

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 13, 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

Leon Suskin, Caregiver Member  
Ricky Mui, At-large Member  
Leah White, At-Large Member

**Members Absent:**

Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member  
Lauren Lehman, At-large Member

Amanda Schwartz, Chair and At Large

**Mayor and Council Liaison:** Councilmember Mark Pierzchala was present

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

**RE: Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Nancy Sushinsky, standing in for Chair, Amanda Schwartz, who was absent

**RE: Introduction of New Members**

Rick Mui, Leah White and Tal Shahar each introduced themselves and current members did the same for them.

**RE: Community Forum**

Cole Ettingoff, Volunteer Firefighter for Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, attended to find out what the HSAC does. Cole wanted to share that he is involved in the County Mobile Integrated Health Program. Members asked if Mr. Ettingoff could provide data on how many Rockville residents benefit from this Mobile Integrated Health Program and how many engage in recommended services, i.e. follow up. He said he would find out.

CM Pierzchala shared that the Fireside Apartments renovation has been completed. The ribbon cutting was the evening before. The name for the modern, more upscale apartments is now Parkside Landing Apartments. A multiple year project that started with the City's purchasing the affordable housing several years ago, so that it remained affordable housing.

**RE: Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2022**

Minutes approved with first motion by Ms. Moore and seconded by Ms. White, all approved.

### **RE: Community Services Report**

Ms. Granger shared that **school-based services**, Counseling, Mentoring, Latino Youth Development, Therapeutic Recreation, and Linkages to Learning all finished their summer programming. LYDP welcomed middle school boys into the program. The three former seniors have started Montgomery College and two continue to help with LYDP. Mentoring continues its Horticulture-KIDZ into the summer with weekly visits. The youth and family counselors saw students over the summer. Fall programming begins soon. Mentoring will expand into Wood MS for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and LYDP will have a girls group at Wood MS, in addition to adding the middle school boys again to the boys program. LTL will have similar programming as last year. A new therapist has been hired for Linkages after there was only a part time therapist most of last year. The SCYS expansion into the high schools by Sheppard Pratt has started. Rockville youth and family counselors will move to middle schools. They will keep their current high school clients until they are finished with counseling. There will also be more outreach to the elementary schools for mental health promotion programming. REAP continues to not get many referrals due to the County's work with Covid rent relief.

Ms. Granger shared about the **Rockville Goes Purple** events that happen in September. This led into a discussion about substance abuse programming. MS. White mentioned the American Society of Addiction Medicine, 1400 Rockville Pike, as a resource and as a group who could participate in Rockville Goes Purple. As well members discussed the need for NARCAN training to be part of first aide training and that Narcan should be supplied as are AED's in public buildings. Per Ms. White, American Heart Association controls First Aide training. They focus on cardiology. Rockville public buildings all now have Narcan, and staff have been trained and may be trained. The question came up about whether or not MCPS schools have Narcan in them. Ms. Granger later found out that they do.

Ms. Granger shared briefly about potential **Opioid Litigation Funding** that several jurisdictions may receive. This could be used for substance abuse treatment, early intervention, and prevention programming.

### **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 signed grant agreements. Next step is to have city officials sign them and to generate purchase orders. October 15 is when first invoices and reports will be submitted.

**RE: Caregiver Grants Program Process**

Ms. Granger shared that at October 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayor and Council meeting, the change it the program 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.

- o September 19
- o October 3
- o October 10
- o October 17
- o October 24

**RE: Future HSAC meetings and Recruitment**

Location of meetings will be decided month to month. Next meeting, October 11, will be virtual. There is a vacancy for a consumer member. In the last minutes: Mr. Suskin shared that he is working with a consumer with hopes that that person will want to join HSAC.

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

Ms. Sushinsky shared about immigrants being bused from TX and AZ to this area. Rockville has a transitional shelter. There is not much publicity about the location for safety. SAMU may be found online. Wash, DC is now providing funding for shelter in DC, which helps. In Rockville, families and vulnerable women are the priority so, single men have a harder time finding shelter. Ms. Sushinsky will send more information to members via email.

**RE: Other Items**

It was asked who would be attending the Volunteer event the next evening at the Mansion. Several shared that they would be attending.

**RE: Agenda items for next meeting, September 13, 2022, Virtual**

- Usual report items: Community Services, Caregivers, HSAC goals, testimony update
- Vacancies
- Budget updates
- Future meetings
- Federal Legislation
- Substance Abuse programming
- How to engage youth
- Citizens Academy with MCPD

**RE: Adjourn**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn Unanimous vote to adjourned at 7:53pm