



**Maricopa County Community Services Commission**  
**Human Services Department – Community Services Division**

*The Advisory Tri-Partite Board of the Maricopa County Community Action Agency*

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 14, 2022 – 6:00PM

**Online:** [Link to Teams](#) | **Phone:** (480) 702-3496 ID: 123 903 411#

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bonnie Temme, Lauriane Hanson, Adonis Deniz, Chris Groninger, Jessica Berg,
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:	Tyler Rosensteel
STAFF PRESENT:	Deputy Director: Shawn Pierce Assistant Director – Cathy Chiang Administrative Services Supervisor – Laurie Ontiveros Community Action Program Coordinator – Regina Lopez Community Services Technical Assistant – Heidi Hopkins
GUESTS:	Catherine Gouge, Community Alliance Consulting

**1. Call to Order**

Chair, Lauriane Hanson, called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

Regina Lopez conducted roll call. Five (5) of the six (6) Commission members were present. A quorum was established.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was led by Chair, Lauriane Hanson.

**4. Community Action Promise**

Regina Lopez recited the Community Action Promise.

**5. Director’s Message**

Human Services Deputy Director Shawn Pierce introduced himself and thanked the Commission for their time. In tonight’s meeting he put the spotlight on affordable housing and homeless services in Maricopa County. Just through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), the County Board of Supervisors has committed over \$130 million to affordable housing projects across the county. So far \$65 million has already been contracted and there are plans for the remaining \$65 million. He emphasized that affordable housing is not just about the number of



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units but also includes maintaining affordability for those already in their homes who may be facing a crisis, which could include home repairs needed to maintain safety.

Maricopa County is also working with the Housing Consortium to distribute funds received from HUD to help support the development of additional affordable housing units across Maricopa County.

Deputy Director Pierce also addressed the stigma around the term “affordable housing.” He emphasized the importance of working with the local communities to shine a positive light on affordable housing, which can affect people who cannot afford to live in the places where they work, such as teachers and young families. We should see the new units being developed start to become available from 2026 to around 2030. Since the affordable housing crisis cannot be eliminated by creating more units alone, the county is also working with communities to find more solutions to help communities thrive.

### **6. Action Items**

#### **Approval of September 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes was made by Chris Groninger, seconded by Bonnie Temme. The motion was passed with four (4) votes. Lauriane Hanson abstained.

#### **Approval to Renew Term for Adonis Deniz (Private Sector)**

Motion to approve to renew term for Adonis Deniz as a Private Sector Representative on the Community Services Commission was made by Chris Groninger, seconded by Bonnie Temme. The motion was passed with four (4) votes. Adonis Deniz abstained.

#### **Approval to Renew Term for Bonnie Temme (Private Sector)**

Motion to approve to renew term for Bonnie Temme as a Private Sector Representative on the Community Services Commission was made by Chris Groninger, seconded by Jessica Burg. The motion was passed with four (4) votes. Bonnie Temme abstained.

#### **Approval to Renew Term for Lauriane Hanson (Private Sector)**

Motion to approve to renew term for Lauriane Hanson as a Private Sector Representative on the Community Services Commission was made by Chris Groninger, seconded by Adonis Deniz. The motion was passed with four (4) votes. Lauriane Hanson abstained.

#### **Approval of Pursuit of Pathways to Excellence (Platinum Tier)**

Assistant Director Cathy Chiang provided a brief explanation to the Commission about the Pathways to Excellence, the steps that Maricopa County Human Services has taken so far on this road, and the importance of having the support of the Commission for this journey. Motion to approve the pursuit of the Pathways to Excellence (Platinum Tier) was made by Adonis Deniz, seconded by Bonnie Temme. The motion was passed unanimously with five (5) votes.

### **7. Board Composition Update**



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Community Action Program Coordinator Regina Lopez apprised the Commission on updates to the Commission Bylaws and on efforts to recruit low-income community members to fill the vacant Consumer (Low-Income) Representative seats on the Commission.

Updates being considered:

- Change board composition from four (4) Maricopa County Regions to five (5) Board of Supervisor Districts.
- Change the duration of the term for Consumer (Low-Income) Sector Representatives from one (1) year to two (2) years; OR allow for the Consumer Sector Representatives to renew at the end of each one (1) year term by signing the Intent to Continue Service Form. This is being considered as a way to lessen the burden on a low-income community member who is interested in serving but who may find the frequency of the petition process to be a barrier.

Maricopa County Community Services Division (CSD) is actively trying to recruit for the Consumer (Low-Income) Sector Representative openings on the Commission. CSD is exploring a few avenues, such as having agency partners post the recruitment flyer and assist any interested parties in the petition process by allowing them to petition at the agency office. The CSD's Landlord Coordinator is also assisting in recruitment by speaking to community members about the Commission at outreach events. Several of the Commissioners expressed their interest in assisting with recruitment, including forming a committee to help assist in the process, as suggested by Administrative Services Supervisor Laurie Ontiveros.

Commissioner Bonnie Temme suggested an automatic renewal at the end of one year of service for the Consumer Sector Representative. This can allow for the Consumer Sector Commissioners to decide if they want to continue for an additional year. Upon completion of the second year, the Commissioner will need to go through the petition process again to start a new one year term with the option to continue for an additional year (up to two years) if they desire to continue their service with the Commission.

Commissioner Chris Groninger pointed out that the Arizona Bar Foundation works closely with legal aid programs who work directly with low-income populations, with some serving on boards for law firms. She suggested that we can reach out to the low-income representatives who have termed-off of the board.

Commissioner Jessica Berg suggested providing reimbursement or bus passes for Consumer Sector Representatives to travel to meetings.

Commissioner Lauriane Hanson suggested flexibility in where the Commission meetings are held in order to offset the burden travel.

### **8. Strategic Plan Update**

Catherine Gouge from Community Alliance Consulting provided an update to the Commissioners on the Strategic Plan. She has been holding Strategic Planning Sessions with



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each agency partner through October and November. Prior to each session, she sends each agency the section of the Community Needs Assessment that is relevant to their agency, as well as a mini report and a pre-planning questionnaire. During the sessions, discussion takes place to help identify the priorities for each service area. On November 30, Maricopa County Human Service staff will participate in a Strategic Planning Session to undertake an overarching Strategic Plan. A draft of the Strategic Plan which includes all service areas in Maricopa County will be prepared in December. A final plan should be ready for review and feedback in January.

#### **9. Community Action Agency Report**

##### *Financial Report*

Assistant Director Cathy Chiang presented the Financial Report. So far in Fiscal Year 2023, Maricopa County Human Services (HSD) has expended \$1,319,603.78 of their Department of Economic Services (DES) funds. Out of a budget of \$3.4 million, there is still \$1.9 million available for clients in Fiscal Year 2023. HSD has served 1,065 clients so far with those DES funds.

#### **10. Call to Public**

##### *Commission Member Updates*

Commissioner Lauriane Hanson shared information regarding the Healthy Fall Festival and Turkey Giveaway this Saturday at Maxine O. Bush Elementary School. This is the first full-scale event Equality Health Foundation has held since before the pandemic. She suggested that this will be a good place to take the pulse of the community.

##### *Staff Updates*

Assistant Director Cathy Chiang announced to the Commission that staff member Heidi Hopkins has accepted the position of Supervisor for the Maricopa County Community Services Division recently vacated by Jared Beard.

Administrative Services Supervisor Laurie Ontiveros announced that Regina Lopez accepted the position of Community Action Program Coordinator vacated by Joanne Loeza.

#### **11. Adjournment**

There being no other business, Chair Lauriane Hanson adjourned the meeting at 7:39 P.M.