

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale,
Chair | *Mayor Joan Shafer, City of Surprise |
| Vice Mayor Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear | *Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County |
| +Councilmember Dave Crozier, Town of Gilbert | |
| Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage | |
| Councilmember Trinity Donovan, City of
Chandler | |
| +Susan Hallet for DES | |
| Councilmember Kyle Jones, City of Mesa, Vice
Chair | |
| +Vice Mayor Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale | |
| *Dr. Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging | |
| +Carol McCormack, Mesa United Way | |
| Donna Reid, Scottsdale Human Services
Commission | |
| Jayson Matthews for Janet Regner, Tempe
Community Council | |
| +Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, City of Tempe | |

OTHERS PRESENT

- Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the Disabled
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Shirley Gunther, City of Avondale
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy Schwabenleder, VSUW
Shelly Vasquez, City of Goodyear

- *Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Call to Order
Chair Marie Lopez Rogers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
No comments were made at this time.
3. Approval of the April 21, 2007 Human Services Coordinating Committee
Chair Lopez Rogers called for a motion to approve the April 21, 2007 meeting minutes. Vice Mayor Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale, moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage, seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.
4. Legislative Update
Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Matthew Clark, Senior Policy Planner, MAG, who provided an update on legislative activities on the state and federal levels pertaining to human services issues.

Mr. Clark stated that the HEARTH Act (H.R. 840), introduced February 6th by Julia Carson (D-7th/IN), Geoff Davis (R-4th/KY), Barbara Lee (D-9th/CA) and Rick Renzi (R-1st/AZ), seeks to reauthorize and strengthen the HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless assistance programs. HEARTH respects greater decision making at the local level, more closely aligns the HUD definition of homelessness with other federal agencies, expands resources for emergency shelter and supportive services, provides a framework for greater homeless prevention activity, and allows communities the flexibility to implement a range of housing solutions.

H.R. 840 currently counts 64 co-sponsors in the House and has been referred to the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Additionally, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), National Health Care for the Homeless, Catholic Charities USA, Volunteers of America, Family Promise, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Arizona Behavioral Health Association, and the Monroe (FL.) Association of Retarded Children are among just a few of the organizations that have endorsed HEARTH. He said it was his understanding that there are no hearings or mark-ups scheduled for this legislation at this time.

Mr. Clark reported that on June 11 2007, the House Appropriations Transportation-HUD subcommittee approved a spending bill that would allocate \$2.8 billion more in discretionary funds than what the president requested. Overall, transportation and housing programs would receive \$50.7 billion in discretionary funds, a 6.7 percent increase over fiscal 2007 spending levels and six percent more than President Bush requested.

Mr. Clark stated the Community Development Block Grand program, which provides funds to cities and urban counties to pay for housing improvements in low-income areas, would receive a \$400 million increase over 2007 levels, totaling \$4.2 billion for fiscal 2008 programs. He added the HOPE VI housing, which demolishes and rehabilitates more than 100,000 distressed public housing units, was set to be eliminated in the president's budget while the House proposes it received \$120 million. The bill is scheduled for the House floor the week of June 25, 2007.

Mr. Clark reported that on the State level, the House and Senate have approved the budget. Both the Senate and House budgets provide almost \$16.65 million for Domestic Violence Prevention. He added H.B. 2786 also creates a new priority for the distribution of State Lottery Fund (Fund) monies by appropriating up to \$1 million annually from the Fund to the Department of Economic Security for grants for homeless emergency, transitional shelters and related support services.

HSTC Chair Harris-Morgan inquired on the status of SSBG in the legislature. Mr. Clark responded that there is an increase of funding in certain areas as noted and he would report back to the committee if any changes occur. He added that the president has followed SSBG funding recommendations in the past. Mr. Harris-Morgan asked

that at this point there were no cuts anticipated in moving forward with SSBG funding. Mr. Clark replied yes, none so far.

Councilmember Onnie Sherejian asked if there was a process at MAG to thank the legislators for supporting human services. Ms. St. Peter stated that in the past MAG has disseminated information by email or included it in our Human Services newsletter. Councilmember Shekerjian said it is important to thank the elected officials. Ms. St. Peter replied that the Committee could send a letter to the legislators thanking them.

Ms. St. Peter stated that on May 23, 2007 the Regional Committee approved the resolution on federal funding for human services in the MAG region. MAG staff has prepared the cover letter for the resolution to support level or increased funding for Community Services Block Grant, Community Development Block Grant, LIHEAP, and the Social Services Block Grant. She added that a copy of the resolution is available for the Committee today.

Chair Lopez Rogers reiterated it is important to relay thanks when the legislature increases funding for human services, especially when the Committee is concerned about budget cuts. Chair Lopez Rogers called for a motion to draft a letter stating how the Committee is pleased with the movement of the House and Senate on human services funding issues. Councilmember Shekerjian moved to approve. Vice Mayor Martinez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Revised Allocation Recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Carl Harris-Morgan, Chair of MAG Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC), who presented on the SSBG allocation recommendations revised to reflect the proposed cut. Mr. Harris-Morgan began by stating the Arizona Department of Economic Security notified MAG in May that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was requiring revised allocation recommendations to reflect the 19.722 percent cut proposed at the federal level.

Mr. Harris-Morgan stated the MAG Human Services Technical Committee met on May 17, 2007, to develop the process as well as the revised allocation recommendations at both the target group and service levels. He added the recommendations do not include how the money should be allocated to the agencies that provide the services, which is determined by DES through the application process. The process also does not allocate the state planned SSBG dollars and advises only on the locally planned SSBG funding, or about \$4.1 million.

Mr. Harris-Morgan commented that after lengthy discussion, HSTC proposed to apply the cut evenly across the four target groups of Adults, Families and Children, Elderly, People with Disabilities and People with Developmental Disabilities. He stated that HSTC voted to recommend applying the cut evenly to all services except for services within the people with developmental disabilities target group. The services in this target group will be collapsed into one service area, Extended

Employment, to maximize the limited funding that would remain for that target group.

Mr. Harris-Morgan added that HSTC also voted to keep the possibility of amending the plan if the proposed cuts are actually approved. This would allow for more extensive public input than the timeframe for this decision allowed. The revised allocation recommendations were recommended for approval by the MAG Management Committee on June 13, 2007. Mr. Harris-Morgan said the recommendations are presented today for action and will be presented to the MAG Regional Council on June 27, 2007.

Vice Mayor Martinez expressed appreciation for the work HSTC has done. He commented that determining how to equitably apply funding cuts is difficult and controversial. He said he believes these recommendations are equitable. Chair Lopez Rogers agreed and said that it is always a tough call when discussing funding cuts to services that are in need in our community.

Chair Lopez Rogers called for a motion to recommend the revised SSBG allocation recommendations for approval. Vice Mayor Martinez moved to recommend the following for approval: apply the 19.722 percent cut across the board to the three target groups; Adult, Children, Youth & Families; Elderly; and Persons with Disabilities. The fourth target group, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, will combine all funding remaining after the 19.722 cut and recommend that it be wholly applied to Extended Supported Employment Services with the option of amending the plan if the cuts are actually approved at the federal level. Councilmember Delgado seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Heat Relief Planning Efforts

Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way and Brande Mead, MAG who presented plans on the heat relief efforts this summer to provide assistance to homeless people and those at risk of illness or death due to the extreme heat.

Ms. Mead began by stating that in the summer of 2005, several people died in the Phoenix metropolitan area due to a prolonged heat wave. She said that of the people who died, many were homeless. Ms. Mead stated that many people are committed to this issue and have been working diligently to put important resources in place. MAG has been working with municipalities and the service providers to develop maps that show resources that are available to homeless people and people in need this summer. She said the City of Phoenix has developed a *Response Plan for Summer Heat* that encompasses many community partners including faith-based volunteers. Ms. Mead stated that the plan details how the City will provide outreach to homeless persons in need. Maricopa County has also developed an *Excessive Heat Emergencies Plan*, which is initiated by National Weather Service messages and will inform the community about how to respond through a local media campaign. The plan's focus is on public education and protection of vulnerable segments of the population.

Response steps are in place and will be activated by the three types of National Weather Service messages (Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch, and Excessive Heat Warning). Many partners are involved including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Citizen Corps Councils, the City of Phoenix and the Human Services Campus. Carol McCormack thanked MAG Staff for their leadership on this issue and requested that they email the maps to committee members so that they can hand them out. Ms. Mead then thanked Maricopa County, Councilman Stanton and the City of Phoenix, the Department of Health Services, Valley of the Sun United Way and other cities who have put heat response plans in place. She acknowledged all the service providers, volunteers and faith-based community and community stakeholders for being involved in planning and for extending their services to people in need.

Amy Schwabenlender stated that she has been working with agencies that provide services to homeless individuals. She said that after the June meeting the 34 organizations decided to continue meeting throughout the summer to share information and resources. Ms. Schwabenlender relayed that the organizations determined that one million bottles of water were needed. Water drives are being coordinated throughout the county. A regional water drive organized by Valley of the Sun United Way will be held on July 14th at 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in coordination with St. Mary's Food Bank and United Food Bank. She said that they were using this as a pilot project and that they have plans to start water drives earlier next year. She thanked the City of Mesa and the City of Phoenix for all of their assistance and participation. Lisa Wilson stated that the water they are receiving 22 pallets of water from Second Harvest.

Chair Lopez Rogers asked if AZ211 will have the MAG maps available. Ms. Mead replied that she did not know but she would follow up with them. Councilmember Kyle Jones noted that there was a misprint on the map. Ms. Mead said it would be corrected.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked how many deaths occurred in 2005 and 2006 due to the heat. Ms. Mead answered that there were 32 homeless deaths in 2005 and that in 2006 there were 86 heat related deaths, but it is not know how many of those were homeless. Chair Lopez Rogers requested that Ms. Mead send out the information to the members of the committee. Councilmember Dave Crozier stated that AZ211 has information on heat emergencies and how to be prepared. He then inquired as to whether or not the faith based communities are involved and if water fountains have been identified. Ms. Mead responded that the faith based organizations are involved and that many Community Action Program offices and libraries allow people to come in and use their fountains and restrooms.

Jayson Matthews asked if places similar to Sam's Club have been asked for donations and if it was possible to donate money in lieu of transporting water. Ms. Schwabenlender replied that money is acceptable and that the Valley of the Sun United Way is going to ask for donations on a corporate level and will keep the Committee posted on the progress.

Vice Mayor Rob Antoniak stated that the Southwest Valley has many bottle distributors that may be approached for donations. He said that in Goodyear 4,000-5,000 homes were without power and found it difficult to communicate with those who were shut in. He asked if there are resources for shut-ins such as water or oxygen. Amy St. Peter stated that Maricopa County's Special Transportation Services conducts wellness checks to make sure that air conditioning is working and that the people are comfortable and well. Carol McCormack suggested contacting the Area Agency on Aging because of their volunteer force which contacts elderly individuals to make sure that they are alright. She suggested finding a way to coordinate with them. Ms. McCormack then thanked Amy Schwabendlender and Lisa Wilson for their efforts in heat relief.

Vice Mayor Antoniak suggested getting faith based organizations to establish programs within their own churches. Ms. Mead replied that that this is something being considered. Carl Harris-Morgan also suggested having at least one landline phone in their homes that is not dependent on electricity in case of a power outage. Jayson Matthews suggested to Vice Mayor Antoniak to share his experience with the power outage to other cities. Vice Mayor Antoniak stated that they are looking at models. Councilmember Roy Delgado suggested that every city in Maricopa County should put information on the heat, water, and what to do when they power goes out in their newsletters as well as in the MAG newsletter.

7. 2007 Regional Human Services Summit

Ms. St. Peter reported on the Regional Human Services Summit and the projects developed within the workshops. She began by thanking Chair Lopez Rogers, Councilmember Donovan, Councilmember Sherejian, Jayson Matthews, Donna Reid, and Carl Harris-Morgan for participating in the Summit. She stated that over 200 people participated in the summit. The evaluations of the event indicated that everyone was satisfied with the format and 98 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the event overall. She stated that the breakout sessions developed the framework for nine different projects. MAG will strategically deciding what projects would be most appropriate for MAG or other community partners. Ms. St. Peter noted that the City of Avondale has initiated activity on the project that came from the Domestic Violence and Civil Legal System breakout session, which will provide judges with training on domestic violence.

Ms. St. Peter stated that more information about all of the projects will be included in the report. She recognized the sponsors, including Value Options of Arizona, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, ASU College of Human Services, APS, SRP, and the Arizona Council of Human Services Providers. Jayson Matthews congratulated MAG staff for the conference and stated that it was a good use of time and a dynamic day. Chair Lopez Rogers asked everyone to mention the training for the judges with their municipalities.

8. Committee Update

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

Amy St. Peter updated the Committee on staff transitions as well as providing an update on the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). Ms. St. Peter stated that YEP is still underway and that currently three written testimonials are posted on the website and the two video testimonials will soon be available on the website. She indicated that staff is finalizing the Public Service Announcement for broadcast on Channel 11. She asked members to link the PSA to their websites. Ms. St. Peter noted that they have applied for a second grant term and expect to find out if they have received the grant soon. Councilmember Trinity Donovan asked if teenagers have been involved in the process past the competition recognition. Ms. St. Peter replied that yes, they have been trying to get youth input throughout the entire process and that it was especially great to have their input with the PSA message testing.

Ms. St. Peter stated that there have been transitions among the staff. She said that Teresa Grantham has accepted a position with the Foreign Civil Service and that they hired Renae Tenney to fill her position.

Chair Lopez Rogers asked if they were looking to place the PSA in mainstream media. Ms. St. Peter replied that they applied for a grant with the Avon Foundation to cover the marketing costs of introducing the PSA in the mainstream media market.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

Brande Mead stated that the consolidated McKinney-Vento application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on June 15, 2007. The application requested 20.9 million dollars for 50 different projects in Maricopa County, including a request by Arizona Behavioral Health, Corp. for one new project for 1.3 million dollars to support 86 SMI and dual diagnosis homeless individuals in coordination with the Lodestar Day Resource Center. Ms. Mead thanked Jayson Matthews and Amy Schwabenlender for their assistance with the Ranking and Review Committee. Ms. Mead stated that the rankings were provided in the handout. Chair Lopez Rogers congratulated Mr. Matthews and Ms. Schwabenlender for their hard work.

MAG FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Committee

Ms. St. Peter presented the priority listing of projects. She stated that the FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program's priority listing of projects has moved through the MAG process and has been forwarded to the Arizona Department of Transportation. Ms. St. Peter pointed out that the number one applicant is exciting because it is a joint collaboration with Terros and Triple R. They are collaborating to undertake new activities in serving their clients better. This will also help to set a higher standard for other applicants in the future. She stated that collaboration is a new requirement for applicants. The joint Terros and Triple R project will be a good indicator of how collaboration works and will be an important learning experience for working through this process. She also noted that the Human Service Coordination Transportation Plan presents coordination strategies for the next year. She added that plans are underway to have a Transportation Summit around this time next year.

MAG Human Services Technical Committee

HSTC Chair Harris-Morgan presented the first draft of the Resource Assessment Project and referred the Committee to the three draft maps before them. He stated this project was first discussed at the last HSCC meeting in April, 2007 and has made progress with help from MAG staff. The objective of this project is to map out the resources used to address human services issues in the region and per this Committee's direction the focus first was on the Community Action Programs (CAP).

Mr. Harris-Morgan said the maps display the locations of all CAP offices in the region against overlays of indicators of need such as poverty, aging and disability. He added that HSTC is researching the possibility of adding free or reduced lunch programs as another indicator of need for the project.

Mr. Harris-Morgan noted there had been concern expressed at the last HSTC meeting that the 2000 Census information would be too outdated to be used effectively in this project. The MAG GIS Division has indicated that while the numbers have certainly increased since the last Census, that the trends have not changed significantly. This makes using the 2000 Census data more viable than previously thought.

Chair Lopez Rogers inquired if they had considered looking at the special census. She noted that many of the Committee members here today had participated in that effort. Ms. St. Peter commented that unfortunately some of the questions were not available through the special census such as information on persons with special needs.

9. Comments from the Committee
There were none at this time.

11. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Coordinating Committee is scheduled for: Wednesday October 17, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the MAG building, second floor, Cholla Room.