



Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting
Commission Members will attend either in person or by telephone or video conference call

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 6:00 p.m.
AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center, 995 E. Riley Drive
Aravaipa Conference Room
Avondale, AZ 85323

Physical Access to the Aravaipa Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

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| 1. Call to Order | Chairperson Jerome Brownlee, Jr. |
| 2. Review and Approval of the September 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

This item is for discussion and possible action. | Chairperson Jerome Brownlee, Jr. |
| 3. Economic Development Update: Staff will provide an update on the city's economic development efforts.

This item is for discussion. | Ken Chapa, Economic Development Director |
| 4. Avondale Transportation Update: Staff will provide an update on the city's transportation programs.

This item is for discussion. | Matthew Dudley, Transit Manager |
| 5. Avondale Leading Edge Non-Profit Community Impact Award: Staff will provide an overview of the process, including nominations, review and selection of recipient to be awarded at the State of the City event in the spring of 2024.

This item is for discussion and possible action. | Edith Baltierrez,
Neighborhood and Family Services Assistant Director |
| 6. Future Agenda Items: This item is for information only. | Commission and Staff |
| 7. Announcements: This item is for information only. | Commission and Staff |
| 8. Call to the Public: This item is for information only. | Chairperson Jerome Brownlee, Jr. |
| 9. Adjournment | Chairperson Jerome Brownlee, Jr. |

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, impresión grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



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MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Fabian Prado, Hilary McKillip, Pearlette Ramos, Dawn Gerundo

Commission Members Absent: Jerome Brownlee Jr, Oliver Morrison, Shari Weise, Hilary McKillip

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, Homeless Services Coordinator Marlana Pina, Administrative Assistant Alisa Chavez, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibo-Davila, Community Member Pastor McMullen

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Fabian Prado at 6:05 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of the June 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Gerundo made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. McKillip seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

3. Homeless Services Update:

Ms. Marlana Pina provided an overview of the Homeless Services Division, including efforts regarding the following areas:

➤ Street Outreach

- The City's goal was to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by providing the leadership, coordination, planning and mobilization of resources.
- Provided an overview the Street Outreach, Navigation and Resources (SONAR).

- SONAR conducts street outreach for at least 80 hours per month
 - SONAR team utilizes the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect client data to link to regional housing and services for individuals and families at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
 - To date, staff has enrolled 21 individuals into HMIS.
 - For the month of August, SONAR made 205+ engagements.
- Outreach and Engagement
 - Tracking and prioritization of areas of concern within the City
 - Regular outreach to the river bottom and other areas
 - Coordination with Avondale Police Department, Public Works, and other City Departments to engage and clean areas.
- Partnerships
 - Provided an update on the partnership with A New Leaf, including the Family Housing Navigator that is housed at the resource center to support families experiencing homelessness.
 - Provided an update on the Bridge Housing project that will include up to six (6) units to house families experiencing homelessness.
 - Advised on the expansion of street outreach with Phoenix Rescue Mission (PRM)
 - Provides an overview of the upcoming Homelessness Strategic Plan that would be conducted by consultant Public Works LLC
- Victories
 - The SONAR team is fully staff and making great progress on connecting unhoused neighbors with resource and services.
 - The SONAR team had recently assisted an Avondale Senior participant with housing after experiencing homelessness for over three (3) years.
 - In the last 3 weeks, the team placed four (4) individuals in detox/treatment programs.
- Avi Wise
 - Provided an overview of the Avi-Wise application and on how to submit a ticket through the Avi Wise Portal.
- Events and Information
 - Provided an overview of Project Connect and made an announcement on the upcoming event on September 28th at the Avondale Baptist Church.
 - Provided an update on the Homelessness Resource Cards which were pocket sized reference cards used to provide to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Questions and Comments:

Ms. Gerundo asked what was the most recent Point in Time Count? Ms. Pina replied 46.

Ms. Ramos asked what was a “By name list”? Ms. Pina stated the team was creating a list of every person they encountered who was experiencing homelessness by name.

Ms. Gerundo asked why the river bottom was not something the city checked regularly? Ms. Baltierrez advised the river bottom was not within the city’s jurisdiction. Ms. Pina also stated the SONAR team coordinated with our Avondale Police Department to provide outreach, as needed.

Ms. Ramos asked how new was the SONAR Team? Ms. Ramos also asked if staff could explain more on the data metrics tracking, how the city was tracking and what was it informing? Ms. Pina indicated the Sonar team was two (2) years old. Ms. Pina advised the team used three (3) tracking systems to count outreach engagements out in the field; engagements that take place at the resource center; and through the HMIS.

Ms. McKillip asked what was the follow up process with individuals? Ms. Pina stated current staffing did not provide follow up due to capacity limitations on the team. However, staff can follow individuals within the HMIS system. This ability helps the team connect individuals with providers that can provide long-term support.

Mr. Prado asked if drones were used to get a better view of encampments? Ms. Pina replied yes through the team’s partnership and assistance from Avondale Police Department.

Mr. Prado asked what the definition of an unhoused person the team goes by? Ms. Pina stated the team used the HUD definition for homelessness.

Mr. Prado asked if someone was homeless and they travel between cities, would the team still assist? Ms. Pina indicated the team would provide assistance if encountered within Avondale or at the resource center.

4. FY2024 Contributions Assistance Program Update:

Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez provided an update on the Contributions Assistance Program, including an overview of eligibility requirements, funding levels and evaluation criteria, program process and timeline, and introduction of 33 award recipients for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 award recipients.

Questions and Comments:

Mr. Prado asked about the Avondale Police Association scholarship fund and what residents would it serve? Ms. Baltierrez advised the nonprofit was working with one of the local high schools and did not have details on their process for awarding the scholarships but would provide contact information to Mr. Prado.

Mr. Prado asked who was eligible for services through nonprofit Dress for success? Ms. Baltierrez replied Avondale residents.

5. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Baltierrez suggested the following topics:

- Economic Development Update
- Transportation Program Update
- Public Safety presentation on street safety and traffic mitigation
- Senior Services update on rebranding efforts
- Leading Edge Non-Profit Community Impact Award – Review nominations and select nominee for award to be presented at the 2024 State of the City event (Feb/March 2024)

6. Announcements

Ms. Baltierrez provided information on the following projects and events:

- City of Avondale, Neighborhood & Family Services (NFS) Department was selected by the Tohono O’odham Nation as a recipient of the 12% grant funding for The Clothing for Connection Project. Through Clothing for Connection, families experiencing housing instability and homelessness are being connected to wardrobes to allow children to maintain school enrollment and parents to improve or enter employment. NFS partnered with McKinney-Vento Liaisons working at Avondale school districts to nominate students and families. The funding awarded supports families and will continue to serve more families through December of 2023.
- Avondale Project Connect will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 8am to 2pm at the Avondale Baptist Church. In partnership with the Human Services Campus, this is an event that brings providers together for one day to provide support services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Upward Bound College Preparedness event will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at West Point High School for students and their families to attend and prepare for college.
- Avondale’s Creepin’ Candy Crawl will be held on Tuesday, October 31 from 4pm to 7pm at Alamar Park.

7. Call to the Public

Community Member Pastor McMullen commented that he found the meeting discussions very interesting and enjoyed being in attendance.

8. Adjournment

Ms. McKillip made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Gerundo. The motion passed unanimously with an Eye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 7:08p.m.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – November 29, 2023