

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 8, 2022**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex**

**Members Present:**

Wanneh Dixon, At-large Member and Chair	Amanda Schwartz, At-Large Member
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member	Lauren Lehman, At-large Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member	
Wesley Hickens, At-large Member	

**Members Absent:**

Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member  
Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member

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

**Staff Present:** Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager

**RE: Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chair, Wanneh Dixon

**RE: Community Forum**

None.

**RE: Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2022**

A motion to approve minutes was issued by Ms. Schwartz and seconded by Ms. Lehman. Minutes approved with unanimous vote.

**RE: Community Services Report and Future Board Mtgs**

Ms. Granger shared that school-based services, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning continue to be busy. Counseling caseloads continue to be full, with a waitlist for Richard Montgomery HS; hours increased at Rockville HS to take care of waitlist. The Latino Youth Development Program and Mentoring Program are going well. Linkages to Learning still has a 16 hour vacancy for mental health therapist. REAP continues to not get many referrals due to the County's work with Covid rent relief. Holiday Drive donors will be recognized at March 28<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council meeting. Future HSAC meetings may be hybrid and could be held at City Hall. CM Pierzchala suggested clubhouse back porch at Red Gate Golf Course.

**ACTION ITEM:** HSAC will discuss this at next meeting.

**RE: City of Rockville FY23 Budget and ARPA Updates**

Ms. Granger shared that Bank on Rockville will be discussed at March 21<sup>st</sup> Mayor and Council mtg and has interest from M&C. Electronic client record keeping system will be purchase with surplus funds from FY22. Mental health services topic of testimony at last night's M&C mtg. Caregiver funding continues to be a topic for which HSAC will testify. CM Pierzchala reported that Tax Duplication funding from the County has doubled per legislation passed by County Council. This is for services that the City does, therefore the County's not having to do at all or as much. This has allowed for new FY23 positions for the City.

**RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update**

Ms. Granger shared that City Manager made recommendation of funding for Caregiver Grant Program in FY23 Proposed Budget and caregivers have been notified. Ms. Granger provided background via email to HSAC on the former Caregiver Coalition's testimony on Caregiver Grant Program's annual funding being 1% of previous year's City General Fund, as a way to increase funding as needed. This will be subject of testimony for HSAC on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Site visits to caregivers will take place this month, some in person and some virtually. Ms. Dixon encouraged commissioners to sign up to participate in site visits.

**RE: HSAC FY21 Annual Report and FY22 & FY23 Goals Presentation to the Mayor and Council**

All shared about the presentation given by Ms. Dixon at last night's M&C meeting, stating that they thought it went well and that the M&C were pleased to hear all that HSAC has done and will be doing, including CM Pierzchala. Ms. Dixon shared also that the spotlight on HSAC at last night's M&C meeting was positive, that Needs Assessment's being funded in FY23 is appropriate. She also shared that caregivers know need and work together to meet need.

**RE: HRC Community Survey Partnership Update: Report and Presentation**

Ms. Dixon shared about this presentation she did with HRC Co-Chair and that the M&C were impressed with the report and the collaboration. Ms. Dixon shared that the report and reactions to it seem to have provided support for a Human Services Needs Assessment in that the findings were concerning and informative enough to dig deeper. Ms. Schwartz shared that this justifies needs assessment and that she has expertise in evaluating and writing grants and would work with the PT grant writer that City wants to hire. Ms. Schwartz also shared support for CM Ashton's concern for more information on findings in this survey.

**RE: Testimony to M&C Dates for testimony**

All shared about Ms. Moore's and Ms. Schwartz's testimonies on Needs Assessment and on need for more mental health services in schools. Both were oral testimony and contributed to the spotlight on HSAC at this M&C meeting. Below are future dates for testimony.

Testimony for HSAC has to be approved through voting by HSAC members, so allow enough time for that when preparing to testify.

- **Testimony Calendar (Budget hearings are in bold)**
  - December 20<sup>th</sup> Community Forum (3 min): Bank on Rockville, Lauren Lehman

- **March 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing (5 min):** mental health in City schools, Amanda Schwartz
- **March 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Forum (5 min)** Needs Assessment, Deborah Moore
- **March 21<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing (5 min):** Caregivers 1% Amanda
- March 28<sup>th</sup> Community Forum (3 min)
- **April 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing (5 min):** Leon, Stacey, Wanneh
- April 25<sup>th</sup> Community Forum (3 min)
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Forum (3 min)
- May 9<sup>th</sup> Community Forum (3 min)
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Community Forum (3min)
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Forum (3 min)
- **Possible Topics for Testimony:**
  - Needs Assessment
  - Bank on Rockville
  - More mental health services
  - Caregiver additional funding, 1%
  - More affordable housing
  - Rent and utility assistance
  - Caregiver Funding Task Force recommendations
  - Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs excludes water utility assistance from their program that provides an ongoing electric/gas utility subsidy for low-income household-  
on this one, M&C write to State?
- **ACTION ITEM:** Those testifying on April 4<sup>th</sup> for HSAC will seek approval from HSAC on testimony and then email [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) by 12pm on April 4<sup>th</sup> that want to testify.

**RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)**

- Ms. Schwartz shared that Capitol Hill is focused on Ukraine so all else is on hold. Early Childhood funding is still highlighted.
- ARPA arrived at MSDE. Stephen Hicks needs an ARPA Manager.

**RE: Other Items**

- What is Rockville doing regarding Ukraine? Lights at buildings are blue and yellow.
- Needs Assessment – City is microcosm of County. County will benefit from its findings

**RE: Agenda items for next meeting, January 11th**

- Usual report items: Community Services, Caregivers, ARPA, FY23 budget
- Review feedback from last night’s meeting from Mayor and Council., i.e. need for more mental health services, connect with new DEI hire and seek DEI training.
- Tax duplication funding
- Future meetings
- Ukraine

**RE: Adjourn**

Ms. Schwartz made motion to adjourn; Ms. Moore seconded. Unanimous to adjourn, 7:50pm.