

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of
Tempe
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
+Patti Evans, City of Goodyear
*Stefanie Garcia, City of Chandler
Community Services, Inc
*Laura Guild, DES/CPIP
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
*Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
CJ O'Connor for Jim Knaut, Area Agency
on Aging
Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
+Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun
United Way
*Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale
Dan Lundberg for Bob Baratko, City of
Surprise
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
+Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council

Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Christina Avila for Sylvia Sheffield, City
of Avondale, Vice Chair
Marty Finnegan for Carol Sherer,
DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheila Patton, City of Avondale
Diana Toussaint, DES

Rachel Brito, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

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

1. Call to Order
Chair Carl Harris-Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee.

Sheila Patton, City of Avondale, announced the grand opening of the Care1st Avondale Resource Center. The grand opening will be on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at 328 W. Western Avenue, in Avondale. Ms. Patton said the Resource Center is a partnership between the City of Avondale and Care1st. The center currently houses fifteen different human services providers. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, requested the Resource Center address be emailed to Committee members.

3. Approval of January 8, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the February 12, 2009 meeting minutes. Patti Evans, City of Goodyear, made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, noted the Committee had quorum and some Committee members would not be able to attend the entire meeting. She suggested moving forward to item number six on the agenda: 2009 Progress Report on the 2007 MAG Regional Human Service Summit, to ensure the Committee had the quorum needed to vote on that item.

4. 2009 Progress Report on the 2007 MAG Regional Human Service Summit

This item was taken out of order to ensure quorum for a vote.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft progress report on the 2007 MAG Regional Human Services Summit. Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Committee members for their support of the event and efforts to update the progress made on the projects proposed at the summit. Ms. St. Peter said it has been a pleasure putting the report together as great progress has been made on the projects. She noted additional information is still required for the Affordable Housing and Transportation Civic Education Campaign project. The Arizona Department of Housing has been contacted to provide additional information.

Ms. St. Peter advised Committee members of their option to make changes and approve the report at their next meeting or to recommend approval of the report and move it forward to the Human Services Coordination Committee for approval at their meeting on April 21, 2009. Chair Harris-Morgan said he was impressed with the progress made on *Judges Making a Difference*. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the significant commitment the Arizona State Supreme Court has made to this project and the impact their work has had to date.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked for a motion to recommend approval of the 2009 Progress Report on the 2007 MAG Regional Human Services Summit. Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix Human Services Department, made a motion to recommend approval. Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Legislative Update

This item was taken out of order to ensure quorum available for item number four.

Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO), presented a report on the impact of funding cuts in human services. He said PAFCO is a non-profit coalition representing health and human service agencies from across Arizona. The group's principles include strength, power in diversity, and working together for the common good. Mr. Schmaltz gave an overview of the economic situation and budget cuts implemented in FY2009 affecting various programs throughout Arizona.

He said the Health and Human Services system is intricately linked together and the need for safety net programs increases during tough economic times. Mr. Schmaltz noted “The Changing Face of Poverty” represents neighbors, families, and individuals. He reviewed the impact of devastating cuts made in 2009 to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), programs such as AHCCCS, and the Housing Trust Fund. He also discussed the impact cuts are having on the individuals served through these programs. Ms. St. Peter asked what repercussions could result from non-compliance with Arnold vs. Sarns, noting that the State is already out of compliance and the proposed budget reductions would push compliance even further out of reach. Mr. Schmaltz said that the proposed budget reductions are legal despite the requirements of Arnold vs. Sarns.

Mr. Schmaltz reviewed proposed budget cuts for FY2010. He noted Governor Brewer’s five-point plan calls for a \$1 billion dollar tax increase. He said FY09 had a shortfall of \$1.6 billion dollars. FY2010 anticipates a \$3 billion dollar shortfall. Mr. Schmaltz stressed the need to advocate, educate and get involved. He said this type of collaboration is having an affect on the Legislature as things are not moving quite as fast because they are pausing to listen to advocates.

Mr. Schmaltz emphasized telling the story in a variety of ways, doing the research, knowing the facts, applying pressure, and putting a face with the story. Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise, asked for talking points citizens can use to communicate alternative options for funding cuts to the target list of legislatures. Mr. Schmaltz said a non-tax alternative list is being developed and will be published within the next ten days. He added there are many other alternatives available that can be considered. Mr. Schmaltz will provide the list to Ms. St. Peter for distribution.

Ms. Marshall discussed cuts implemented at the City of Phoenix due to the funding shortfall. She said each department is expected to offer alternatives as they anticipate additional reductions. Ms. Marshall added they are looking at creative ways to reduce costs such as how meals are served. She said the statements noted in Mr. Schmaltz’s presentation are very real and she highly stressed telling the story. She noted the success that older adults had when they advocated against the impending closure of five senior centers. Thanks to their involvement, only two senior centers were actually closed down.

Mr. Schmaltz said the election of President Barack Obama is historic and has brought about monumental change. He stressed the need to be relentless in advocacy because there are people who will not give up advocating against health and human services.

6. Crisis Management Update

This item was taken out of order to ensure quorum was available for item number four. Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association, gave an update about efforts to address the impact of the recession on human services delivery. She acknowledged Mr. Schmaltz for his efforts in advocating for health and human

services. Ms. Zwick thanked everyone for their participation in making a difference in the community.

Ms. Zwick gave an update on the “Choose to Help” campaign. She said there has been some progress as well as set backs. She attributed the set backs to the state budget and delaying the campaign launch until April 1, 2009, which marked the end of the United Way and the Season of Giving campaigns.

Ms. Zwick said they were contacted by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust regarding a campaign to raise \$1.3 million dollars. As a result of a collaborative effort, there are eleven foundations and funding organizations that have partnered together in this effort. The campaign will run April 1 to April 19, 2009. She noted media coverage is being provided by the Arizona Republic, Cox Charities, and other partnering cable companies and media throughout the state.

Ms. Zwick said the intent of the campaign is to match the \$1.3 million dollars from the philanthropic community with private donations in order to offer support to families in need. Ms. Zwick said funds will be used within the same region where they were donated or directed. She said 47 nonprofit organizations have been invited to apply for funds which are expected to be available in May. Ms. Zwick said money donated in rural communities is being matched by the Arizona Community Foundation.

Ms. Zwick said the campaign is not seeing the kinds of contributions expected. It is unknown at this time whether or not the deadline will be extended. She said another goal of the campaign is to provide people an opportunity to contribute time through volunteering. She said the Arizona Valley Interfaith Council has an event scheduled for May 28, 2009. The event will provide the community an opportunity to learn about nonprofit organizations and ways to get involved. The event is being advertised as part of the *Changing Face of Poverty* campaign.

Ms. Zwick said community meetings are being held throughout the state resulting in action plans to adopt the *Changing Face of Poverty* campaign. She said people are using the campaign to address needs within their own communities and to engage resources and volunteers. Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Ms. Zwick for her presentation.

7. Regional Homeless Planning Update

Brandee Mead, MAG, gave a presentation on the Regional Street Count results, the recently approved MAG Regional Plan to End Homelessness, and the upcoming Annual Appreciation Luncheon. She thanked the street count coordinators and volunteers for participating in the count. She said coordinators were identified in all cities and towns and also included hundreds of volunteers

Ms. Mead reported 2,918 people sleeping on the streets in Maricopa County. She said there has been a significant increase in the number of families and youth on the

streets. She noted the number of families increased from 10 in 2008 to 37 in 2009. The 37 families are comprised of 237 people. The number of youth on the streets increased from 40 to 139. They are all under the age of 18 years old. Ms. Mead noted the decrease in number of chronically homeless individuals by 24 percent. She said the 220 homeless children reported include children in families as well as youth on their own. Ms. Mead gave a breakdown of the number of homeless adults and reviewed a comparison of subpopulations.

Margarita Leyvas, MCHSD Community Services Division, asked who conducted the street count in Guadalupe. Ms. Mead acknowledged the Town of Guadalupe had a large increase in families and noted the count was conducted by city staff. CJ O'Connor, Area Agency on Aging, asked if the increase in Guadalupe was due to a decrease in construction work. Ms. Mead said the reason for the increase is unknown.

Mr. Lundberg asked if the criteria for the street count differs from that of the upcoming census. He said it might be an interesting opportunity to use that database and labor pool to validate or compare our data. Ms. St. Peter said the criteria differs and does present some challenges. She said some cross training was done for the special census in 2005; however the information gathered by the Census is not recorded as homeless data.

Ms. Leyvas asked why the street count is conducted on January 27th. Ms. Mead said the street count is mandated by HUD in order to apply for Stewart B. McKinney grants. She said this year, the consolidated grant application awarded \$24.5 million dollars. HUD requires the count be conducted on the last week of January each year. She said some communities also conduct a count in the summer months as well as in winter. She noted that option is open for discussion. Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, added part of the reason for the January date is the correlation to higher shelter population in winter months.

Ms. Mead said the Regional Plan to End Homelessness was approved January 2009. It was originally created in 2002, and updated again in 2005. Ms. Mead said the Annual Appreciation Luncheon and Implementation Summit are scheduled for April 20, 2009 at the Arizona Biltmore. The Summit will break into groups to work on the action steps and develop an implementation strategy for the plan. The keynote speaker is Mr. Robert Van Arlen, a national renowned speaker known for inspiring people to make a difference. Ms. St Peter said the luncheon is typically focused on homelessness and this remains the focus. However, this year, the luncheon will present a wonderful opportunity to hear from a speaker with a broad appeal.

8. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Leyvas said they now have a contract for LIHEAP funds. Cities such as Tolleson, Tempe and Chandler have been taking in mass applications from people applying for assistance through these funds. She said APS and SRP staff were also

available and providing assistance during the intakes. Another intake session will be held in Sun City on April 15, 2009; with more scheduled throughout June.

Ms. Leyvas said a significant increase in LIHEAP funds is expected in FY2010 and more information will be shared as it becomes available. She noted that distributing such an increase in assistance is difficult due to limited staffing at the Community Action Programs. Ms. Leyvas said each community is doing the best they can with the resources on hand.

Ms. Evans advised that a new representative from the City of Goodyear will be appointed to take her place on the Human Services Technical Committee. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Committee. Ms. Evans acknowledged Mr. Schmaltz's passion for health and human services and said the work being done is something she strongly believes in.

Mr. Jamison said funds are now being released through the stimulus package for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The program will provide significant funds to provide homeless prevention assistance and to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless. The City will be accepting public comment on the City's proposed HPRP program from April 8 through April 20, 2009. Additional information on the program and a link to provide on-line comments can be found at <http://phoenix.gov/recovery/formula.html>

Mr. Lundberg said the City of Surprise is evaluating prescription drug programs. He noted the Copper Card program that was launched by former Governor Napolitano and carried forward by Governor Brewer. Mr. Lundberg said they are also reviewing the National League of Cities' discount program as well as a program offered through Maricopa County. Mr. Lundberg asked for input or feedback from other Committee members regarding similar programs available. Mr. Lundberg said the City of Surprise wants to do everything possible as a compassionate city to make residents aware of programs available to them.

Ms. Leyvas discussed reductions to the Community Action Program budgets from DES. She said Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds are being amended. The impact on City of Phoenix is \$500,000 and the impact is \$300,000 for the Community Action Programs facilitated by Maricopa County. Ms. Leyvas said in FY2010, case management funding may not be available.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. Chair Harris-Morgan reminded Committee members that there is no meeting scheduled for May. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.