Mayor and Council are in the process of final deliberations for the budget.
- **Montgomery County Budget:** Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member, reported that significant county budget hearings are scheduled for the next two weeks. Carlos Aparicio, Community Services Manager, pointed out that the meeting information is available on the county's website, along with contact information for councilmembers.

Re: Commission Meeting Schedule

The HSAC will take a summer recess in July and will meet in August.

Re: Other Items

No discussion.

Re: Plan Agenda for June 12, 2018 Meeting

- Elect Chairperson
- Human Services Advocacy Strategy
- Caregiver Site Visit Reports
- Caregiver Task Force Report

Re: Adjourn

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.