



Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission August 15, 2017

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, August 15, 6:00 p.m., at the Tempe, Public Library, 2nd Floor – Board Room 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Karyn Lathan, Chair
Margaret "Peggy" Tisley, Vice-Chair (telephonically)
Angel Carbajal
Ilene Dode
Patrick Foster
Celeste Plumlee
Judith Homer

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Andi Fetzner
Kimberly Frick
Beatrice "Bunny" Kastenbaum
Kristen Scharlau

City Staff Present:

Paul Bentley, Human Services Deputy Director

Guests Present:

Laura Hudson, Tempe Resident

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Karyn Lathan called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Laura Hudson introduced herself to the Commission and noted she resides and works in Tempe.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of July 18, 2017 Minutes – (Motion Required)

MOTION: Commission Member Ilene Dode moved to APPROVE the minutes and noted a change in the meeting date.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Patrick Foster

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 5 – Strategic Plan Update

Human Services Deputy Director Paul Bentley reviewed the established outline from the July 18, 2017 meeting ([attached](#)). Commission Members Angel Carbajal and Kristen Scharlau drafted a memorandum for the Commission to review and provide input ([attached](#)). Commission Member Angel Carbajal reviewed and gained input from the Commission. Commission Member Patrick Foster drafted a document outline the fiscal impact. ([attached](#))

Suggested edits by the Commission:

- Combine the two (2) documents to submit to Mayor & Council
- Supporting statistical data
- "Centrally located"
- "Making and/or increasing gaining victim engagement through the criminal justice process"
- Outlining various community partners

Commission Member Angel Carbajal will edit with the suggested recommendations and staff will submit to Chair Karyn Lathan for review.

MOTION: Commission Member Angel Carbajal moved to add "Advocacy Center Proposal Review and Approval" as an agenda item to the September 19, 2017 meeting.

SECOND: Motion Seconded

DECISION: Unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items – September 19, 2017

- Advocacy Center Proposal Review and Approval
- 2017 Annual Boards and Commission Report
- Strategic Plan Review and Discussion
- Police Department Update
- CARE7 Update

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

MOTION: Commission Member Patrick Foster moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Angel Carbajal

DECISION: Unanimously APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next meeting will be on September 19, 2017

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

Karyn Lathan, Chair
Tempe Family Justice Commission

Tempe Family Justice Commission
Family Advocacy Proposal Outline

Introduction/Background

Problem Statement

- Data

Methodology

- Stakeholder Impact

Best Practices

Site Visits

Discussion

- (to include Fiscal Impact)

Recommendations

Appendix A

FAQ

What is the benefit/downside of...?

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Appendix C

Fall Best Practice Report

Research Questions

What impact on City of Tempe?

Goal

Finalized by September 2017 Meeting



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Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmembers

FROM: Karyn Lathan, Chair
City of Tempe Family Justice Commission

DATE: August 7, 2017

SUBJ: Advocacy Center

As you know, the directive provided to the City of Tempe Family Justice Commission by Mayor and Council through city ordinance is as follows:

1. "To advise the city council and assist city departments in promoting access to justice and safety for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking"
2. "To advise the city council and assist city departments in providing leadership and facilitate access to resources that will contribute to wrap-around services and a multidisciplinary response for the victims and survivors."
3. "To advise the city council and assist city departments on coordinating cross training and multidisciplinary tools to provide training opportunities to criminal justice personnel and healthcare providers about educational initiatives and system based standards of practice that are critical to serving the victims of domestic and sexual violence and keeping them safe."
4. "To advise the city council and assist city departments on expanding education and outreach to vulnerable populations."

These directives are in line with Tempe City Council Strategic Priorities: ***Safety & Justice, Community Connection and Quality of Life.***

In consideration of this direction, the Tempe Family Justice Commission has worked diligently over the last several months to review how the city approaches crimes of violence from an investigation/enforcement perspective. The commission has also focused on increasing awareness of methods used to increase and promote reporting, and inventoried the services that are available to victims of violent crimes. This included analysis of current crime data, an informal needs assessment of victim services currently available, hosting meetings with a variety of stakeholders including service providers and school district representatives, and advocacy center site visits to determine "best practices" within the state.

Through this review, the commission determined that having the ability to treat victims in one location where they can meet with investigating law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, crisis counselors, and victim advocates results in a collaborative response that helps minimize the trauma that the victim may experience and promotes engagement within the criminal justice system.

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It is important to note that the City of Tempe has very robust victim advocacy services through Care 7. Additionally, Care 7 has partnered with the Tempe Police Department's Special Victims Unit wherein a Victim Advocate has been embedded with detectives and is able to provide immediate and enhanced services to victims of violent crimes. This has proved to be a very successful project which has resulted in nearly a 100% increase in victim/advocate contacts (approximately 400 victims utilizing Care 7 services in the first quarter of fiscal year 2017/2018).

Through this review process, the commission has determined that a "best practice" and more importantly a great need exists within our community for a single location within the city that provides comprehensive services to victims of violent crime. The commission recommends a single location where victims can meet with law enforcement officers, undergo a medical examination by licensed healthcare providers, receive services from victim advocates and engage in counseling all through a "trauma informed" lens.

This facility would serve victims of any crime and would be a safe place for the entire community. It is the desire of the Commission that an advocacy center located in the city of Tempe include the following:

- A single facility for all services provided by CARE 7 including a secure area for victim/advocate/law enforcement interaction
- Administrative offices for CARE 7 staff and supportive services
- Open area for meetings and trainings
- Kitchen/dining area for staff and victim utilization
- Large storage areas for victim supplies
- Comfortable rooms for children, teen, and adult victims to receive services
- Separate examination rooms appropriate for children and adults
- Special room with equipment to be used for recording interviews
- Separate area for counseling services (open to the public)
- Separate area for regular CARE 7 operations

Based on the preceding information, the commission recommends that the city council identify key staff members to explore the feasibility of creating such a center in the City of Tempe. Members of the Family Justice Commission are willing to assist in any way we can to move this initiative forward and I am happy attend a future Tempe City Council Meeting to discuss this recommendation in more detail.

Respectfully,

Karyn Lathan, Chair
Family Justice Commission

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Tempe Family Justice Commission Advocacy Proposal

Fiscal Impact

The formulation and creation of an advocacy center for victims of sexual and domestic violence will require a fiscal commitment from the City of Tempe and any potential partners it wishes to collaborate with in this venture. Some of the fiscal considerations are as follows:

- General Fund expenditures to renovate a currently vacant city-owned facility or for the purchase of privately owned pre-existing facility
- General Fund, Municipal Bond or Capital Improvement funding for possible land acquisition and construction costs for the building of a new facility
- Utility, facility maintenance and exterior maintenance for the facility
- Personnel costs for any city employees working at the facility (Care 7 staff are already considered city staff and therefore would not result in added personnel costs)
- Operational and logistical costs associated with running operations from the facility (IT, phone, computers, phones, furniture, etc.)
- If the facility is owned/purchased by the City of Tempe, consideration can be made to lease space to partner agencies housed at the facility (non-profits, social service organizations, etc.)