

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

July 19, 2023

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present:

Wesley Hicken, At Large Member
Tal Shahar, At Large Member
Ricky Mui, At-Large Member
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member
Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member

Amanda Schwartz, At Large Member and
Chair
Leah White, At Large Member

Members Absent:

Jessica Peterson, Consumer Member
Camille Kroll, At Large Member

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

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

None

RE: Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2023

Minutes as is approved unanimously.

**RE: Presentation by Beth Loftus, Mental Health Specialist, on her work with
Rockville Police Department**

Ms. Loftus shared that there is a nationwide trend to get mental health more integrated with police. She has been with RPD since March. She has spent 10 years with the Montgomery County Crisis Center. Montgomery County DHHS and Rockville Police Department have a Memorandum of Agreement that facilitates Beth's work at RPD. She is employed by Montgomery County but is paid by and works at RPD. Beth has her own vehicle since she is the only mental health specialist. This gives her freedom to come to a police call and then go to another more easily than if she rode along to a call. Beth has helped with talking to people and provide them resources, especially homeless individuals most recently. She works with other providers in the community as well, such as EveryMind Homeless Outreach Services. She also works with victims of crimes, referring them to the County Victim Assistance Program. She has supported families of someone who has died by suicide. And, she has referred to APS and CPS.

When asked about Crisis Intervention Training, Beth shared that this program is being revamped. The goal is to have every sworn officer complete the training. CIT is a 49-hour crisis intervention team training to teach officers on how on best engage with people who suffer with mental illness, substance misuse, Alzheimer's, autism. Part of the training is to take officers to the state behavioral health hospital to see the resource and to see people who suffer with what they might encounter. Ms. Loftus straddles 12-hour shifts. She works 12-8pm, Mon-Fri. It would be great to have two. The City of Takoma Park is implementing this with two. HSAC could advocate for two for RPD. HSAC suggested that Ms. Loftus could attend Salute to NonProfits. Ms. Granger will keep Ms. Loftus posted on this. Ms. Loftus has attended several Rockville events recently. She shared that she is impressed with the community events.

RE: Community Services and HCD Vacancy Report

Ms. Granger shared highlights from her Community Services written report that she had sent to the HSAC members. It was asked if parents know about all the programs that happen at their children's schools. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will try to get that for schools in City of Rockville. Concern for girls' group at Wood. Ms. Granger shared that they did meet last year in a different room each time. They will get a reserved room this year. Ms. Granger shared that County passed a rent stabilization bill to put a cap on rent increase to 6%. There are exceptions of landlords of two or fewer properties and new or renovated buildings. City of Rockville does not have rent stabilization so, HCD will get many calls asking about it. CM Pierzchala explained that City of Rockville and county have worked out what City of Rockville wants to and feasibly can have jurisdiction over, and housing is one area. Ms. Granger shared that the Grants and Program Analyst position has been filled. The Senior Housing Policy Analyst position is open and posted on website. Person currently in position will leave in September.

RE: FY24 Budget Update: Bank on Rockville, Needs Assessment, Opioid Funds

Ms. Granger shared that Bank On Rockville is going very well. Needs Assessment RFP will go out again with the \$30,000 extra funding. Opioid Funds – mechanism to spend funds is being worked on. **ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Granger will look into recovery housing being funded by Opioid Litigation Funds.

RE: Caregiver Grants FY23 Update

Caregivers are doing well. For FY24, grant agreements are signed. For FY23, final reports are coming in. Ms. Granger shared what programs will not continue into FY24 to which a question was asked about how much Rockville does to welcome new applicants. Ms. Granger shared that the application's being online and that there are technical sessions allows for questions and tutorials on how to use grant portal. Members who have applied share that:

- the Grant Program application and reporting is relatively easy
- reporting Rockville residents by address and to predict how many a program would serve have been hard
- if programs have not met their projections, they are not penalized much

- HSAC and the Caregiver Funding Task Force were instrumental in making changes to Caregiver Grant Program including changing to a grant portal and, two HSAC members' being on the application review panel.

RE: Testimony to M&C

Ms. Schwartz, as chair of HSAC, suggested that she will develop a template for testimony and that perhaps Ms. Granger would establish a Google Drive for HSAC on which testimonies could be kept, along with testimony samples, a list of testimony dates, advocacy tools like the Council for Exceptional Children has. This way, those who will testify can have suggested edits done in real time on the Google Drive. As well, a Google document and folder may be created for a testimony topic so that HSAC members can put research in the folder and/or jot down ideas on the Google document that may then become the testimony. A timeline for testimony approval was discussed and presented. The Tuesday before the Monday testimony is the deadline for testimony to be sent to HSAC members to suggest edits and or approve. By noon Thursday, all suggested edits would be submitted so that person testifying may make changes and send back out for approval on Friday. All votes in by end of Friday. Final testimony may be submitted to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov as late as noon on the day of testimony. Testimony may be written only or in person or virtual.

Schedule is as follows:

Topics include gun violence, affordable housing, mental health, food insecurity, homelessness, support of LGBTQ+

- July 31 – Rick Mui- gun violence and/or workforce for young people
- Aug 7 – Camille Kroll?
- Sept 11 – Tal Shahar – having experienced 9/11, emergency response recovery and/or a focus on community
and Camille Kroll – mental health
- Sept 18
- Oct 2
- Oct 16
- Oct 30
- Nov 20 (newly elected body)
- Nov 27
- Dec 4
- Dec 11
- Jan 8
- Jan 22

RE: Cross-Commission Work Commitments by HSAC Commissioners: Coalition on Nonviolence; collaboration with other commissions

Ms. Schwartz presented the goals on which HSAC could collaborate with other commissions and the commissions with which to collaborated, based on last month's meeting. The goal is to have each HSAC member take on a goal and the collaboration on that goal with other commissions.

HSAC goals from last meeting's discussion are

1. Testimony every other month
2. Collaboration with other Boards, Committees and Commissions
3. Training

4. Needs Assessment and Survey
5. Caregiver Application Review Panel and support
6. Equity and Social Justice in all we do
7. Health and Mental Health
8. Outreach
9. Coalition for Nonviolence

Other commissions with which to collaborate:

Community Policing Advisory Board

Chair: Lori Horkan

Staff Liaison: Chief Brito, vbrito@rockvillemd.gov

Education Commission

Chair: Ansalan Stewart

Staff Liaison: Cecil Rucker, crucker@rockvillemd.gov

Environment Commission

Chair: Clark Reed

Staff Liaison: Amanda Campbell, acampbell@rockvillemd.gov

Human Rights Commission

Chairs: Andrew Lin and Amina Shafi Rogers

Staff Liaison: Tyree Davis IV, tdavis4@rockvillemd.gov

Recreation and Park Advisory Board

Chair: Kirsten Kaplan

Staff Liaison: Tim Chesnutt, tchesnutt@rockvillemd.gov

Senior Citizen Commission

Chair: Anne Herbster

Staff Liaison: Alexis D'Angelo, adangelo@rockvillemd.gov

Youth Commission

Chair

Staff Liaison: Laure Creech, lcreech@rockvillemd.gov

Ms. Schwartz will share any other goals.

Some pairing of goals and commissions discussed at this meeting are the following:

- Outside Agency resources provided in schools; Education Commission; Ms. Moore could do this.
- Needs Assessment; Human Rights Commission, Senior Commission, Community Policing Advisory Commission. Ms. Schwartz could do this.

RE: Caregiver Coalition and Salute to Nonprofits

Ms. Granger shared that she spoke with HRC Staff Liaison, Tyree Davis IV, and Special Events about nonprofits have a table at and/or providing a service project for the City's MLK Day event(s). ACTION ITEM: next step is for Ms. Granger to talk to HRC.

RE: Roundtable Discussions

- September – supportive housing – Ms. Granger will ask Jennifer Blackwell
- October – HUD/RHE – Ms. Granger will ask Chair of RHE, James Hedrick
- November – New Grants and Programs Analyst, Fabian Awanyai; Ms. Granger will invite
- December – City Grants person, Abe Bruchman
- January - CPS

RE: Federal Legislation Advocacy (All Members)

Per Ms. Schwartz, items get stuck in the House, i.e. the Senate Pre-Budget Recommendation. Per discussion on rent stabilization bill at Montgomery County level, landlord/tenant affairs is something that the City of Rockville has chosen to manage itself within its boundaries. So, Rockville will need to have its own bill on rent stabilization to do the same as the County if it so chooses.

RE: Other Items

- Hybrid meetings will start in the fall, after August break (no HSAC in August) ACTION ITEM: Ms. Granger will identify space for such and add to invite for meeting that goes to all members.

RE: Agenda items for next meeting, September 20, 2023, Virtual

- Usual report items: Forum, Minutes, Community Services, Caregivers, budget update, testimony update, Federal Legislation, job openings,
- Roundtable: Jennifer Blackwell, MCCH, on supportive housing
- Salute to NonProfits/Community Health Fairs
- Needs Assessment

RE: Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:18pm.