

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2010

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Arleen Chin, Tempe Community Council
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler,
Chair
Laura Guild for Susan Hallett, Arizona
Department of Economic Security
*Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh, City
of Mesa
+Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of
Avondale
+Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of
Glendale
*Vice Mayor Michael Nowakowski, City of
Phoenix, Vice Chair
JoAnne Osborne, Councilmember, City of
Goodyear
Councilmember John Sentz, Town of
Gilbert
*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa
County
Councilmember Mike Woodard, City of
Surprise

OTHERS PRESENT

+Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Rachael Gibb, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Rena Tenney, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.
*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Trinity Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee. No public comments were made.

3. Approval of the July 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Chair Donovan called for a motion to approve the April 21, 2010, meeting minutes. Councilmember John Sentz, Town of Gilbert, motioned to approve the minutes. Councilmember JoAnne Osborne, City of Goodyear, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendation Process

Chair Donovan said one of the main functions of this committee has been to develop allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). Earlier this year, the funding that supported this planning process was eliminated for all the councils of governments in the State. At the time, MAG thanked DES for the 30 years of support and offered assistance in the future.

Chair Donovan continued that in August, MAG received a letter from DES inviting MAG to continue serving as an “informal conduit for local input” regarding the SSBG allocations. MAG has replied and confirmed assistance in this regard. The MAG Human Services Technical Committee spent the last two months developing a timeline for the process and fact sheets for each target group. She thanked Cynthia Zwick and the Community Action Programs, Jim Knaut with the Area Agency on Aging, Carol Sherer with the DES Division for Developmental Disabilities, and Robert Duvall with Community Information and Referral for providing assistance with the data collection. Thanks to their assistance, the fact sheets were completed in record time.

Chair Donovan confirmed that the planning funds the councils of governments used to receive has been added to the state planned dollars and will not be available for the allocation of locally planned dollars through our process. Per the timeline developed by HSTC, the service ranking will begin next month. HSCC will review the draft allocations at the meeting in January. The allocations will be developed by HSTC on the basis of the service ranking and funding formula used in years past.

There were no questions or comments from Committee members or the public. Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale, motioned to approve the process to develop FY 2012 service allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant. Councilmember Mike Woodard, City of Surprise, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Impact Statement about Human Services Funding Reductions

Chair Donovan referred to the last meeting in July when the Committee discussed the funding reductions to human services programs and expressed concern about the impact. She said in response, HSTC has worked for two months to develop the draft statement emailed to you on Monday. She thanked the HSTC members, particularly Jayson Matthews for their work on this document.

Chair Donovan explained the purpose of the document is to raise awareness about the impact of the funding reductions to human services programs. Revisions were made at the request of HSTC to include information about Arizona now ranking second highest in the country for poverty. Information was also added about the number of people on food stamps and the inability of other sectors to make up for lost government funding. The point was also strengthened that a little assistance now can help people to live more independently in the future. HSTC requested if any elected officials might be willing to carry this message to leaders personally. This message may also be conveyed through MAG’s extensive network of leaders throughout the region and state.

Ms. Amy St. Peter, MAG, clarified the approval process would include action by the MAG Management Committee and MAG Regional Council beginning next month. Councilmember Sentz asked who would sign the document. Ms. St. Peter replied that approval by the MAG Regional Council would include all the Mayors and leadership from Native American Communities in the County.

Councilmember Osborne shared she had attended the annual Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness conference and was concerned to hear that Arizona ranks 43rd in the country for homeless youth. She said due to the recession, many people are just one step away from homelessness. She noted that awareness needs to be raised about this issue and that collaboration will be key to recovery. Councilmember Osborne said the conference included Anthony Love, the keynote speaker at lunch. She was concerned about his message that the federal government should lead. She said she believes the federal government should be a partner, but that local communities are the ones making a difference.

Mr. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, thanked Councilmember Osborne for her service on the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. He noted it is important to demonstrate an impact at the regional level and that the draft statement will help to get people on the same page. He said he agreed with Councilmember Osborne that the federal government cannot solve the region's problems. Instead, he noted that all entities and sectors need to work together to address challenges. The first step is education.

Mayor Lopez Rogers thanked Mr. Matthews for his comments and said there is a collective responsibility for one another and to work together to address these concerns. She noted this point could be strengthened in the draft statement, particularly in the first sentence, and to appeal to a broader audience than only elected officials.

Councilmember Manny Martinez, City of Glendale, inquired when the draft statement would move forward. Ms. St. Peter indicated the statement would move forward with any changes prescribed by this Committee next month. She noted that the MAG Regional Council does not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday but they do meet in early December. This timeline would still facilitate the delivery of the statement prior to the Legislature convening in January 2011.

Councilmember Sentz expressed agreement with Mayor Lopez Rogers and added that every city is struggling to meet the basic needs of their residents. He noted the State of Arizona is struggling as well and the big question is where additional funding could be found. He agreed that he does not want the federal government leading. He expressed concern that a solution to the region's problems is not apparent.

Councilmember Osborne agreed with Mayor Lopez Rogers and stressed the importance of collaboration and coordination. She noted those words are absent from the statement. Councilmember Woodard referred to the second paragraph and agreed that life has changed dramatically as a result of the recession. He said all cities and the State are struggling to fund programs. He advised it is time to take a step back and reconsider how needs are met. He recalled a time when neighbors took care of each other and did not rely on government

programs exclusively. He noted concern about receiving federal funding that has been depleted as it moves through the bureaucracy. Councilmember Sentz agreed that municipalities alone cannot solve the problems wrought by the recession. He indicated that the importance of collaboration ought to be strengthened in the statement and that nonprofit agencies and neighbors need to lend assistance.

Councilmember Sentz said he trusted staff to make the changes indicated. Chair Donovan called for a motion to recommend approval of the statement with the changes noted during the meeting. She said the revised document would be sent to Committee members. If additional changes were warranted, then an additional meeting would be held over the phone so the statement could continue to move forward in a timely manner. Mr. Matthews added that copying community partners in the private sector especially could assist raising awareness and ensuring the statement is read by a diverse audience. Councilmember Osborne agreed, saying that supports the work of the Committee and a focus on collaboration. Councilmember Sentz moved to recommend approval. Councilmember Woodard seconded the motion. Chair Donovan opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Laura Guild, DES, inquired if the Protecting Arizona Family's Coalition (PAFCO) website cited the source for the data used in the statement. Mr. Matthews checked the website and confirmed that it did cite the sources. All voted in favor of the motion.

6. Committee Evaluation and Goal Planning

Chair Donovan said the Committee has accomplished some significant goals together. She thanked members for the time and talents they have contributed. She referred the Committee to a progress report on goals for the current fiscal year and said the areas of focus discussed today will be drafted into goals for action at the next meeting. The goals will be submitted as part of MAG's FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program.

Councilmember Osborne asked if there were any staff recommendations. Ms. St. Peter mentioned Title VI planning and sustainability issues represent good areas for opportunity. She noted that the MAG application on behalf of the Sun Corridor Consortium did not win an award from the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. She said she has contacted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and requested a debriefing. With the partnership of 120 agencies and \$21 million in leverage, there may be opportunities to move forward with some of the initiatives with or without grant funding from HUD.

Councilmember Osborne said that it is difficult to prioritize the list of goals when the need in the region is so significant everywhere. She noted transportation as a key concern. Chair Donovan said all the current goals will remain relevant for next fiscal year. Councilmember Sentz requested that performance measures be included in all goals and that progress reports be offered at each Committee meeting.

Councilmember Osborne agreed and requested a report on traffic to the Virtual Youth Network. She expressed concern that waiting until the end of fiscal year might preclude opportunities to make positive adjustments that would increase traffic during the year. Chair Donovan agreed and indicated this topic could be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councilmember Sentz said a question about the effectiveness of the information could be added to the website to help measure the impact.

Mayor Lopez Rogers congratulated staff on a job well done with the Sun Corridor Consortium grant application and agreed there may be opportunities to move forward some of the initiatives proposed. She emphasized the need to put transportation in place prior to building communities although the reverse more commonly occurs. Mayor Lopez Rogers said a MAG Economic Development Committee is being formed and she would like a human services element be included in its scope. She noted doing so would enhance the sustainability of the region.

Chair Donovan commented the process in place is good because it is flexible enough to address emerging issues. She called for a motion to approve the areas of focus discussed. Councilmember Osborne so moved and Councilmember Sentz seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

7. CY 2011 Committee Meeting Calendar

Chair Donovan said a draft meeting calendar was emailed on Monday and is available today. She noted the time and day were changed to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. to accommodate people's schedules. Committee members expressed concern with a start time of 9:00 a.m. due to traffic, especially with long commutes. Support was offered for meetings starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Chair Donovan directed staff to poll absent Committee members and to schedule according to their availability as well. Councilmember Sentz requested progress reports on goal achievement be included as a standing agenda item.

8. Committee Updates

Chair Donovan said counterparts on other human services committees at MAG have been engaged in important efforts. She invited representatives to offer reports on their activities.

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

Ms. Renae Tenney, MAG, introduced a 911 call made to the Phoenix Police Department in response to a domestic violence situation. Ms. St. Peter said the call was used during the annual domestic violence press conference. The Committee listened to the call. Ms. Tenney said more than 50 community partners gathered at Chrysalis Shelter on October 7, 2010, for the MAG Domestic Violence Press Conference, "CSI: DV". She noted this annual event helps bring awareness of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Ms. Tenney said this year's press conference highlighted the new MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence as well as the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project, a multi-disciplinary initiative assessing the arrest and prosecution protocols for domestic violence cases. She thanked Ms. Guild and Mr. Matthews for attending the event. MAG partnered with Chrysalis Shelter to transform one of the common areas in their new facility into a mock domestic violence crime scene. A living backdrop was created by community partners Bruce and Carolyn McBurney who were surrounded by signs of a struggle. Mayor Tom Schoaf, City of Litchfield Park and Chair of the MAG Regional Council provided opening remarks.

Ms. Tenney continued that police officers, crisis interventionists, and prosecutors took turns explaining their roles in the arrest and prosecution of domestic violence cases. She thanked Commander Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police Department; Detective Linda Karel, Avondale Police Department; Kristin Scharlau, Tempe Care 7 Program; and Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, for their participation in the program. The crime scene dramatization was followed by one survivor's personal story of triumph. A former Chrysalis client shared her inspirational account of how key elements and actions led to the successful arrest and prosecution of her abuser. Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, closed the event by encouraging victims to call for help.

Ms. Tenney noted feedback on the event has been very positive. Media coverage included KFYI Radio, East Valley Living, Univision, and Telemundo. MAG Communications staff is in the process of developing a short video of the event, which will be made available on the MAG website. A calendar of Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities throughout the region is currently available online. She invited Committee members to an event on December 1, 2010, that will feature national promising practices in arresting and prosecuting domestic violence offenders.

Ms. Guild said she appreciated the effort to conduct the press conference and noted the video will be a good way to provide additional outreach. She said the event was effective at identifying the service gaps and needs which were validated by the survivor. She commended staff for excellent work.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

Chair Donovan introduced Brande Mead, MAG, for an update on the HUD application being completed now. Ms. Mead said the NOFA for McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funding was released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on September 20, 2010. The MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is about mid-way through the local application process with local applications due on October 21, 2010 and the final consolidated application due to HUD on November 18, 2010.

Ms. Mead continued that the Continuum of Care has \$1.4 million available to the region for a new permanent housing bonus project. The new funding can be allocated to a single project or to multiple projects. The Continuum can use the new project funding to serve homeless and disabled individuals and/or families, and/or chronically homeless individuals. The Ranking and Review Committee will recommend the new project(s) to the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for approval. The new project listing is being provided to the MAG Regional Council for information on October 27, 2010.

Councilmember Woodard inquired if it is helpful to have Committee members present when the HUD application is on the MAG Regional Council agenda. Ms. Mead clarified that the MAG Regional Council does not take action on the application. Chair Donovan noted that Councilmember Osborne is the Vice Chair of the Continuum of Care and as such, can relay support for the application to that Committee.

MAG Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation Program Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Donovan introduced DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, for an update about the recent MAG Transportation Ambassador Program meeting (TAP). Ms. Gaisthea said the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program was recognized by the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration as a best practice in community engagement during MAG's federal certification review process earlier this year. She noted she was also pleased to report funding for the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program (TAP) has been approved for an additional two years by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Ms. Gaisthea continued that on September 23, 2010 the first quarterly meeting of the third year was held at the Tempe Transportation Center. She thanked the City of Tempe for helping to arrange the venue. TAP participants were presented with the mapping project previously presented to the Committee on the overlapping of service delivery areas of agencies receiving Section 5310 federal funds. Discussion took place on gaps in the community regarding human services transportation. Some comments included:

- More affordable alternative transportation option such as cab programs
- Alternative transportation options information provided in an accessible manner
- Concerns of having to transfer across city boundaries, particularly for older adults and those with mobility restrictions

Ms. Gaisthea said the feedback from the meeting will be analyzed and developed into strategies to be included in the next MAG Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan update. Staff is also in the process of updating the MAG Human Services Transportation Provider Inventory that will be included in the plan update and posted on the MAG website. The inventory is a listing of agencies that either provide human services transportation or offer resource information. This year four additional agencies are included on the list. The inventory has been a very effective tool for the community in identifying possible resources for transportation options. She thanked the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for sponsoring TAP and the City of Phoenix for their continued support of regional coordination efforts in human services transportation.

Councilmember Sentz inquired if this Committee could take action to address the high cost of Dial-A-Ride services. He said this item is on the Town of Gilbert agenda for tomorrow night. He expressed concern that the cost per trip is extremely high, takes considerable funding to support at a time when budgets are constrained, and coordination is limited and not efficient. Councilmember Woodard said the City of Surprise faced challenges when they implemented a taxi voucher program. He said the vouchers were required to cost less than a full fare and that meant full fare trips were often given before the trips using vouchers. He mentioned they have had limited success in having dialysis clinics bundle their trips to be more cost efficient. Ms. St. Peter offered to request an update on a presentation previously offered by Valley Metro about their attempts to regionalize Dial-A-Ride services.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were given an opportunity to suggest topics or issues of interest for discussion at a future meeting. The following requests were made:

- Mayor Lopez Rogers requested an update from the MAG Youth Policy Stakeholders Group if they were still meeting. Ms. St. Peter said the MAG Youth Policy Stakeholders Group had been inactive since grant funding from the Governor's Office was eliminated. Mayor Lopez Rogers said there may be opportunities to acquire new grant funding to support youth initiatives such as childhood obesity, texting while driving, and homeless youth.
- Councilmember Sentz requested a Dial-A-Ride update and a goal achievement update.
- Ms. Guild requested a legislative update and forecast.

10. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for HSCC members to present a brief summary of current events. Councilmember Osborne invited everyone to attend the Continuum of Care meetings, as well as other MAG human services Committee meetings. She said the meetings as well as the email updates are very helpful.

Chair Donovan thanked everyone for their participation and attendance at the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.