



Princeton Human Services Commission

Agenda

June 16, 2021 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 827 1207 6208

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This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Princeton Human Services Commission has been duly notified and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

“We gather today on the land of the Lenni Lenape. As members of the Princeton Human Services Commission, we aspire to show appreciation, respect, and concern for all peoples and our environment. We honor the Lenape and other Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations to come.”

- I. Call to order – Chair, Veronica Olivares-Weber
- II. Roll Call – Chair, Veronica Olivares-Weber
- III. Public Comments / Guests – Chair, Veronica Olivares-Weber
 - a. Community Presentation – Sustainable Princeton – Christine Symington, Program Director
- IV. Approval of May Meeting Minutes – Chair, Veronica Olivares-Weber
- V. Director’s Report – Melissa Urias
 - a. 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program
 - b. General Assistance (May 2021)
- VI. Outreach updates – Talitha Koumi Oluwafemi
- VII. Council Report – Councilwoman Leticia Fraga
- VIII. Subcommittee Chair Brief Reports – committee activity, emerging needs, goals and priorities
 - a. Food – Subcommittee Chair, Larry Spruill
 - b. Housing – Subcommittee Chair, Veronica Olivares-Weber
 - c. Immigration – Subcommittee Chair, John Heilner
 - d. Outreach/Needs Assessment Presentation
 - e. Welcoming America – Subcommittee Chair, Moriah Akrong
 - f. Youth Matters – Subcommittee Chair, Khristina Gonzalez
- IX. New Items
 - a. Princeton University Art Museum Virtual Loteria – Thursday, September 2 at 5 PM
 - b. New subcommittee
- X. Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 7, 2021



PRINCETON HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 by Zoom

Monument Hall, East Meeting Room, Princeton, NJ 08540

Board Members – Present

Moriah Akrong
John Heilner
Bryan Hill
Monique Jones
Loydes Nieves, Alt.
Veronica Olivares–Weber, Chair
Larry Spruill, Vice Chair
Leticia Fraga, Council Liaison

Board Members Absent

Ericka Deglau
Khristina Gonzalez
Jorge Narvaez, Alt.

Staff Present

Melissa Urias, Director, Ex-Officio
Gary DeBlasio, Corner House

Minutes Submitted by:

Julie Moy, Board Secretary

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Princeton Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Veronica Olivares–Weber at 6:02 pm. She recited the announcement: *In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: “In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy with the Clerk’s Office and by emailing copies to the Princeton Packet and the Town Topics.”* Chair Olivares–Weber recited the Land of Acknowledgement for Indigenous People pledge.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the regular meeting minutes dated *April 21, 2021* was first moved by Mrs. Jones seconded by Mr. Hill, all in favor by voice vote.

Public Comments: None

Community Presentation

Connie Mercer, Founder & CEO, HomeFront

Ms. Mercer provided an overview of HomeFront programs and services offered to the community. She provided information on how their services benefit the community and how contributions are a major help to their participants. Ms. Mercer’s contact is: conniem@homefrontnj.org.

Director’s Report – Melissa Urias

Ms. Urias reported that the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) received 39 applications. There was a virtual orientation with students and parents. Their first activity will be resume writing workshop and interviewing techniques in preparation for the job fair on June 1, 2021, in person at PUMS. Ms. Urias reported that she hired two new SYEP Coordinators. She provided the list of job sites participating in the program. Ms. Urias had to turn down job sites; not enough funding for students.

Ms. Urias reported that *Arm In Arm* is offering four financial fitness workshops to the students in addition to our Job Readiness Program. Students will receive an incentive from *Arm In Arm* for attending 3 out of the 4 workshops.

General Assistance

Ms. Urias reported that General Assistance has six open cases. Pandemic waivers remain in place.

Ms. Urias reported that TK Oluwafemi, Outreach Coordinator, has been volunteering at Mr. Rogers' Neighbors Kindness Project once a week. She will participate in other activities throughout town. Ms. Urias explained how vaccine clinics are marketed.

Meredith Hodach–Avalos, MD, Chair of Princeton's Board of Health was available to answer vaccine related questions. There was discussion on vaccine for the children 12 and older; they are receiving the Pfizer vaccine.

Council Liaison Report – Leticia Fraga

Councilwoman Fraga reported that the Council adopted resolution in support of the Medicare for All Act at the May 10, 2021 meeting. She provided additional details.

Councilwoman Fraga reported that in support of the Civil Rights Commission (CRC), the Juneteenth Annual Celebration resolution commemorating has been drafted and will be heard at the May 25, 2021 Council meeting.

Councilwoman Fraga reported that there is a resolution to form a Community Center Feasibility Task Force; this will be heard by Council at the next meeting. Chairwoman Olivares–Weber expressed her concerns that Human Services Commission was not included in the resolution draft. Councilwoman Fraga explained the issue. Discussions regarding task force continued. Mr. Spruill asked who would be selecting members of the task force; Councilwoman Fraga provided list of participants. The meetings will be open to the public.

Committee Reports

Food, Larry Spruill

Mr. Spruill reported that the subcommittee met May 4, 2021; he found that people are getting too much food. They want to figure out how to stop wasting food and get it to those who also need food. He reported that Ms. Urias gave Mr. Spruill an updated food calendar. He provided a list of groups distributing food. Ms. Urias stated that an internal spreadsheet is being created for the food providers and will be in Google Docs for everyone to see who is distributing what. Councilwoman Fraga commented that the families have issues with food storage.

Housing, Veronica Olivares–Weber

Chair Olivares–Weber reported that they met with Connie Mercer, HomeFront and others to discuss housing issues and resources available.

Immigration, John Heilner

Mr. Heilner reported that the subcommittee met last week; they are working on a flyer for outreach. Mr. Heilner spoke about the Community ID flyer for Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund (LALDEF). He provided organizations that received the flyer.

Outreach Needs Subcommittee, Erika Deglau

Mrs. Jones reported that the subcommittee met with other community providers and are creating a needs assessment from the information. She provided details of activities and upcoming presentation.

Immigration, John Heilner – Continued

Mr. Heilner reported that Mr. Narvaez is working with St. Paul's Church to meet with them again to discuss immigration issues the parishioners may be experiencing. The subcommittee opined that Human Services, Police, LALDEF and Solidaridad should meet and discuss better collaboration amongst the group.

Mr. Heilner reported that the subcommittee discussed issues with rental and utilities relief fund program. Mr. Heilner reported on Sustainable Princeton Landscape Project; he and Ms. Urias are working with the group. He explained what Sustainable Princeton's goals are. They met with landscapers on May 21, 2021 to talk over the issues the small companies will experience with tighter regulations. They met last Sunday, with Mayor Freda and Councilwoman Niedergang along with about five landscapers and crew members; discussions regarding hours of operations and other details, gas powered leaf blowers during certain times of the year. Ms. Nieves asked if funding and cost to change from gas powered to electric leaf blowers was discussed for small family owned landscapers; yes. Dr. Hodach-Avalos stated that they also came to the BOH; the BOH's concerns are the noise levels for the workers. Felicia Spitz, resident commented that many of the landscapers do not live in Princeton.

Welcome America, Moriah Akrong

Ms. Akrong reported on what the subcommittee's activities; she described the potential events planned and celebration activities.

Youth Matters, Veronica Olivares-Weber

Chair Olivares-Weber reported that it was discussed at the last meeting to merge the Youth Matters with Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Councilwoman Fraga stated that YAC is willing to work with our representatives. Councilwoman Fraga announced that the YAC created an ad hoc committee for outreach.

Councilwoman Fraga announced that Gary DeBlasio will retire in September.

Chair Olivares-Weber reported discussion on the review of sub committees and how Corner House students will work with Human Services. Ms. Urias explained the students' activities. Chair Olivares-Weber would like to see more activities among the subcommittees to work with the youth. Mr. Spruill suggest we also invite high school students. It was suggested we discuss with Mr. DeBlasio prior to recruiting additional students.

Community Center Feasibility Task Force

There was continued discussion regarding the Community Center Feasibility Task Force. Information was previously provided in the meeting. Mr. Spruill asked how long the study will take place prior to publicizing information. The proposed Community Center is included in the Master Plan.

Councilwoman Fraga provided additional information on the Cannabis Task Force and Permit Parking Task Force. Permit Parking will be heard at the next Council meeting.

Juneteenth Event

Chair Olivares-Weber reported she has been approached by Princeton University students to see if the Human Service Commission is willing to sponsor. She recited the list of participating organizations. Chair Olivares-Weber is not sure what kind of support or participation is requested. Mr. Spruill stated that the University just made it an official holiday; Municipal is doing the same. This Commission is in favor of supporting the event with clarification on what the responsibility to co-sponsor event entails.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm was first made by Mr. Spruill seconded by Ms. Nieves, all in favor by voice vote.



Chair Olivares–Weber re–opened the meeting. Mr. Hill suggested adding a Health Subcommittee and explained his ideas and how we can contribute to public health. Dr. Hodach–Avalos stated that in the past there was a liaison from Human Services attending the BOH meeting; she is here on behalf of the Board of Health. She asked if HSC is interested in sending a liaison to BOH’s meeting. She brought up to Dr. Hodach–Avalos that the YAC would like also collaborate with the Board of Health specific to behavioral health issues. Councilwoman Fraga suggested a meeting to discuss collaboration between Human Services Commission, Youth Advisory Commission with the Board of Health.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm was first made by Mr. Spruill seconded by Mr. Heilner, all in favor by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Moy
Recording Secretary

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - WFNJ
Statistical Summary of May 2021

SECTION I - APPLICATION ACTIVITY

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. Pending Item H last month :	2
B. Registered this month :	1
C. Immediate Need :	0
D. Total to account :	3
E. Cases approved :	1
F. Applications rejected :	0
G. Total cleared :	1
H. Pending end of month :	2

SECTION II - CASELOAD ACTIVITY

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Nonpayment Status</u>	<u>Payment Status</u>
A. Cases open beginning of this month :	5	1	4
B. Cases approved :	1	0	1
C. Total to account for (Case)	6	1	5
Employable :	1	1	0
Unemployable :	5	0	5
D. Total to account for (Person)	7	1	6
Employable :	1	1	0
Unemployable :	6	0	6
E. Less: cases closed :	0	0	0
F. Cases open end of month :	6	1	5
G. Total Homeless Individuals :	4		
HA - Shelter/Motel :	1		
HC - Motel/Shelter - 30% :	0		
HE - TRA - 30% :	3		
HH - Homeless - No EA or TRA :	0		
HI - 10% Hardship extension :	0		
HJ - EASG EA - 30% :	0		
HL - EASG TRA - 30% :	0		
HP - Transitional housing :	0		
HF - 2 HM - 2			
XF - 0 XM - 0			

SECTION III - REASONS FOR OPENING CASES

Classifications	Number	Classifications	Number
01 - Unemployed :	1	08 - Loss federal benefits:	0
02 - Physical or mental disab. :	0	09 - Nursing home care :	0
03 - Pending SSI/SSD benefits :	0	10 - SSI check not recvd :	0
04 - Under employed :	0	11 - Katrina :	0
05 - Pending TANF :	0	12 - Prisoner Release :	0
06 - Insufficient unearned income:	0	13 - Haiti Earthquake :	0
07 - Sanction lifted :	0	14 - Disaster Evacuee :	0
		20 - Other :	0
		Total :	1

SECTION IV - REASONS FOR CLOSING CASES

Classifications	Number
12 - Employment :	0
13 - Receipt of SSI benefits :	0
14 - Moved :	0
15 - Receipt of State/Federal Ben.:	0
16 - Failure to cooperate with CSP:	0
17 - Refused agreement to repay :	0
18 - Refused work registration :	0
19 - Failure to cooperate WFNJ req:	0
20 - Alien - No citizenship :	0
21 - Alien - Fail to apply citizen:	0
22 - Incarcerated :	0
23 - Receipt of TANF :	0
24 - Intentional Program violation:	0
25 - Sanction/Suspend :	0
26 - 60 month lifetime limit :	0
27 - 2 yrs - no work activity :	0
28 - Death :	0
29 - Voluntary quit :	0
30 - Whereabouts unknown :	0
31 - Drug conviction :	0
32 - Fail to apply other benefits :	0
33 - Participation in a strike :	0
34 - Positive drug test :	0
35 - Received multiple benefits :	0
36 - Flee felon/violate parole :	0
37 - Transfer of income or res. :	0
38 - Extension expired :	0
39 - Failed IRP SAIF Appointment :	0
40 - Aged Benefits :	0
41 - SAIF 24 Month Period Expired :	0
42 - Failed to Cooperate with SAIF:	0
43 - Failed Redetermination :	0
44 - Ineligible College Student :	0
50 - Other :	0
Total	0

PRINCETON
 GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - STATISTICAL SUMMARY
 Statistical Summary of May 2021

SECTION V - SUMMARY OF GA - 6

Item	Employable		Unemployable		Total	
	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases
Maintenance :	\$0.00	0	\$1,490.00	5	\$1,490.00	5
Nursing home case :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Burial :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Temporary Rental Assist:	\$0.00	0	\$1,334.00	2	\$1,334.00	2
EA - shelter/motel/hous:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - utilities :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - Rent :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - relocation cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - security deposit :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - storage cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - emergency food :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - emer food-homeless:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - esst house furnish:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - spec moving allow.:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - moving cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - emergency clothing:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - citizen. app. fee :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Transient Assistance :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Transportation :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Work related expenses :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Commitments ineligible :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Immediate Need :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Total	\$0.00		\$2,824.00		\$2,824.00	

SECTION VI - SALARY EXPENDITURES

	Full time	Part time	Total
Number of staff :	0	0	0
Monthly Salary :	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

CERTIFICATION OF DIRECTOR OF WELFARE

I certify that the cases listed herein are eligible for WFNJ General Assistance and that the Commitments entered in SECTION V are in accordance with current General Assistance manuals and regulations issued by the New Jersey Division of Family Development.

 Signature of Director of Welfare

 Date

Statistical Summary of May 2021

SECTION VII - SUMMARY OF EASG

Item	Employable		Unemployable		Total	
	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases
Temporary Rental Assist:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - shelter/motel/hous:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - utilities :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - Rent :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - relocation cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - security deposit :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - storage cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - emer food-homeless:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - esst house furnish:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - spec moving allow.:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - moving cost :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
EA - emergency clothing:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Total	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	

SECTION VIII - SUMMARY OF IMMEDIATE NEED

Item	Employable		Unemployable		Total	
	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases	Amount	Cases
IN - cash :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - shelter/hotel/motel:	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - utilites :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - rent :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - security deposit :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - food :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - clothing :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
IN - homeless hotline placement :	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
Total	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	