



Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission September 19, 2017

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 19, 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” Tinsley, Vice-Chair
Ilene Dode
Andi Fetzner (telephonically)
Patrick Foster
Judith Homer
Beatrice “Bunny” Kastenbaum
Kristen Scharlau

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Angel Carbajal
Kimberly Frick
Celeste Plumlee

City Staff Present:

Paul Bentley, Human Services Deputy Director
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Cody Sprouse, Tempe Community Council Intern

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Karyn Lathan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Cody Sprouse introduced himself to the Commission and noted the Tempe Community Council (TCC), in partnership with several community organizations, has embarked upon a community-wide needs assessment of human services in Tempe. The Community Needs Assessment will include various methods of gathering input, such as client surveys, a general public web-based survey, key stakeholder interviews, and demographic research and analysis. Commission Members available to complete the survey were encouraged to complete in person or online at the Tempe Community Council website (www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/cna)

Agenda Item 3 – Review and Approval of August 15, 2017 Minutes – (Motion Required)

MOTION: Vice-Chair Margaret “Peggy” Tinsley moved to APPROVE the minutes

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Ilene Dode

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 4 – Chair Remarks

Chair Karyn Lathan noted there will be a vacancy in the Commission on December 31, 2017 and a Commission Officer election at the December 17, 2017 meeting

Agenda Item 5 – Family Justice Commission Officer Appointment Update

Paul Bentley, Human Services Deputy Director reviewed [Section 2-386](#) of the Tempe Family Justice Commission ordinance as it pertains to Commission Officers:

“Two (2) members shall serve as officers in the capacity of chair and vice-chair. Terms shall be January to December. The initial officers of the commission shall be selected by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council to serve a term commencing in January and ending December 31 that same year. Thereafter, the officers of the commission shall be selected by the commission members in December to begin their term in January. No officer may serve in the same capacity for more than three (3) consecutive one-year terms.”

Agenda Item 6 – Future Commission Member Vacancy: Non-Profit Sector Member

Paul Bentley, Human Services Deputy Director reviewed [Section 2-385](#) of the Tempe Family Justice Commission ordinance as it pertains to Commission membership:

“(a) There is hereby established the Tempe Family Justice Commission to be composed of eleven (11) members. The commission will include members from each of the following professional categories with expertise in the fields of domestic violence, sexual assault, or sex trafficking:

- (1) Two (2) faculty members from Arizona State University;
- (2) One (1) member from the CARE7 Crisis Response Team;
- (3) One (1) member from the Tempe Police Department;
- (4) One (1) member health care provider;
- (5) One (1) member from the nonprofit sector;
- (6) One (1) member legal services provider;
- (7) Four (4) at-large members who reside, work, or attend school within the City of Tempe

(b) In addition to the terms of office specified in Section 2-182 of this article, terms shall be staggered so that the term of no more than four (4) members shall conclude in any given year. Members shall serve three-year terms for no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(c) The Human Services Director or his/her designee shall serve the Tempe Family Justice Commission as staff liaison and in an advisory capacity.”

Commission Member Andi Fetzner is not seeking re-appointment. Her position (Non-Profit Sector Member) will open on December 31, 2017.

Agenda Item 7 – Advocacy Center Proposal – Final Review and Approval ([attached](#))

The Commission reviewed the Advocacy Center Proposal and discussed and agreed to remove the term “violent” from the memorandum to be inclusive of all crimes.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Margaret “Peggy” Tinsley moved to APPROVE the draft memorandum dated August 10, 2017 as amended pursuant to the Commission discussion

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Patrick Foster

DECISION: Minutes unanimously APPROVED

Agenda Item 8 – Strategic Plan Update

- Strategic Plan

In May 2016, the Family Justice Commission reviewed the Council Priorities and drafted a mission statement and vision. The mission statement is as follows: “*The Mission of the Family Justice Commission is to provide advice, recommendations, and guidance to the Mayor and City Council that promotes a coordinated community response to issues related to domestic and sexual violence.*”

- Vision elements included:
 - Enhanced Inclusive Partnerships
 - Statistical Driven Direction
 - Increased Personnel Funding
 - Comprehensive Services
 - Focused and Coordinated Education
 - Safe, Comprehensive Services Destination
 - Enhanced School Involvement and Engagement
 - Intentional Advocacy for Change
- Obstacles in relation to the vision:
 - Staying Alert!
 - Statistical Driven Direction
 - Timing is Related to Funding
 - Tell the story
 - Education of Stakeholders and Decision-Makers
 - Ask for what you need
- Strategic Directions with specific action arenas:
 - Creating Stakeholder Buy-In
 - Establishing Recommendations
 - Gaining Support
 - Influencing the Delivery of Service

- Implementation Plan

In July 2016, the Family Justice Commission created an Implementation Plan with specific action items to complete in the first year.

Agenda Item 9 – 2017 Boards and Commissions Annual Report

The Commission noted the following accomplishments and goals to be included in the 2017 Annual Report:

Accomplishments Related to City Council Strategic Priorities:

City Council Priority: Strong Community Connections

Creating Stakeholder Buy-In:

- Tour advocacy centers to learn how organizations serve their community
 1. Mesa Family Advocacy Center
 2. City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
 3. Amberly's Place
 - Specific topics covered were the center's mission, vision, scope, funding, partners, structure (facility and organization), and performance measures
- Create a list of stakeholders
 - A list of common Social Services agencies referred to by CARE7

City Council Priority: Safe & Secure Communities

Establish Recommendations:

- Research Best Practices
 - The Commission conducted literacy review exploring best practices and addressing community needs specific to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking
- Identify data/terminology
 - Commissioners inclusive of Tempe Police Department identified specific terms and data necessary to evaluate the current status of the City of Tempe as relates to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking
 - The Tempe Police Department and CARE7 provided monthly updates as part of the Tempe Family Justice Commission's regular meeting that corresponds to data and terminology identified above
 - Creation of Advocacy Center Proposal

Goals Related to City Council Strategic Priorities:

City Council Priority: Strong Community Connections

- Create stakeholder buy-in
 - Create education piece
 - Greater integration of the Commission with town and all academics
 - Market advocacy center proposal
 - Deliver community story tour
- Gaining community support
 - Spread awareness and mission of the commission

Agenda Item 10 – Police Department Update – Tabled due to Commission member absence

Agenda Item 11 – CARE7 Update – Commission Member Kristen Scharlau

- State Farm recently requested a presentation from CARE7
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness month

- CARE7 will promote and plan activities
- Commission Member Kristen Scharlau will reach out to the City Public Information Officer so the Commission can release a statement to the media

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – October 17, 2017

- Police Department Update
- CARE7 Update

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next meeting will be on October 17, 2017

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

Karyn Lathan, Chair
Tempe Family Justice Commission

MEMORANDUM



TO: Honorable Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmembers
FROM: Karyn Lathan, Chair
City of Tempe Family Justice Commission
DATE: August 10, 2017
SUBJECT: 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 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.

On average based on 2014 through 2016 crime data, the City of Tempe experiences approximately 110 sexual assaults, 140 domestic violence aggravated assaults, and 1,040 domestic violence misdemeanor assaults.

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.

It is important to note that the City of Tempe has very robust crime victim advocacy services through CARE7. Additionally, CARE7 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 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 CARE7 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 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. The commission believes that such a facility will enhance victim engagement through the entire criminal justice process and would be extremely beneficial for our victims.

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 CARE7, the Tempe Police Department, medical personnel and potentially Arizona Child Protective Services that includes a secure area for victim/advocate/law enforcement interaction
- Administrative offices for CARE7, law enforcement officers, medical personnel and Child Protective Services 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)
- Location should be centrally located and conveniently accessible for all our victims

The creation of an advocacy center for victims will require a fiscal commitment from the City of Tempe and any potential partners that may collaborate in this effort. Fiscal considerations include general fund expenditures, capital improvement project management, personnel costs to staff the facility and utility and maintenance costs. 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 to attend a future Tempe City Council Meeting to discuss this recommendation in more detail.

Respectfully,

Karyn Lathan, Chair
Family Justice Commission