

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2023
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
In person at City Hall and Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex**

Members Present:

Jessica Peterson, Consumer Member	Amanda Schwartz, At Large Member and
Camille Kroll, At Large Member	Chair
Reema Greugel, Caregiver Member	Wesley Hicken, At Large Member
Ricky Mui, At-Large Member	
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member	
Stacey Gold, Caregiver Member	
Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member	

Members Absent:

Tal Shahar, At Large Member
Leah White, At Large Member

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Frederika Granger, Community Services Manager
Fabian Awanyai, Grants and Program Analyst

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 July 19, 2023

Minutes as is approved unanimously.

**RE: Presentation by Jennifer Blackwell, Program Director, and Karin
Corea, Senior Program Officer, Montgomery County Coalition on Homeless**

They provided an overview of homeless services and a more in depth look at supportive housing. Currently, with eviction moratorium over, more are becoming homeless, more who suffer with mental illness are showing more acute symptoms. Everyone who comes into the central point of entry has an acuity screening to determine risk of dying on the street. Length of homelessness and high likelihood of dying on the street puts one high up in line to receive housing if it is available. MCCH has 900 individuals in supportive housing in this area. There are primarily single units with some group houses. MCCH described several apartment buildings and settings. Supportive housing has a large spectrum of support. Case management is done in house and in

collaboration with other agencies, i.e. Cornerstone. Housing First is the model. Harm reduction is a big piece with substance use, i.e. clean needle exchange, living with substance use. All work and paperwork is trauma informed. All staff is trained to be trauma informed. Most Rapid Rehousing Clients are independent. Those who lose housing after Rapid Rehousing placement may very well need supportive housing. Advocacy is a huge part of what staff does. For example, keeping people in housing by working with landlord with the tenant to give tenant another chance with lease violations and helping client accept needed behavior. Staff have very good relationships with providers and landlords. There are peer support specialists who have lived experience. They are an essential part of the staff. The traveling nurse that was put in place during Covid has remained. The nurse helps those recently discharged from hospital as one of the services provided. There remains a shortage of housing. Ms. Moore thanked MCCH for advocacy and educational empathy. Advocacy has saved housing for many. Housing is very often connected to workforce programs such as Career Catchers vocational education and training. When asked what HSAC can do to help with housing, the answer was more affordable housing. Also, Hope Housing has lost a five bedroom house. It is hard to find a large house like that. Please be on the lookout for such a house at a fair market price. One very popular setting is Cordell in Bethesda, which is a whole building of supportive housing, with a front desk, locked door, program manager and case manager. There is housing for those who need recovery support and support for mental illness. MCCH provides an annual report to HUD and to county. City is trying to provide supportive housing for its staff.

RE: Community Services and HCD Vacancy Report

- Summer programming went well. LYDP Summer Soccer Camp, Mentoring for elementary and middle school students, Linkages to Learning therapeutic camp, 6th grade readiness, parent and family enrichment, mental health counseling for students and families. For fall, soccer has started for LYDP, mentoring starts in October, mental health services are already busy. Linkages will have after school programming for students, ESOL classes for parents and mental health services for students.
- Vacancies: Grants and Program Analyst has started and was introduced. Hiring a new program assistant for LYDP.
- REAP is ramping up. Currently there are seven active clients.
- Bank On Rockville clients are finishing up. No new cohort because not enough staffing.
- MPDUs are busy.
- Landlord Tenant complaints are resolved before the need for the Landlord Tenant Commission.
- Needs Assessment RFP will go out in October with a larger budget.
- Opioid Litigation Funds are being used for Rockville Goes Purple and will be used throughout the year for presentations etc. The Rockville Goes Purple conference on Sept 30th had low enrollment so it was postponed. It will be replaced by programming throughout the year. ACTION ITEM: Can recovery housing be funded by opioid funds. Ms. Granger will share answer at Oct meeting
- Election: Campaign Forums are starting with five scheduled so far, by different entities

- ACTION ITEM: There will be a list of what outside services are in each school in MCPS. Ms. Granger will share when it is available.

RE: FY24 and FY25 Budget Update:

The FY24 budget year is off to a good start. First budget modification was in July, another will be in October, at which Opioid Litigation funding will be put in budget for Needs Assessment and more funding for Holiday Drive as well. FY25 budget season is starting early. It will be helpful to new Mayor and Council to know what is asked by Departments as soon as they can so they can review and consider requests, etc. early on in their tenure this year.

RE: Caregiver Grants FY24 and FY25 Update

FY23 closed out well. The new grantees are off to a good start. The FY25 application is out early this year so that staff and volunteer application review panelists are not rushed to come up with recommendations to meet the proposed budget deadline in February. Application is due Oct 6th and reviewed in October with recommendations presented to City Manager in November.

RE: Election/Reelection of Chair

Current Chair was reelected unanimously.

RE: Testimony to M&C

From last month’s minutes, in italic: *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: **I cannot find my notes on who is testifying.**

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

- 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

The website link to find information on all the Boards and Commissions is

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions>

Notes from last month's minutes are in italic: *Ms. Schwartz presented the goals on which HSAC could collaborate with other commissions and the commissions with which to collaborate, 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

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

Nonprofits will have tables and could have service projects to do are to sign up for at the MLK events the City is doing on January 13 (MLK DAY is Jan 15).

RE: Roundtable Discussions

- 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)

Gov't shutdown will affect many local programs. Child poverty remains a crisis.

RE: Other Items

None.

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: James Hedrick RHE
- City Grants Update

RE: Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:30pm.