



Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) Annual Report 2024-2025



Overview

The Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) currently consists of 9 volunteers: appointed by the Mayor and Council, supported by a Staff Liaison, and is charged with evaluating human services needs within the City.

The Commission body is uniquely structured to represent service providers, consumers and the residents of Rockville.

HSAC participates in oversight and evaluation of human services and associated grant funding to ensure accountability and cost-effectiveness.

HSAC studies specific human service-related problems and complaints that have been brought to their attention each month, leveraging a mix of professional backgrounds, personal experiences, and scrutiny from a public perspective, with the intent to capture useful information to advise or guide the Mayor and Council.



Major Contributions

HSAC has advocated for and participated in multiple high visibility initiatives for in the 2024-2025 years, specifically:

1. Serving on the Rockville Human Services Grants or more commonly known as the “Caregiver Grants”. Multiple members of the Commission served on the panel to evaluate and vote on the grant submission packages. These votes are submitted to the Mayor and Council for deliberations.
2. Past HSAC Chairpersons (A. Schwartz and Wanneh Dixon) aggressively advocated for a comprehensive Needs Assessment. Last year, the City funded the 2024-2025 Needs Assessment, that was later applied to the FY 2026 City Budget.
 - A. Multiple members of HSAC were privileged to serve on the Steering Committee.
 - B. The entire commission was also listed as a contributing group to the consultants.
3. Members of the Commission attended the Rockville Non-profit Symposium to advertise HSAC and to increase engagements.
4. Some Members performed caregiver Site Visits



Evaluation of Human Service Needs

HSAC members identified topics of interest to study.

1. HSAC leveraged its unique mix of backgrounds to initiate the conversation.
2. HSAC engaged in Cross-Commission Collaboration to connect City-wide initiatives, synthesized overarching concerns, and recommended an advocacy path.
 - A. HSAC hosted Roundtables with the Environment Commission and the Education Commission.
 - B. HSAC continued to liaison with the Senior Citizen Commission and the Youth Commission.
3. HSAC members also brought in personal observations.
 - A. HSAC members intends to resume site-visits in Fall 2025, for organizations that receive city grant funding.
4. HSAC received monthly Housing and Community Development Updates. These updates frequently triggered areas of discussion.
5. HSAC also invited community organizations to present: to include the Manager of Families at Montgomery County Services to End and Prevent Homelessness



Human Service Needs

HSAC's areas of study focuses on the following topic areas:

1. Homelessness or Unhoused individuals, women and families
2. Substance use disorder
3. Physical and mental health needs, capacity, and availability
4. Wellness of all residents
5. Landlord-tenant relationships: encouragement to incorporate environmental improvements to benefit both tenant and landlord; aimed at reducing expense
6. Federal impacts to services and funding
7. Food Insecurity: access, awareness, and funding support



Future Endeavors

1. HSAC continues to seek community input on areas of study and advocacy.
2. HSAC intends to proactively advertise the Commission's work with local organizations (e.g., neighborhood organizations, non-profits organizations, businesses, etc.,)
3. HSAC will resume on-site evaluations for non-profit organizations that receive City of Rockville grant funding
4. HSAC will proactively offer testimony to the Mayor and Council following Roundtables studies.