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 28th 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 21st 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 21st. 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 20th Community Forum (3 min): Bank on Rockville, Lauren Lehman
• March 7th Budget Hearing (5 min): mental health in City schools, Amanda Schwartz
• March 7th Budget Forum (5 min) Needs Assessment, Deborah Moore
• March 21st Budget Hearing (5 min): Caregivers 1% Amanda
• March 28th Community Forum (3 min)
• April 4th Budget Hearing (5 min): Leon, Stacey, Wanneh
• April 25th Community Forum (3 min)
• May 2nd Community Forum (3 min)
• May 9th Community Forum (3 min)
• May 16th Community Forum (3min)
• May 23rd Community Forum (3 min)

• Possible Topics for Testimony:
  o Needs Assessment
  o Bank on Rockville
  o More mental health services
  o Caregiver additional funding, 1%
  o More affordable housing
  o Rent and utility assistance
  o 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-
    o on this one, M&C write to State?

• ACTION ITEM: Those testifying on April 4th for HSAC will seek approval from HSAC on
  testimony and then email cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov by 12pm on April 4th 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.