



Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission September 19, 2023

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 19, 4:00 PM., via Microsoft Teams and Tempe Library Connections Café Classroom

(MEMBERS) Present:

Mary O'Grady
Ilene Dode
Jeanette Costa
Patricia Riggs
Josie Montenegro
Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley
Anastasia Stinchfield
Jill Etienne
Bjorg LeSueur

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Jill Oliver, Chair
Mark Perkovich, Vice Chair

City Staff Present:

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

Public Appearances

Tempe Police Commander James Sweig was present.

Guest Appearances

Stefanie Cary, Navigator for La Frontera EMPACT Suicide Prevention Center, was present.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Commission Member O'Grady called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Chair Oliver and Vice Chair Perkovich were absent.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Dr. Bentley introduced Tempe Police Commander James Sweig to the Commission Members.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of August 15, 2023 Minutes

No edits were made to the August 15, 2023 Minutes.

MOTION: Commission Member Dode moved to APPROVE the August 15, 2023, Minutes.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member LeSueur; Motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commission Members O'Grady, Costa, Dode, Stinchfield, Riggs, Montenegro, Tinsley, Etienne, and LeSueur.

ABSENT: Chair Oliver and Vice Chair Perkovich were absent.

Agenda Item 5 – Chair Remarks

Chair Oliver was absent.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Member Introductions – Volunteer Request

Commission Member O’Grady volunteered to present her background and expertise at the next Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – EMPACT-Suicide Prevention Center Presentation – Stefanie Cary

Commission Member Dode introduced Stefanie Cary, Navigator for La Frontera EMPACT Suicide Prevention Center.

Ms. Cary explained that she lost her father to suicide, which motivates her work with suicide survivors and her work in suicide prevention.

Ms. Cary gave an overview of the services and offerings provided by the EMPACT Suicide Prevention Center, including: behavioral health counseling, “postvention” crisis response after a loss has occurred, support groups, a lending library with grief-related materials, awareness and fundraising events, a memorial quilt program, and annual events, such as the Hope Conference.

Ms. Cary advised that information about EMPACT’s Survivors of Suicide programs and services can be found by phone at (480) 784-1514 or on their website at <https://empactsos.org/>

Ms. Cary provided contact information for EMPACT’s Prevention Manager, Sandra McNally, who can be reached at Sandra.mcnally@lafontera-empact.org

Ms. Cary informed the Commission that EMPACT also answers calls and texts routed to the center via the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, which can be reached by dialing 9-8-8.

Agenda Item 8 – Family Justice Commission 2024 Strategic Plan Review, Update, and Adoption

The Commission Members reviewed, edited, and ranked the outcome goals from the Strategic Planning meeting.

MOTION: Commission Member Tinsley moved to APPROVE the Strategic Plan.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Costa; Motion passed.

AYES: Commission Members O’Grady, Costa, Stinchfield, Riggs, Montenegro, Tinsley, Etienne, and LeSueur.

ABSTAINED: Commission Member Dode abstained from voting.

ABSENT: Chair Oliver and Vice Chair Perkovich were absent.

Agenda Item 9 – Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Presentation Work Session – Commission Member Tinsley

Agenda item was deferred due to time constraints.

Agenda Item 10 – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month Draft Memorandum Review and Adoption

The Memorandum was not ready to review. The Commission Members deferred the agenda item to next year.

Commission Member Montenegro noted that CARE 7 and Tempe Police Department will be taking part in domestic violence awareness events in October.

Agenda Item 11 – Tempe Community Health and Human Services – CARE 7 Victim Services Quarterly Data Review and Discussion– Commission Member Stinchfield

Commission Member Stinchfield noted that Domestic Violence and Assaults were down for the quarter compared to the same quarter last year.

Commission Member Stinchfield informed the Commission that crimes involving Human Trafficking have increased.

Commission Member Stinchfield hypothesized that the increase in Human Trafficking incidents may be due to the Tempe Police Department dedicating a detective to investigate these types of crimes.

Agenda Item 12 – City of Tempe Social Determinants of Health Framework Follow-Up – Dr. Bentley

Dr. Bentley informed the Commission that the Social Determinants of Health Framework is now ready to be formally adopted by the Tempe City Council and Mayor

Dr. Bentley noted that the data dashboard continues to progress and develop.

Agenda Item 13 – Tempe Family Advocacy Center Program Update – Commission Member Stinchfield

Commission Member Stinchfield advised the Commission that Tempe Municipal Court’s judges and prosecutors toured the Family Advocacy Center.

Commission Member Stinchfield informed that the Mobile Crisis Unit is now responding to calls.

Dr. Bentley mentioned that the Family Advocacy Center is now licensed to provide counseling services.

Commission Member Stinchfield advised that CARE 7 is licensed but is not offering mental health counseling services until a new counselor is hired to provide the services.

Dr. Bentley clarified that the City of Tempe also offers general behavioral health counseling services to the community, which is managed by the Community Supervision department. Counseling services provided to clients of the Family Advocacy Center will be managed by CARE 7.

Agenda Item 14 – Domestic Violence Poster Campaign Update – Commission Member Costa

Commission Member Costa advised that there are no updates.

Commission Member Riggs suggested that the Commission identify a volunteer organization or group to assist with distributing the Domestic Violence Posters.

Agenda Item 15 – Commission Member Updates

Commission Member Riggs notified the Commission that the Tempe Community Council is holding a Trauma Informed Primary Prevention Training on October 3, 2023 at the Tempe History Museum.

Agenda Item 16 –Future Agenda Items

Commission Member Riggs requested that the Commission review an organizational chart for the City of Tempe departments in order to identify city services that are relevant to the Family Justice Commission.

Commission Member Etienne informed the Commission that Dr. Jill Messing agreed to give a training on Risk Assessment for Intimate Partner Violence in November.

Agenda Item 17 – Adjournment

MOTION: Commission Member Tinsley motioned to ADJOURN the Meeting.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Riggs; Motion passed unanimously

AYES: Commission Members O’Grady, Costa, Stinchfield, Riggs, Montenegro, Tinsley, Etienne, and LeSueur.

ABSENT: Chair Oliver and Vice Chair Perkovich were absent.

Commission Member O’Grady declared the meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 17, 2023.

Minutes Prepared by: Nicole Galvan

Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

Jill Oliver, Chair
Tempe Family Justice Commission