



# Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission April 19, 2022

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, April 19, 4:00 PM., via Microsoft Teams

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Mary O'Grady, Chair  
Ilene Dode, Vice Chair  
Anastasia Stinchfield  
Jeanette Costa  
Mark Perkovich  
Patricia Riggs  
Jill Oliver  
Josie Montenegro  
Robin Nelson

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley

**City Staff Present:**

Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director  
Jorge Benavente, Administrative Assistant II+

**Public Appearances**

**Guest Appearances**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Mary O'Grady called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance**

Attendance was taken; some commission members were not present at the given time, though they arrived later.

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances**

The guest made no public comments.

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of March 29, 2022 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Commission member Jeanette Costa moved to APPROVE on March 29, 2022 Minutes

**SECOND:** Motion Seconded by Vice-Chair Ilene Dode; Motion passed unanimously

**AYES:** Chair Mary O'Grady, Commission Members Jill Oliver, Patricia Riggs, Josie Montenegro, Anastasia Stinchfield and Robin Nelson

**ABSENT:** Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley, Mark Perkovich

**Agenda Item 5 – Chair Remarks**

Chair O'Grady did not have any remarks at the moment.

**Agenda Item 6 – Victim Awareness Campaign-Public Space Signage Update-Commission Member Jeanette Costa**

Commissioners Costa and Stinchfield met with COT Public Information Officers Ripley and Steckner to discuss the outline and the mission goals that a COT-produced awareness signage should have. Along with a focus on ease and comprehension, the commissioners and PIOs discussed the information that the signage should provide. PIO Steckner will produce a draft signage and give it to the Commission for review and discussion.

**Agenda Item 7 –Discuss and Plan Department of Child Safety Presentation**

The Commission is committed to its role and would like to be able to provide better advice to the Mayor and Council. As such, the Commission is interested in knowing more about what State and Local Departments are doing at the moment to combat domestic violence. One department of interest is the Department of Child Safety (DCS). They would like to invite a representative to address the Commission.

-Commissioners spoke at length and with interest over DCS' role in many situations. Ideas around prevention, advocacy, education, and resources colored the commissioners' interest. Moreover, the commissioners discussed the correct terminology that DCS uses; commissioners would like to know the standards that DCS looks at when dealing with potential neglect. Additionally, what resources are afforded to families once DCS identifies them as a potential household of neglect?

-Finally, if DCS could provide information on Tempe households, the Commission would find this beneficial.

**Agenda Item 8 –Discuss Current Counseling Services Access/Opportunites for the Community**

Commissioner Oliver spoke in detail about the current lack of meaningful and productive mental health services at ASU. She outlined ASU's role in addressing victims' needs and the current structure found at the university. Moreover, Commissioner Oliver also mentioned recent conversations she had with ASU's victim officers; they highlighted the need for cooperation with COT and their role in the Family Advocacy Center.

**Agenda Item 9 – Discuss and Plan Future Meeting Attendance Options**

Virtual meetings will stay commonplace until decided otherwise. Hybrid options may become an option later on, potentially when the Commission has a guest speaker.

**Agenda Item 10 – Commission Strategic Goals Review and Discussion**

The Strategic Goals were not reviewed.

**Agenda Item 11 – Family Advocacy Center Update and Discussion**

Unfortunately, the property owner sold the facility identified as a suitable location for the Family Advocacy Center. As a result, the COT has begun looking for a new facility to host the Center. Fortunately, the experience in drafting a lease agreement and planning the Center has been a beneficial learning experience.

**Agenda Item 12 – Commission Member Updates**

No significant updates were given.

**Agenda Item 13 –Future Agenda Items**

Along with the update on items six( Victim Awareness Campaign) and seven(Discuss and Plan Department of Child Safety Presentation), no significant items were discussed for the future agenda.

**Agenda Item 14– Adjournment**

**MOTION: Commission member Jeanette Costa moved to ADJOURNMENT the meeting**

**SECOND: Motion Seconded by Vice-Chair Ilene Dode; Motion passed unanimously**

**AYES: Chair Mary O'Grady, Commission Members Mark Perkovich, Jill Oliver, Patricia Riggs, and Anastasia Stinchfield**

**ABSENT: Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley, Robin Nelson**

Mary declared the meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

The next meeting will be on May 17, 2022.

Minutes Prepared by: Jorge Benavente  
Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

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Mary O'Grady, Chair  
Tempe Family Justice Commission