

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
*Paige Garrett, Quality of Life Community
Services, Inc
Frances Delgado for Jeffery Jamison, City of
Phoenix
Jayson Matthew, Tempe Community Council
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW
+Bob Baratko for Dan Lundberg, City of
Surprise
*Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jeff Young for Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale

Carol Sherer, DES/DDD
Judy Tapscott, City of
Tempe
*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
*Neal Young, City of Phoenix

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Connolly, AZ DES
Frances Delgado, MCCSD
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Jessica Gonzalez, City of Phoenix
Brittany Lane, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion

Chairman Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:04 pm and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of May 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the May 11, 2007 HSTC meeting minutes. Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way, made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Young, DES, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Update on the Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendations

Chair Harris-Morgan provided an update on the revised SSBG plan and recent public hearings. He stated that the committee was informed that the White House was proposing a 19.722 percent budget cut to SSBG funding and like last year the

committee needed to submit revised allocation recommendations reflecting proposed cuts. DES has held public hearings throughout the state to collect comments about the revised allocations. MAG staff, along with the Valley of the Sun United Way and other non-profit providers, attended the hearing in this region.

Chair Harris-Morgan commented that DES is now in the process of compiling the public hearing comments into the plan. DES will then submit both the original plan developed in January and the revised plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by September 1, 2007

Chair Harris-Morgan informed the committee that MAG staff will provide additional updates as more information becomes available about the proposed cuts. Mr. Matthews inquired about the discussion the committee had about reforming the process of getting information earlier. Ms. St. Peters replied that the committee's quarterly meeting calendar includes presentations from the DES departments that receive SSBG funding. Future agendas will also include discussion about other avenues to collect data needed by the committee.

5. Nominating Procedures

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who provided an update on the nominating procedure revisions made based on feedback received at the May HSTC meeting. Ms St. Peter began by referring the committee to the draft nominating guidelines handout. The section under Officers regarding transition of leadership has been changed to reflect two year terms. She added that the language on consecutive terms was revised to reflect "serve up to three consecutive terms." Under the Terms section, the term was changed to a two year term to be consistent with the previous section. Language about achieving geographic balance in leadership was also added.

Ms. Leyvas asked if the incoming officer's time spent covering the outgoing officer's term would count against serving a full term. Ms. St. Peter replied the time spent covering the remainder of another officer's term would not count against the full term for the incoming officer. She added that under Duties and Responsibilities, clarification was added in accordance with DES policy that a representative from an agency that directly receives SSBG funding can not be Chair. Ms. St. Peter added that the section was revised to indicate the Vice Chair does not have to be a representative from one of the agencies prohibited from serving as Chair.

Ms. Leyvas inquired about the first line under Nominating Procedures as to how agendas will be distributed according to open meeting laws. Ms. St. Peter responded that all upcoming election information will be added to the HSTC agendas and that all committee meeting agendas are posted at MAG and on the MAG website. Chair Harris-Morgan requested to add that nominations would be received by staff prior to the meeting.

Mr. Knaut commented that the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is not eligible to chair due to the fact that they directly receive SSBG funding. He requested that AAA be

added under the list of those who can not chair. Ms. St. Peter reiterated the revisions to include; “nominations received by staff prior to meeting”, “agenda and materials distributed”, and also to include AAA under the list of those who can not chair.

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the draft nominating procedures to transition leadership for the HSTC Committee with the added revisions. Mr. Matthews moved to approve draft nominating procedure with revisions. Ms. Leyvas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Regional Heat-Relief Planning Efforts

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented maps representing hydration stations, refuge locations and donation sites across the region and provided an update on recent planning activities. Ms. Mead began by stating in the summer of 2005 several people died in the Phoenix metropolitan area due to a prolonged heat wave. Many of the people who died were homeless. She stated that planning efforts were put into place to prevent this from happening again. Many people are committed to this issue and are working diligently to put important resources in place.

Ms. Mead stated that MAG has worked to partner with municipalities and the service providers to develop maps that show resources that are available to homeless people and people in need this summer. This coordinated effort resulted in the development of two resource maps, one showing 62 hydration and refuge locations and the second map with 45 collection and donation sites. She said the maps are available on the MAG website and the Community Information & Referral (CI&R) website, as well as through the CONTACTS Shelter Hotline. MAG reported 123 hits on refuge/hydration map and 87 hits for the donation/collection map. CI&R reported 660 hits on both maps, 18 calls on refuge locations and 215 calls on donating water. Maricopa County Public Health Department is distributing the maps to all of the emergency rooms in the County.

Ms. Mead addressed other efforts underway such as the City of Phoenix developing a *Response Plan for Summer Heat* that encompasses many community partners including faith-based volunteers. 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. The plan informs the community how to respond through a local media campaign. The plan’s focus is on public education and protection of vulnerable segments of the population. She added that 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).

Ms. Mead commented that many partners are involved including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Citizen Corps Councils, the City of Phoenix and the Human Services Campus. The Valley of the Sun United Way has formed a group of faith based providers, homeless outreach teams, service providers, and city staff to focus on this

issue. The group has met this summer and is really working to get the word out into the community on collaboration on this issue. She added they also organized a very successful water drive with more than 27,000 bottles of water and \$1,000 cash collected to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and United Food Bank.

Ms. Mead further stated that there has been significant media coverage and collaboration among agencies. The City of Mesa has also done a hydration donation campaign and has collected 16,000 bottles of water and 12,000 bottles of Gatorade that have been distributed since June 18 and will be collecting water until August 30. Ms. Mead commented they are still in need of volunteers to distribute water.

Ms. Mead commented that an Extreme Heat Warning was reported on July 4 and 5 and an Excessive Heat Warning was reported on July 13 and 14. As of August 4, according to the Maricopa County Office of Vital Registration, there have been six heat-caused deaths, nine heat-related deaths, with 34 under investigation. She pointed out it is not known at this time if any were homeless.

Ms. Mead concluded her report by thanking Maricopa County, Councilman Stanton and the City of Phoenix, the City of Mesa, 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. She requested that the committee contact her for more information about planning efforts, prevention tips, or how to be involved at (602) 452-5060. Ms. St. Peter added that MAG will do the resource maps next year and to contact MAG to include your agency or if help is needed with resources.

7. 2007 Regional Human Services Summit Report

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Ms. St. Peter, MAG, who presented the first draft of the report detailing the projects developed at the first Regional Human Services Summit. Ms. St. Peter began by thanking all of the committee members for attending this event. She said that many of those who gave a summary report of the workshops at the end of the Summit were from this committee. Ms. St. Peter stated that there were about 200 people in attendance with great representation from the public and private sector. She commented that the Summit had a great keynote speaker, Rick Lowe, who challenged the audience to look at the community differently and to see what small piece each person could improve.

Ms. St. Peter referred the committee to the draft report. She stated that staff is looking for feedback from the committee on the content, strategy, focus and style of the report. She stated that the first piece of the report is the executive summary providing a brief overview. The second part offers information about the projects. She commented that nine workshops were offered but in the plan eight are reflected because two projects were merged. Ms. St. Peter added that she would like to bring the plan back after the committee's revisions have been added.

Ms. St. Peter stated the projects focus on communication and awareness with one pilot project, the Developmental Disabilities and Aging Integration Project. The Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities has agreed to take leadership on this pilot project. Ms. St. Peter said five of the projects have confirmed leadership for implementation. MAG will solicit leadership on the remaining projects. Ms. St. Peter added that after the plan has been recommended for approval by this committee, it will go through the rest of the MAG approval process.

Mr. Matthew commented that the plan was very well written with a clear structure. He said that what is presented today is a good first draft and he will be looking forward to the final version. Ms. Bowden suggested including a list of participants of the summit and their affiliation to acknowledge that this was valley wide effort. Ms. St. Peter agreed that this would be very useful information to include. Ms. Leyvas commented that in addition to the informative breakout workshops, the networking was great and the dialogue was important to avoid duplication of other projects.

Chair Harris-Morgan suggested including a contact name and number for the projects in case others want to be involved. Ms. St. Peter replied that staff will do so. Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for their support and added that the report will be brought back next month for action.

8. Youth Empowerment Project Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, who provided an update on the Youth Empowerment Project. Ms. St. Peter added that Ms. Tenney has recently joined the MAG staff from Arizona State University and will be the new planner working on domestic violence policy. Ms. St. Peter said MAG is very excited to have her join the human services division.

Ms. Tenney began her update on the Youth Empowerment Project by thanking the Governor's Office for recently renewing the Innovative Grant funding that supports this project. She commented that the purpose of the presentation was to present the public service announcement produced by MAG from the winning video entry from last year's competition, and to provide a brief update on the project. She added that the Youth Empowerment Project was created as a joint project of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee.

Ms. Tenney stated that the goal of the project is to empower teens to help one another by providing prevention and intervention tools for dating violence. The project strives to help teens recognize the early warning signs of dating violence, provide information on how they may be supportive of friends experiencing a violent relationship, and provide information on local resources for assistance. Ms. Tenney commented that there were two components to this project. The first component was the development of Web of Friends, which is an informational website for teens. The second component is a public service announcement competition. The Web of Friends website currently provides teens with information on teen dating violence, a variety of prevention and intervention resources, and peer testimonials. The website

may be accessed at www.weboffriends.org. The public service announcement competition empowers teens to speak to their peers about dating violence through the development of PSA's. She added that the entries are judged by a panel of teens and content area experts. The winning entry is professionally produced for distribution to media outlets throughout the state.

Ms. Tenney said last year's winning entry in the video category has been produced by the MAG Communications Division and will be presented to the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council for approval at their next meeting on August 16, 2007. Once approved, the video will be distributed to local media outlets and community cable stations. The video has also been loaded onto the Web of Friends website. The winning video was presented to the committee at this time. After the viewing she stated that the plans for this year's PSA competition were underway and the competition this year will invite teens to create PSA's for radio broadcast and electronic invites to visit the Web of Friends website. Materials for entering the competition will be available on the website and plans to expand marketing efforts this year to increase entries in the competition.

Ms. Tenney once again thanked the Governor's Office for their continued support of the Youth Empowerment Project. Ms. Tenney added if the committee had any suggestions of teen-oriented groups that would be helpful in spreading the word about the competition or if they would like a DVD copy of the video to please contact her.

Ms. Bowden asked if MAG staff had considered going through learning services in schools as a resource to help with the competition. Ms. Tapscott also suggested contacting the cities mayor's advisory council as another resource to get the information out. Ms. St. Peter stated that PSA competition will be launched at the press conference in September and will provide the committee with an update after the event.

Chair Harris-Morgan commented that at the last Human Services Coordinating Committee meeting he attended all three video entries were shown and all were very well done. He said the teens showed great creativity and will enjoy seeing the results of the next competition.

9. Resource Assessment Project Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Ms. St. Peter, MAG, who provided an update on the Resource Assessment Project. The goal of the project is to visually represent resources in the region to address human services. The first resource mapped is the Community Action Program offices and service delivery areas. Ms. St. Peter said that there have been concerns about using data from the 2000 Census. In response, MAG staff has prepared an additional map using data from the 1995 Census. This was done so the committee could compare trends from one Census to the next. Ms. St. Peter stated the maps are presented to the committee for input and discussion as to what other data might be available for this project. She also introduced Rita Walton, MAG Information Services Manager and Don Worley, MAG GIS Program Manager, to take questions on the data used for the maps.

Ms. St. Peter said the project is striving to indicate the resources used to address human services with overlays of indicators of need such as aging and disability. There are three strategy steps for this project. The first step with the initial mapping has been completed. The second step is to identify additional areas of analysis such as the capacity of the resources to meet the need. The third step for this project is to present the final analysis and develop a report for approval. She noted that MAG has acquired an ASU intern from their planning school. The intern will be working 20 hours a week which provides more availability to do research on this project.

Ms. Walton stated the maps were developed by Mr. Worley's GIS staff. She acknowledged the committee's concerns about using 2000 Census data. She commented the GIS division started by comparing maps prepared using 1995 and 2000 census data. She said the trends are similar but she can't necessarily confirm if the information has truly changed or not. She mentioned the American Community Survey is just a survey and she would recommend using other resources to get more current information. The committee discussed using 2000 Census data to adjust the 2005 Special Census population data in an attempt to provide more current data. Ms. Walton acknowledged the information will not be perfect as the population and other factors continue to change with time.

Ms. Bowden inquired if using free lunch data to represent the poverty data would work. Ms. Walton agreed that could be another resource to use. She said mapping could be done by with school districts or zip codes depending how the data is sorted although adding zip codes would be the easiest way to map. Ms. Leyvas noted that it would be hard to get specific information from the free lunch program because the information would include unincorporated areas that are also covered. Ms. Leyvas commented that when looking at community information from the 2000 Census the only significant changes were in two areas. Glendale and Tempe were the cities showing percentage changes with the numbers switched. The other cities showed slight percentage changes.

Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for their input and inquired if there are other resources to look at for data. She also suggested looking at AHCCCS for information on ages 60 and over. Ms. Marshall commented that AHCCCS would not give information on Medicare but Medicaid and suggested looking at SSI for consumers using SSDI and AHCCCS.

Ms. Lopez-Powell suggested using food stamp data. Ms. St. Peter inquired about other indicators for poverty. Ms. Lopez-Powell recommended TANF data and also suggested contacting DES. Ms. Leyvas stated the County had requested information from DES about the number of TANF cases that would cycle off due to the due to the lifetime limit. These data have not been provided yet although it was estimated that 200 cases would cycle off throughout the state by October 1, 2007. Ms. Jonovich concurred on the difficulty of getting poverty numbers and said she hasn't been able

to receive specific numbers. Ms. Leyvas noted that there could be data that reflect factors but not indicators and these might not correlate to low income or poverty.

Ms. Tapscott commented the free lunch data are relevant for the purpose of the project and the data would likely be available through districts. She stated that Tempe records this information by school, providing more specific data. Mr. Matthews agreed the free lunch data are the best possibility. He suggested having the new intern research data with a sample district and compare specific identifying factors. There is also a need to work with DES for information. He added this information will only be good for two or three years. He stressed the need to work with our peers. This is a project that can be developed over time and redesigned if needed. Ms. Leyvas agreed with the suggestion of having the new intern conduct a sample but suggested not choosing just an urban school district. Ms. Sherer suggested choosing an urban and a rural school. Ms. Leyvas added the councils of governments could make a united request to get this information from DES.

Ms. St. Peter asked the committee on suggestions for data on aging. Ms. Leyvas suggested using AAA information. Mr. Knaut noted the AAA information is possibly the same data that was used here and has the same challenges for information collection as this committee. Chair Harris-Morgan commented that not all seniors go to senior centers. He said he heard that only five percent in poverty go to centers. Ms. Leyvas added some numbers could be available from the senior help line. Mr. Knaut recommended exploring the possibility of using Medicaid information, but recognized that there may be some challenges with the data as well.

Ms. Leyvas suggested using ASU as a resource and mentioned they may have done a social integration study. Ms. Jonovich said she could check on the best contact person at ASUI and would forward that name to Ms. St. Peter. Mr. Matthews suggested using agencies such as cities and United Ways for information through the quarterly reports. He added the information could be timely. Ms. Lopez-Powell stated cities are reluctant to provide information on poverty and there has been some concern due to sensitivity of the issue. Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for the input they provided to make this a stronger resource project for the community to use.

10 Committee comments

No comments were made at this time.

10 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm. **The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.**