



# Minutes

## Tempe Family Justice Commission

### January 17, 2023

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, January 17, 4:00 PM., via Microsoft Teams and Tempe Library Board Room

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jill Oliver, Chair  
Mark Perkovich, Vice Chair  
Mary O'Grady  
Ilene Dode  
Jeanette Costa  
Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley  
Jill Etienne  
Bjorg LeSueur  
Patricia Riggs  
Josie Montenegro

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Anastasia Stinchfield

**City Staff Present:**

Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director  
Nicole Galvan, Administrative Assistant II+

**Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

**Guest Appearances**

Leila Stewart attended the meeting to present her work on the topic of bibliotherapy.  
Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes attended the meeting to engage the Commission Members with the City of Tempe's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance**

Commission Member Anastasia Stinchfield was absent.

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances**

There were no public comments.

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of December 20, 2022 Minutes**

Commission Member Etienne disclosed an edit on Agenda Item 13.  
Commission Member Dode revealed an edit to the date of the next meeting.

**MOTION: Commission Member Etienne moved to APPROVE the edited December 20, 2022, Minutes.**

**SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Dode; Motion passed unanimously**

**AYES: Chair Oliver, Vice Chair Perkovich, Commission Members O'Grady, Costa, Tinsley, Dode, Etienne, LeSueur, Riggs, and Montenegro**

**ABSENT: Commission Member Stinchfield was absent.**

**Agenda Item 5 – Chair Remarks**

Chair Oliver proposed that each upcoming Commission meeting should feature one Commission Member who will speak about their own background and experience for the purpose of identifying the expertise and resources encompassed within the Commission's Members.

**Agenda Item 6 – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conversation with Dr. Velicia McMillan-Humes, Chief Diversity Officer**

Mr. Bentley introduced Dr. McMillan-Humes.

Dr. McMillan-Humes stated that the overall vision of the Office of Diversity, Equity is to create transformative leaders within the city who will ultimately conceive a community that is "better, not perfect."

Dr. McMillan-Humes asserted that transformation must begin with leadership first, then cascade to the rest of the workforce.

Dr. McMillan-Humes discussed the goals for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which included public engagement, focusing on education and organizational development, inclusion of people with disabilities, fostering a sense of belonging and access, and creating data-driven transformation.

Chair Oliver asked Dr. McMillan-Humes how the Family Justice Commission can support and serve the goals of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Millan-Humes replied by recommending that the Commission Members receive "equity in action" training along with all city employees.

Dr. McMillan-Humes stated that "behavior does not always match intent."

Dr. McMillan-Humes concluded that the work of social transformation is "inside-out work," that must begin with the individuals and then the organization will follow suit.

**Agenda Item 7 – Arizona State University Bibliotherapy and Representation Presentation and Discussion – ASU Student Leila Stewart**

Ms. Stewart defined bibliotherapy as the utilization of literature to provide psychosocial intervention.

Ms. Stewart emphasized and elaborated on the need to procure diversity in children's literature "to create space for diverse experiences" and to create a "bridge between experience and one's interaction with others."

Ms. Stewart provided a recommended book list (see addendum).

Commission Member Etienne asked if there are any children's books on domestic violence in the home.

Commission Member Costa informed the Commission of a book called "Brave Bart" to help children cope with in-home trauma.

Chair Oliver noted that Ms. Stewart's work can be used to curate the children's library at the Tempe Family Advocacy Center.

Vice Chair Perkovich provided a link to a list of children's books that discuss traumatic experiences (see addendum).

Dr. McMillan-Humes recognized Ms. Stewart's exemplary work and highlighted the need for the inclusion of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in literature to get rid of the stigma associated with these lived experiences.

**Agenda Item 8 – Elder Abuse Awareness/Education Presentation and Conversation with Commission Member Tinsely**

Commission Member Tinsley presented a draft PowerPoint on Elder Abuse to present to Tempe City Council.

Vice Chair Perkovich advised of the Arizona Attorney General's Taskforce Against Senior Abuse (TASA).

Commission Member Montenegro advised that elder abuse cases are particularly difficult to identify and prosecute.

Commission Member Riggs emphasized the need to increase awareness and advocate for laws to protect seniors.

Vice Chair Perkovich informed that Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15, 2023.

Mr. Bentley informed that it is possible to offer a narrated presentation to Tempe City Council.

The Commission concluded that the presentation will be shown to Tempe City Council to advise on elder abuse awareness prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> and the final edits to the presentation will be edited by the Commission at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Family Justice Commission meeting.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Domestic Violence Poster Campaign Update**

Commission Member Etienne advised that the Tempe Parks and Recreation Department agreed to allow the posters to be posted in the Parks and Recreation facility bathrooms.

Mr. Bentley offered to deliver the posters for the Parks and Recreation Department to distribute.

Commission Member Costa reported that several local restaurants have agreed to allow the posters to be placed in their restroom areas.

Commission Member Costa noted that a poster placed in Pyle Adult Recreation Center had all the tabs taken and needed to be replaced, which indicated that the posters are being utilized by citizens to connect with CARE7.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Family Justice Commission Strategic Plan Discussion**

Chair Oliver elected to strike this item from the agenda due to time constraints.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Tempe Family Advocacy Center Program Update**

Commission Member Stinchfield was absent and unable to deliver an update on the Tempe Family Advocacy Center.

Mr. Bentley advised that the facility is almost ready to be utilized by clients.

Mr. Bentley described the Family Advocacy Center's need for toys, art supplies, and gaming systems.

### **Agenda Item 12 – Commission Member Updates**

Commission Member Costa inquired about CEASE AZ Human Trafficking Training.

Mr. Bentley advised that city staff would provide CEASE AZ Human Trafficking Training to the Family Justice Commission Members.

Commission Member Etienne notified the Commission that she would be absent at the February meeting.

### **Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Bentley proposed a future discussion about the Tempe Social Determinants of Health Framework, which will include community health and wellbeing performance measures that can be used to inform the Family Justice Commission.

Chair Oliver proposed identifying philanthropic connections within the community and learning about resources community groups can provide to enhance the Family Justice Commission's initiatives.

The Commission Members resolved to edit the Elder Abuse PowerPoint presentation at the March Commission meeting.

Commission Member LeSueur offered to share her background and expertise with the Commission at the February meeting.

Commission Member Etienne offered to share her background and expertise with the Commission at the March meeting.

### **Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment**

**MOTION: Commission Member Tinsley moved to ADJOURN the meeting.**

**SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Etienne; Motion passed unanimously**

**AYES: Chair Oliver, Vice Chair Perkovich, Commission Members O'Grady, Costa, Tinsley, Dode, Etienne, LeSueur, Riggs, and Montenegro**

**ABSENT: Commission Member Stinchfield was absent.**

Chair Oliver declared the meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

The next meeting will be on February 21, 2023.

Minutes Prepared by: Nicole Galvan

Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

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Jill Oliver, Chair  
Tempe Family Justice Commission

## **Addendum**

Thesis Document and Reading List by Leila Stewart, BAE, Arizona State University:  
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/XlsICZ6gzYFxlE84czCcKL?domain=docs.google.com>

Link posted by Vice Chair Perkovich ("Five Children's Books that Discuss Domestic Violence):  
<https://esme.com/resources/domestic-violence/five-childrens-books-that-discuss-domestic-violence>