

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 22, 2002
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek, Chair	Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear
Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise, Vice Chair	Mayor Roy Delgado, El Mirage
* Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Treasurer	Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
	Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Past Chair

* Not present

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the June 17, 2002 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor Skip Rimsza moved to approve the June 17, 2002 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Shafer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Support of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Interim Executive Director Dennis Smith introduced Councilmember Dennis Cahill who reported on the recommendation of the Human Services Coordinating Committee Executive Committee. Councilmember Cahill discussed the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Contingency Funds (LIHEAP), a federally funded program designed to assist low-income individuals with utility assistance. He noted that these funds are critical to Arizona to support the increasing demand for support services that often keeps people one-step ahead of homelessness. Without the additional contingency funds, as many as 30,000 low-income Arizonans will go unserved and at risk. Councilmember Cahill stated that many of those served are young children and the elderly who are most vulnerable to the heat. An estimated 4,217 individuals in Maricopa County are anticipated to need this assistance. He explained that other sources of funding for utility assistance are diminishing rapidly with the increase in need for basic support services over the past year. Consequently, requests for support services in the Maricopa County Community Assistance Programs (CAPS) have seen a 65 percent increase between June 2001 to June 2002. Councilmember Cahill noted that other funding streams that once supported these types of services are no longer available. For example, the Emergency Assistance funding line item of approximately \$900,000, was recently eliminated from the State budget.

Councilmember Cahill stated that the Executive Committee MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee requests that the Regional Council urge the President to release emergency LIHEAP funds under this program that have already been congressionally appropriated. He noted the Arizona's fiscal year 2002 allocation is anticipated to be \$2,943,000.

Mayor Shafer asked if the Federal government had the money. Councilmember Cahill noted that the money has already been allocated. Mr. Smith confirmed that the money is there, but it is at the discretion of the President to release the funds. Chairman Feldman-Kerr asked for confirmation that the request was for approval to send a letter to the President requesting the release of these funds. Mr. Smith introduced Mary Thomson, Human Services Program Manager. Mary Thomson confirmed the request and explained that the deadline in which to gain access to the funds is September 30, the end of this federal fiscal year. She noted that if the funds are not released before then, they are lost.

Mayor Shafer moved to approve to send a letter to the President urging the release of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Emergency Contingency Block Grant Funds that have been appropriated by Congress to Arizona. Mayor Delgado seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Executive Director Selection or Recruitment

Mayor Bill Arnold moved to go into Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. Mayor Delgado seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Committee, in Executive Session, discussed personnel matters relating to selecting or recruiting a MAG Executive Director. The authority for such an executive session is A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1).

The Executive Committee adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the public meeting at 12:35 p.m. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that the Committee requested that an Executive Committee meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the hiring of an executive search firm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary