

MAG Human Services
Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network, Chairman
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Margot Cordova, Valley of the Sun United Way
*Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services
*Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
*Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
*Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community Service Program
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise

*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
*Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
*Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
*Neal Young, City of Phoenix

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Determan, MAG Staff
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG Staff

1. Call to Order

Chairman Reagan opened the meeting at 1:08 p.m. with an introduction of new MAG staff, Debra Determan, Human Service Manager and DeDe Gaisthea Administrative Support Staff following with the introduction of committee members.

2. Approval of November 21, 2002 Human Service Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Reagan asked for a motion to approve the November 21, 2002 meeting minutes. Mary Jo Swartz moved to approve, Steve Wise seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Project update related to January Advance 2002

Chairman Reagan opened the discussion by reminding members that an ad-hoc committee had met to review the bylaws and operations procedures last December. Members of the ad-hoc committee gave a brief report. Steve Wise stated the group felt a need for additional representation of consumer and advocacy groups and providers. The group discussed the potential conflict of interest providers and

maybe some others might have. The potential of conflict of interest could occur but the remedy for that is spelled out in the policies and procedures for both structures.

Discussion was held around the need to continue marketing the HSTC and HSCC as the elected officials and human service staff have quite a bit of turn over. Discussion was held regarding the difference between HSTC and HSCC clarifying the membership. The HSCC is made up of elected officials and Board members of non-profits. The HSTC is made up of area providers and municipal representatives. Traditionally HSTC has been the working body regarding the broad range of human services with recommendations and authority going to the HSCC and then ultimately to the Regional Council. Paige Thomas stated the group had discussed the potential of forming an advisory council to keep conflict of interest separate, and the potential to do video conferencing. Ms. Reagan had a concern with videoconferencing in that the by-laws would need to be changed to allow for voting via videoconferencing. Staff will look into the logistics. Committee members suggested doing a trial run to see how the videoconferencing system could work. It was suggested that prior to the next advance, an ad-hoc committee look at inviting participants from the foundations and faith based organizations.

It was further suggested that staff and committee members pull together documents they had worked on when planning for the 2002 anticipated advance. CALLING ALL members to review and bring those materials to the next meeting. (May 22, 2003)

Chairman Reagan continued the discussion and thanked members for their interest in strengthening roles on the two committees. Further discussion was held to talk about the need for strong membership of both the HSTC as well as HSCC. The group discussed the methods for filling vacant slots on the Committees as well as those slots where the member has not been active. Carl Harris-Morgan mentioned membership and attendance is important however, many of the small communities have a difficult time with representation and there are some communities where human service departments are not supported at all. Sandra stated that some municipalities ask the Human Services Councils to represent them. Much discussion was held around the many hats that elected officials wear and that Human Services may not have a priority, but that in economic hard times, Human Services is hard hit and may need more planning and deliberation then.

4. Potential Advance for the HSTC & HSCC at the next joint Meeting Scheduled for Thursday July 17, 2003

Chairman Reagan stated that in July there is a potential for joint meeting that could serve as the Advance. Staff has two tentative locations, Flinn Foundation and the South Mountain Environmental Center. This would be a half-day of fun and work to look at the direction we want to take this next year. Ms. Reagan suggested a Barbeque lunch and to look at the extended time of 11:30-3:00. It was suggested that we target the date and time and hopefully the HSCC would be in agreement.

Further discussion was held about making sure a key component was concrete role expectations for all members. The first step staff will take is to update the orientation manuals for both committees. Included in the orientation would be an update of the timeline, which gives a history of the successes of the committees. Each new member will have a one-on-one orientation. It is also important that we re-confirm members commitment both verbally and with a letter of appointment.

Ms. Reagan asked for the commitment by the committee to move forward with advance joint meeting, and received a consensus of the group to go forward.

5. Maricopa County & Arizona state Set-Aside Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Local Boards RFQ

Chairman Reagan stated that several agencies were contacted to determine their interest in becoming the EFSP Staffing Agency they are, Arizona Community Foundation, American Red Cross, Arizona State University, Foundation for Senior Living, Mesa United Way and Maricopa Association of Governments.

Mary Jo Swartz stated this task is a lot to consider when looking at staffing and administrative support. This staffing role however does not require the entity to handle the actual funds. The entity would keep records, handle all the application applications, recommend allocations, keep record of grants almost in a contract management method. Ms. Determan explained that traditionally VSUW has received \$15,000 annually for this role but have stated that they do supplement that with VSUW funds. There would be potentially \$30,000 available annually. Paige Thomas requested the Committee to revisit our stated purpose to see if this fits. Jim Knaut stated that the workload is most time consuming in the fall and early winter months. It was suggested that the committee look very cautiously. When members asked for a staff report, Ms. Determan listed the pros & cons as:

PROS - MAG has a history of doing allocations of funds, MAG is seen as a neutral agency, which does have qualified staff to handle this project. Also MAG has a strong relationship with the cities and towns

CONS - Taking this project on may restrict taking on broader issues of planning for human services, there would have to be adequate funding to cover the costs of staff, there may be some underlying political issues with the project.

After much discussion, regarding conflict of interest, staffing costs, fit within the mission of the Human Services Technical Committee, Mr. Harris-Morgan made a motion to send a formal letter thanking the Board for their interest in MAG but at this time we are not interested in serving in the capacity of staffing the FEMA Board but we wholeheartedly support the project and if an appropriate agency does not come forth, MAG will. Barbara Knox seconded and the motion carried. Three members of the committee abstained as they are on the FEMA Board.

6. Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Funding

Chairman Reagan introduced Susan Neidlinger who gave an update on the service intent and targets populations corrections that she developed for the Developmentally Disable groups. She felt the language was outdated for the problem statements. Sandra questioned that if we did change the service intents, we need to clarify procedure and legality. It was suggested this be resolved before December in order to be remedied for the Title IV annual plan.

It was suggested that there was a need for public input before changes could be made. It was felt that if there is an option to amend, we should move forward with the process.

Chairman Reagan and staff with follow up with DES.

7. Legislative Update

Chairman Reagan informed the committee that they could look on the legislative website for the state budget, the website has been provided in the agenda

Mary Jo Swartz suggested that at the Advance we look at methods to know more about legislative issues and how we can keep abreast of the changes.

8. Call to the Public

Chairman Reagan asked the public for comments. There were no comments made.

9. Announcements

Chairman Regan asked the committee if there were any announcements. Connie James handed out materials on the East Valley Needs Assessment and updated the group on their process, should be ready for public announcements and a Town Hall after October.

Margot Cordova has been working on the Community Data Partnership and believes the publication of Community Vital Signs should occur in the early fall.

Sylvia Sheffield said that the budget deadline is the 26th, which looks a bit bleak; also they held a successful health and human services fair.

Steve Wise is planning an on-line survey for a part of their East Valley Needs Assessment.

Carl Harris-Morgan stated Gilbert was working on the East Valley Needs Assessment and the budget. It looks like human services will see a major reduction in funding.

Jim Knaut stated his agency would be affected by the \$4 M cut. They have plans on opening an Adult Care Senior Services with an anticipated \$10M cut. A new Community Center will be opening at 35th & Pinnacle Peak. It will be a joint Center with police, human service, parks, but limited funds for staffing. The building costs have been covered by bond money.

Paige Thomas has begun a program called Trendsetters, which originated in Mesa. It's a mentoring program for youth. The West valley is looking at developing a needs assessment.

Barbara Knox has been working with other agencies to look at methods for working with rehabilitation services.

Judy Bowden announced Mesa United Way reached their campaign goals.

Mary Jo Swartz stated at DES there is a budget shortfall between \$30-\$40 million and it looks as though they may not get funded through legislature. At the Globe Advisory Council, had concerns of public fund cuts but look toward collaboration as a possible method to deal with loss of funds.

Debbra Determan reported the NOFA for the Continuum of Care should be out within a couple days. It looks like there will be significant changes. The Employers Against Domestic Violence had a successful breakfast with the Governor to kick off the Walk to End Domestic Violence.

Chairman Reagan informed the committee that the next meeting on Thursday, May 15, meeting would be in conflict with the ACAA and AFBA conference. The meeting will be rescheduled for May 22, 2003 to accommodate those attending.

10. Adjourn

Chairman Reagan adjourned the Human Services Technical Committee meeting at 3:11 p.m.