

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2011

<u>MEMBERS ATTENDING</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
<p>*Arleen Chin, Tempe Community Council *Vice Mayor Trinity Donovan, Chandler, Chair *Councilmember Alex Finter, City of Mesa +Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale Councilmember Michael Nowakowski, City of Phoenix, Vice Chair JoAnne Osborne, Councilmember, City of Goodyear Councilmember John Sentz, Town of Gilbert *Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Councilmember Mike Woodard, City of Surprise</p>	<p>Michael Celaya, City of Surprise Councilmember Gary Gelzer, City of Goodyear Anna Maria Maldonado, Care 1st Health Plan Sheila Patton, Care 1st Health Plan Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale Rachel Brito, MAG Brande Mead, MAG Rena Tenney, MAG Amy St. Peter, MAG +Those members present by audio/videoconferencing. *Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.</p>

1. Call to Order
Vice Chair Michael Nowakowski, Councilmember, City of Phoenix, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience
An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee. No public comments were made.

3. Approval of the January 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Vice Chair Nowakowski called for a motion to approve the January 26, 2011, meeting minutes. Councilman Mike Woodard, City of Surprise, motioned to approve the minutes. Councilman John Sentz, Town of Gilbert, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Legislative Update
Vice Chair Nowakowski introduced Timothy Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, to offer an update on legislative activities. Mr. Schmaltz advised the legislative session ended and the budget passed on April 1, 2011. He provided a brief overview noting the budget imposes a freeze on Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Changes will affect 135,000-150,000 people without children, the behavioral health system, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and child care family subsidies. Changes to TANF will lower the benefit period to 24 months making many families ineligible as of

July 1, 2011. Education will experience a reduction of \$182 million in K-12; this is in addition to budget reductions imposed over the last two years. The Department of Economic Security will experience an additional reduction of 33 to 43 percent.

Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale, requested further information on TANF reductions. Mr. Schmaltz advised over the last three years, TANF recipients have experienced a 20 percent reduction in benefits. The average amount for a family of three has been reduced from an average \$290 to \$240. Budget reductions last year reduced the time frame from 60 months to 36 months thereby eliminating 10,000 families. This year's budget further reduced the time frame from 36 months to 24 months eliminating an additional 7,000 families. Mr. Schmaltz said families affected are those who are not eligible for unemployment or who receive minimal unemployment benefits. He noted a cost shift of \$100 million to cities and counties.

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale, noted the devastation and the burden caused by unfunded mandates ending up on the doorsteps of cities, causing municipalities to review contributions to nonprofits in their communities. She acknowledged Mr. Schmaltz for his efforts and a job well done, encouraging him to keep pressing forward.

Mr. Schmaltz discussed the potential of 16,000 people losing unemployment benefits at the end of May 2011. The federal government requires the state to have a formula for calculating unemployment rates. The current state law says to calculate the formula over two years. The word *two* should be changed to *three* to match federal legislation. He noted the formula was not updated and the state is not eligible for an extension. Families will be notified at the end of May regarding loss of benefits. Councilmember Osborne asked if the result of not changing legislation was an oversight or a conscious decision. Mr. Schmaltz said it was a conscious decision, commenting that the rationale for not making the change includes an unwillingness to contribute to the federal deficit and urging people to search for employment. Vice Chair Nowakowski thanked Mr. Schmaltz for his report.

5. Care 1st Avondale Housing and Resource Center Update

Vice Chair Nowakowski acknowledged Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers for her leadership in the City of Avondale's involvement in a very successful public private partnership that responds to human services needs. Mayor Rogers acknowledged Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair of the Human Services Technical Committee, for presenting the update. She also recognized City of Avondale staff for their work and efforts. Vice Chair Nowakowski invited Ms. Sheffield to present an update on the Care 1st Avondale Housing and Resource Center. Chair Sheffield introduced Sheila Patton, Care 1st Health Plan, who would be presenting on the Center's work and trends observed in service delivery.

Ms. Sheffield said the Resource Center is unique in that it represents a private and public partnership. The center is administered by staff from the Neighborhood and Family Services department of the City of Avondale. The total operating cost is provided by Care 1st Health Plan of Arizona. Care 1st is an Arizona Health Care Cost Containment (AHCCCS) provider. The intent for the resource center is to reach individuals through Care 1st who may be eligible for AHCCCS.

Ms. Sheffield said West Valley residents do not have access to the variety of human services that exist in the East Valley and Central Corridor. As such, the resource center has greatly benefitted Southwest Valley residents. The center is essentially an incubator for nonprofits and health and human service providers to have free space in the West Valley allowing them to provide services to residents in a convenient location. It is hoped a client base will be developed as time goes on so that the agencies can then open their own centers.

Funding is also received from First Things First, providing administrative support for the Center and funding for several programs such as the Avondale Young Families program; the Early Childhood Literacy program, and Avondale Family Education and Referral program. Agencies located at the Center include but are not limited to: Women's Health Coalition, Adelante Healthcare, including services for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Arizonans for the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children and Adults (APECA), Teen Outreach and Pregnancy Services (TOPS), Maricopa Workforce Connections, Association for Supportive Child Care, Rio Salado College and Southwest Valley Literacy.

Effort has been made to ensure the Center offers a variety of services to residents. Ms. Sheffield said the Center is willing to add new agencies. She reviewed a chart of services provided noting the majority of services received at the Center is for WIC. Free meeting space is also available for agency and community use. The center was awarded the 2010 Best of the West award.

Ms. Patton of Care 1st Health Plan addressed the Committee. Ms. Patton previously worked for the City of Avondale for two years. Ms. Patton said the Care 1st Health Plan was started in 1994 by a group of private physicians in California. In 2003, they were given permission by the Department of Economic Security to provide Medicaid services in Maricopa County. Care 1st also provides Medicare services. The focus of Care 1st is providing services to underserved communities such as the Southwest portion of Maricopa County.

Ms. Patton shared a local public health system image by Dr. Bob England, Director of Maricopa County Public Health. The image reflects many local agencies including churches, home health care, doctors, fire, hospitals, schools, and many others, working together to maintain the health of the community. The Care 1st Avondale Housing and Resource Center opened in April 2009 with 12 customers and now serves more than 2,300 customers monthly. Ms. Patton discussed person-to-person service and efforts to raise the bar for customer service to families in need. Ms. Patton discussed the number of services available.

Ms. Patton advised the Avondale Resource Center will be duplicated in the Town of Gila Bend. This will be a joint effort among Care 1st, the Town of Gila Bend, and First Things First. The goal is to open the center in July 2011, making it a destination resource center. The center will include AHCCCS services and provide resources through partnership with the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, offering counseling on the reservation and at the resource center. Members of the Tohono O'odham Nation will also lead the first Alcoholics Anonymous group at the center. Looking to the future, Care 1st seeks to replicate the center in the Town of Buckeye and Los Angeles County.

Ms. Sheffield advised she oversees the Center which has one coordinator and one full-time front desk person. She said each agency provides case management. Councilmember Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear, expressed her appreciation for the services provided at the Center to residents in the Southwest valley. She asked for information on criteria for selecting new locations for future centers. Ms. Patton advised Care 1st is focusing now on the Southwest portion of Maricopa County but they hope to expand region-wide in the future. Being the smallest of six AHCCCS providers, Care 1st is focused on border communities due to lack of services in those areas.

6. Municipal Aging Services Model Project

Vice Chair Nowakowski advised of a new project to address the needs of older adults. He invited Amy St. Peter to offer an update on the project's launch. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for their support of this project. The project was derived from the Human Services Funding Impact Study due to a realization that services for older adults came in second only to services for people with low incomes. She noted many older adults are also included in the low-income category.

The Committee expressed concern on the results of the study and began researching opportunities to become involved and have a positive impact. The Piper Trust awarded the grant to MAG in February 2011. The first stakeholder meeting was held on March 24, 2011, with more than 35 attendees from agencies representing housing, health care, cities, towns, counties and many others. The Human Services Technical Committee then discussed the guiding principles for the project to ensure agreement on the end outcome of the project. HSTC recommended the following guiding principles:

Services for older adults should:

- Protect each person's safety and dignity.
- Be responsive to and representative of cultural diversity.
- Maintain an individual's independence.
- Be sustainable within local governments' current financial capacity.

Ms. St. Peter said the Committee did not want to develop a model that was not sustainable. She said this is a great opportunity to review the role of local government in meeting the needs of older adults and if that role can be enhanced. Ms. St. Peter noted additional guiding principles recommended by the stakeholder group are noted below:

- Encourage partnerships among representatives of the private, for profit and nonprofit sectors.
- Improve quality of life; provide choices.
- Integrate teens and older individuals through an intergenerational component.
- When appropriate, integrate and jointly consider services for older adults with services for people with disabilities.
- Align this project with other plans that impact older adults, such as the State of Arizona Aging 2020 Plan.
- Base results and statistics in facts.

- Assess the impact of seasonal residents on senior services.
- Promote access to information and the sources that make information available.

The stakeholder group also worked on defining services for older adults. She said while this may seem very basic there is some diversity in the definition that became apparent when developing the inventory of services for older adults. She said the project wants to be focused on services exclusively tailored for older adults or where older adults consistently make up the majority of individuals receiving that service.

Also for review and approval is the Key Informant Interview Guide. Ms. St. Peter said the draft guide was distributed for review and input. Revisions were made and the guide was redistributed. She noted great feedback has been received from interviews already conducted. One new addition Ms. St. Peter recommended was to add social and recreational programs to the first question. She said social isolation has been the most identified concern aside from transportation, noting the importance of capturing this information in future interviews. Ms. St. Peter requested further changes or recommendations be submitted to her attention. The interview guide will be distributed to all human services lists rather than a specific list for the project itself. Distributing the interview to a broad range of people will allow individuals to conduct interviews with older adults in their communities and among themselves to provide greater input. Ms. St. Peter said it is important for the project to be representative of older adults across the region.

Councilmember Osborne expressed agreement with adding social and recreational services to the interview guide. She commented on the success of planned communities that incorporate social and recreational activities. Councilmember Sentz said he meets quarterly at the Gilbert Senior Center noting the interaction and ability to socialize is very important. Vice Chair Nowakowski asked for a motion from the Committee. Councilman Sentz motioned to approve the guiding principles, service definition, and key informant interview guide for the MAG Municipal Aging Services Project. Councilmember Osborne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Human Services Funding Reduction Study

Vice Chair Nowakowski invited Ms. St. Peter to provide an update on the Human Services Funding Reduction Study. Ms. St. Peter advised the Committee reviewed the Human Services Funding Impact Study in January. The difficulty in identifying and tracking human services funding through the budget itself shifted the direction of the project. Ms. St. Peter advised cities, very appropriately, but very differently, define human services.

In January, the Committee discussed shifting to surveys and interviews conducted at the local government level to determine where the greatest funding reductions have occurred and whom has been most impacted. Ms. St. Peter said it was at this point older adults were identified as experiencing the second greatest impact only after low income individuals. The Committee also discussed adding information from the Alliance for Arizona nonprofits survey that was completed in December 2010. Ms. St. Peter advised much of the information in the survey paralleled with what local governments were doing. Many local governments partner very extensively with nonprofit agencies to deliver human services. Some cities

contract the entire service to nonprofits. In order to give context to what local government is doing, it is important to consider the impact of non profits. Ms. St. Peter advised changes were made and recommended for approval by HSTC in March. She noted 13 different municipalities responded to the survey which represents 86 percent of the population. Ms. St. Peter concluded her presentation.

Councilmember Sentz recommended using patters on the chart. Although the charts are originally prepared in color, it is difficult to distinguish the shades when photocopies are not in color. Councilmember Nowakowski asked for a motion from the Committee. Councilman Martinez motioned to approve the MAG Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Study. Councilmember Sentz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Committee Outcome Measures

Vice Chair Nowakowski said the Committee, at their last meeting, directed staff to continue fine-tuning the proposed outcome measures for FY 2012. He said the revised outcome measures were recommended for approval by the MAG Human Services Technical Committee in March. Vice Chair Nowakowski asked for a motion from the Committee. Councilmember Osborne asked for a brief overview of this item.

Ms. St. Peter acknowledged Councilmember Sentz for his assistance with this effort. She said it is important to ensure the outcome measures are worthy of the Committee's time and support as outcome measures help define the work to be done. Changes were made to fine tune how progress would be tracked, such as demonstrating progress through committee minutes, offering reports on a quarterly basis, and including specific data elements to track. Additionally, under human services public involvement, a bullet point was added regarding raising awareness about human services resources and needs by collaborating with the MAG Communications Division. Some materials are ready and others public outreach materials such as the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project public service announcement and training video are under development.

Councilmember Osborne said over the last few years, she has discovered that families are going to schools or churches rather than to local government for assistance. She asked what has been done to involve schools in public outreach. Ms. St. Peter advised staff does work with schools. She requested any assistance or contact information to assist in promoting these efforts. Councilmember Osborne recommended contacting the school principles as they are the direct source. She stressed the need to specifically include language in the measurements such as "reach out to schools" to ensure it is a key focus. Councilmember Sentz recommended adding schools and including a measure on the number of schools that will be contacted. Additionally, he recommended developing charts to track progress at each meeting, along with quarterly and end of year updates. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the recommendations and offered to implement the recommendations.

Vice Chair Nowakowski asked for further comments or a motion from the Committee. Councilmember Sentz made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2012 Committee Outcome Measures for the MAG Unified Planning Work Program. Councilmember

Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Nowakowski acknowledged Councilmember Sentz for his leadership and time on this effort.

9. Committee Officer Appointments

Vice Chair Nowakowski acknowledged Vice Mayor Trinity Donovan, City of Chandler, for her leadership on the Committee. Vice Mayor Donovan has served two terms as Chair, and per MAG policy, may not be re-appointed for another term. Councilmember Nowakowski said as Vice Chair, he is honored to ascend to the Chair position. The Committee will need a new Vice Chair upon that succession. Vice Chair Nowakowski asked for input from Committee members interested in serving in this capacity. He said letters of interest may be submitted to MAG by May 30, 2011. The MAG Regional Council Executive Committee will consider appointing a new Vice Chair for this Committee at their June meeting

Councilmember Osborne expressed interest in serving as Vice Chair of the Committee. She acknowledged being the newest person on the Committee and urged others who may be interested in serving as Vice Chair to please indicate so. Mayor Rogers said the Executive Committee seeks regional cooperation when appointing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. She acknowledged Vice Mayor Donovan as representing the East Valley and Vice Chair Nowakowski representing Phoenix. Mayor Rogers proposed representation from the West Valley expressing support for Councilmember Osborne to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee. Vice Chair Nowakowski thanked Mayor Rogers for her proposal. He requested a letter of interest from Councilmember Osborne be submitted to MAG.

10. Committee Updates

Vice Chair Nowakowski said counterparts on other human services committees at MAG have been engaged in important efforts. He invited representatives to offer reports on their activities.

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

Renae Tenney, MAG, addressed the Committee regarding the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project. She said the purpose of the project is to assess the protocols used to arrest and prosecute domestic violence offenders at the misdemeanor level. The project is made possible thanks to support of the Governor's Office and STOP Violence against Women Grant funding. Ms. Tenney said the project was recently recognized by the Arizona Attorney General's Office. She reported the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council was honored with the Arizona Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for Service Coordination at the Crime Victims' Rights Week event in April. The Council was recognized for 10 years of outstanding contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of domestic violence victims. The award was received by Commander Kim Humphrey, Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council.

Ms. Tenney advised the Misdemeanor Arrest and Investigation Protocols Inventory was developed in December 2010. The inventory consists of 106 protocols used for misdemeanor domestic violence offenses. In the early part of this year, research into local and national promising practices as well as data collected from field experts, survivors, and community partners were used to analyze the protocol inventory. This process helped to identify 15

local protocols that align with promising practices and appear to have low implementation rates across the region. In March 2011, a survey was conducted with MAG partners in law enforcement to help drill down into the 15 local protocols. Information was requested about what supports and what hinders implementation of these specific protocols. Assessment of the information received and follow up is now underway and will be completed by the end of May 2011.

Ms. Tenney acknowledged the Governor's Office for a no-cost time extension of the project that was approved through December 31, 2011. The additional time will allow for activities to ensure the project's success such as strengthening collaborative relationships among the law enforcement, prosecution, and victim advocacy communities as well as gaining the support from leadership in each of these areas.

Ms. Tenney reported affinity group meetings were added to assist with strengthening communication and relationships among project partners. These informal meetings provide an environment conducive to speaking freely with others from a particular discipline. In March and April 2011, initial affinity group meetings were conducted with city prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocates. In May, presentations will be conducted to gain the support of leadership for the project. Project partners from all three disciplines have voiced the need to have support from leadership. The presentations will be held at meetings such as the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence against Women, the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts, and the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police.

Ms. Tenney reported next steps for the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project include:

- Drilling down into the information on what supports and challenges implementation of the 15 local priority protocols to identify opportunities for making enhancements to the great work already being done.
- Developing training tools to assist in the implementation of the enhancements.
- Creating a protocol resource manual for municipalities providing the regional protocol inventory, an inventory of the protocols they reported using, and resource information for local and national promising practices.

Ms. Tenney concluded her presentation. There were no questions from the Committee.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

Brandee Mead, MAG, addressed the Committee providing updates on the annual Heat Relief Network and results of the 2011 Homeless Street Count. Ms. Mead said MAG is once again partnering with faith-based community, nonprofit organization, and cities and towns, among others, across the region to provide the Heat Relief Network.

The official start of the Heat Relief Network is June 1, 2011. It will run through the end of September. MAG is once again providing a source of education on the dangers of the heat and preventing heat related deaths as well as resources in the community including hydration

stations, refuge locations and locations where people can drop off donations. MAG is providing maps of donation sites as well as the hydration and refuge locations. The maps will be distributed to libraries, family service centers, food banks, shelters, homeless outreach teams, as well as to emergency responders. Ms. Mead referred to the information sheet included in the handouts. She encouraged distribution of the information sheet to organizations that would be interested in participating in the Heat Relief Network.

Ms. Mead reported on the Regional Street Count. She said it is an annual point in time count conducted each year in January. Results from the January 25, 2011 count were recently released along with a press release. Ms. Mead reported a 36 percent decrease in number of homeless people on the streets. There were a number of factors that may have lead to the decrease in the count. This includes but is not limited to significant work happening throughout the community on preventing and ending homelessness through funding received from HUD and work being done by nonprofit providers to provide rapid re-housing. In addition, there has been more than \$11 million in stimulus funding distributed through municipalities to nonprofit organizations to provide rapid re-housing. Ms. Mead said in reviewing the data, more than 2,000 households have been prevented from becoming homeless. Several rapid re-housing projects have just started in the past year and have already housed many chronically homeless people.

Ms. Mead said a different methodology was used this year for conducting the street count. A survey methodology was used due to a requirement to count number of homeless veterans on the street. This required volunteers to ask if the individual was experiencing homelessness, the extent of their homelessness, and if they were a veteran. Taking more time to conduct the survey may not have allowed volunteers to reach the number of people that they have in the past. Volunteers noted individuals who appeared to be homeless would not always self identify, thereby requiring the volunteer to make a determination on whether or not to include that individual in the count.

Ms. Mead said there are a number of homeless families that are not represented in the homeless street count. Information from the Department of Education on the same night of the street count shows nearly 6,000 homeless children registered in schools identified as being homes and doubling up. Those families are not reflected in street count. Ms. Mead said it is important to note the street count is not the most accurate tool for counting homeless families because they try to stay out of sight. She said due to the economy, there are a number of homeless families that are sharing homes with families and friends. Councilmember Sentz acknowledged there were no homeless individuals counted in the Town of Gilbert. He questioned the accuracy of the results. Ms. Mead advised all cities and towns have street count coordinators who receive training and make an effort to conduct a high quality count.

Councilmember Osborne expressed concern over the accuracy of the results as well. Ms. Mead said the results are good news, however, given the economy, there is an expectation that the numbers would have increased. She noted the Shelter Count conducted this year reflect a four percent decrease. She said to have a decrease is encouraging given the great

work happening in the community. Councilmember Osborne noted last year's weather conditions made the count difficult due to rainy weather.

Councilmember Mike Woodard, City of Surprise, inquired why the City of Chandler increased by such a high rate. Ms. Mead advised there were significant increase and decrease throughout the region. She said the City of Chandler expanded the number of volunteers that participated in the count this year. Chandler volunteers were able to cover a larger area which may have lead to the increase. Councilmember Woodard said this again brings up the validity of the count noting, if there is an increase in volunteers, more people are found.

Ms. Mead acknowledged the Committee's concerns. She noted the street count is a snapshot reflecting the number of people volunteers were able to count during that particular point in time. She said the count does not include doubled-up or people missed during the count. Councilmember Woodard suggested it may be better to conduct a street count two times per year, such as in the winter and summer, to be able to obtain an average number. Ms. Mead offered to present the recommendation to the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

Councilmember Martinez said it is difficult to believe there was a decrease given the economy not being any better. He suggested the survey be revisited if the timeframe in which to conduct it is preventing volunteers from reaching more people. Ms. Mead acknowledged the concern over the survey. She said in past years, the count was conducted through observation. The survey was very short, however, when engaging individuals it may lead to more discussion. While it may have been a factor, there are plans to use the survey again next year. While the survey can take more time to complete, the additional information can lead to a more accurate count and understanding of people sleeping on the streets.

Councilmember Martinez inquired whether food banks provide input on their experience with people experiencing homelessness. Ms. Mead offered to research data on food banks. Councilmember Osborne noted the count is a snapshot in time. She agreed on the need to review food bank data and other resources but noted that will not provide a point in time street count. She said the survey methodology should be used again next year, with all its challenges and benefits, noting it allows for more contact and in-depth detail of homeless people living on the streets. While the number of doubled up families is not included, it addresses the role of the point-in-time street count.

Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the Committee's concerns. She noted the Department of Housing and Urban Development released an analysis from last year and also reflected a decrease. She said it is helpful to know what is being seen in this region is also reflected across the country. The influx of federal funding has also allowed for greater opportunity to place people in housing prior to becoming homeless.

Councilmember Sentz asked what is done with the information gathered. Ms. Mead advised the street count data is used for planning purposes. Nonprofits review and use data when applying for grants. Additional, HUD requires a street count be conducted each year to be

able to apply for HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Funding. She noted funding received from HUD is not tied to the number of people counted. HUD seeks to ensure their funding is making an impact in communities. Councilmember Sentz expressed agreement in keeping the methodology for next year.

MAG Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation Program Ad Hoc Committee

Amy St. Peter addressed the Committee on the Section 5310 application process. This source of federal funding supports agencies that are transporting older adults and people with disabilities. The application process is conducted on behalf of the Arizona Department of Transportation. Each year, MAG accepts applications from local governments as well as nonprofit agencies. A priority list for funding is developed and forwarded to ADOT.

Ms. St. Peter advised the 2011 priority list is on the MAG Regional Council agenda for action. This year, 20 different agencies applied for more than 50 vehicles. Agencies also applied for mobility management projects and related hardware and software. The priority listing was developed with the assistance of the MAG Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Adhoc Committee.

The Committee interviewed every agency. They reviewed the level of coordination among agencies as they are required by the Federal Government to coordinate with each other. Ms. St. Peter said each year should be more difficult for agencies to demonstrate they are coordinating because the level of coordination should be increasing. Agencies not making an attempt to coordinate are rated lower in the ranking.

There was a range of agencies that applied, including three first-time applicants. The priority listing was recommend by Management Committee and is on the agenda for approval by the MAG Regional Council.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were given an opportunity to suggest topics or issues of interest for discussion at a future meeting.

Councilmember Sentz addressed the previous discussion regarding the Legislature pushing more and more down to municipalities in terms of funding and subsidies. He noted in interactions with the Senior Center, the Town of Gilbert is periodically asked to subsidize Dial-A Ride out of the general fund. He said the root cause of the problem, the efficiency of Dial-a-Ride, has not been addressed. Councilmember Sentz requested a study to address the overall efficiency of Dial-A-Ride to improve service and reduce cost and subsidies at the municipal level. Committee members agreed noting examples of inefficiencies in coordinating schedules.

12. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for HSCC members to present a brief summary of current events.

Councilmember Woodard said he was disheartened to hear Mr. Schmaltz' report. He said the weakest are being hit the hardest, noting this is a problem that is being passed from the federal government to the towns and cities. He recalled times when neighbors took care of neighbors, noting those times no longer exist. Councilmember Osborne agreed, noting the importance of supporting grass roots movements and incubators such as the Resource Center in Avondale to help them be successful. Vice Chair Nowakowski requested having Mr. Schmaltz present at a future meeting on the state of the County and the effects on cities and towns.

Having no other input, the meeting adjourned 11:33 a.m. The next Human Services Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2011, at a location to be determined.