


Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

September 27, 2023

Meeting Date

November 29, 2023

Date Minutes Were Approved


Fabian Prado (Feb 6, 2024 10:14 MST)

Chair

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the accompanying document is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the aforementioned meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.


Alisa M Chavez (Nov 29, 2023 18:23 MST)

Staff Liaison





Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 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.

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 Marlena 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. Marlene Pina presents

Street Outreach

- The City's goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by providing the leadership, coordination, planning and mobilization of resources.

- Street Outreach
 - SONAR is on the street for at least 80 hours a month
 - Use of HMIS to link to regional housing resources
 - 21 individuals “enrolled”
 - 205+ engagements in August

- 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
 - A New Leaf-Family Housing Navigation and Bridge Housing
 - Phoenix Rescue Mission (PRM) expanded street outreach
 - Public Work LLC-Homelessness Resolution Strategic Plan

- Victories
 - SONAR has a full team and is making great progress on connecting our unhoused neighbors to resource and services
 - Assisted to house an Avondale Senior who has been experiencing homelessness for over 3 years and living in the river bottom
 - In the last 3 weeks the team has placed 4 individuals not detox/treatment

- Avi Wise
 - How to submit Avi Wise Portal Ticket

- Get Informed and Get Involved
 - Project Connect, September 28th at the Avondale Baptist Church
 - Homelessness Resource Cards, pocket sized reference cards to provide to individuals experiencing homelessness

Questions and Comments:

Ms. Gerundo, What is the most recent Point in Time Count?

Ms. Pina 46

Ms. Ramos, What is the “By name list?

Ms. Marlana, knowing the person and their experiences. Knowing their name when we see them again so that they know they are important to us.

Ms. Gerundo, Why is the river bottom not something we check regularly?

Ms. Baltierrez, It is County district

Ms. Pina, We are able to search the river bottom with guidance from Avondale Police Department.

Pastor McMullen, Have you considered talking to the Arizona Faith Network? They have been involved in the church and provided water and classes to educate on Narcan. They are a big network and might be Beneficial to partner with

Ms. Ramos, How new is the SONAR Team? Can you explain more on the data metrics tracking, how are you tracking and what is it informing?

Ms. Pina Sonar team is two years old. We use 3 tracking systems.

- Outreach tracker – through our SharePoint, counting those we engage with. What the conversation was about
- Service Tracker – Counting individuals that come into the resource center that meet with us. Walk-ins and those that call us. How many are in the family if there is a family. A simple note tracking the family and how many
- HMIS – the state system which will track them getting into our care and those going through the system of care. If they go to a shelter in Avondale, moving into shelters or into housing. This can track outreach in this system, we have them open in the system.

Pastor McMullen, How many homeless shelters do we have in Avondale?

Ms. Pina, We do not have any. We only have overnight sheltering program that utilizes a different church each night.

Ms. McKillip, What is the follow up process with the individuals?

Ms. Pina, Currently there is no follow up person on our team, but we can see the individuals within the HMIS system to see where they are. But we also connect them with providers that can follow them for a longer term.

Mr. Prado, Do you use drones to get a better view on encampments?

Ms Pina, Yes, we do use drones and they will provide coordinates

Mr. Prado, What is the definition of an unhoused person that the team goes by?

Ms. Pina, we use the HUD definition of homelessness

Mr. Prado, If someone is homeless and they travel back and forth from Cities, will you still assist?

Ms. Pina, Absolutely, of they get here to the center we will provide services

4. FY2024 Contributions Assistance Program Update:

Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez presents:

➤ Purpose

- Background
- Council Subcommittee
- Provide a criteria overview, process and timeline
- Introduction of FY2024 Award Recipients

➤ Background

- The Contributions Assistance Program allocates funding to eligible non-profit agencies with 501(c)(3) status that provide health and human services to Avondale Residents
- Funding in the amount of \$200,000 was included in the FY 2024 budget and supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant
- For FY 2024, thirty-seven (37) agencies applied with a total funding request of \$418,500
- Council Subcommittee recommended funding thirty-three (33) agencies
- City Council approved recommendation of June 5,2023

- Council Subcommittee
 - Subcommittee Appointments
 - Council Member Veronica Malone
 - Council Member Tina Conde
 - Council Member Curtis Nielson

- Process & Tentative Timeline
 - April (1st week) Applications available on the website
 - April (Last week) Deadline for application submittals
 - May (1st week) Applications provided to Council Subcommittee
 - May (4th week) Council Subcommittee application review meeting
 - June (1st week) Request approval for funding recommendations
 - Aug (Last week) Award presentations

Questions and Comments:

Mr. Prado, The Police Association has a scholarship fund? What residents does that serve?

Ms. Baltierrez, They are working with one of the local high schools. We are unaware of their processes, but we can send you the contact information.

Mr. Prado, Dress for success is open to which demographic?

Ms. Baltierrez, Avondale residents

5. Future Agenda Items

- Economic Development update
- 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)
- Public Safety present on street safety and traffic mitigation
- Senior Services provide update on rebranding efforts

6. Announcements

- Clothing for Connection Project
- Project Connect
- Upward Bound: College Preparedness
- Avondale’s Creepin’ Candy Crawl

7. Call to the Public

Yes, Community Member Pastor McMullen. Found very interesting and enjoyed being here.

8. Adjournment

Ms. McKillip made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Gerundo. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye 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