

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 8, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair  
\*Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council  
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe  
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF  
Andy Hall for Laura Guild, DES/DAAS/OCS  
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix  
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
\*Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging  
\*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County  
Charlie Boyce for Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way  
+Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, Vice Chair

Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix  
Joy McClain, City of Tolleson  
Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert  
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Brito, MAG  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Rachael Gibb, MAG  
Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.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 June 3, 2010 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the June 3, 2010, meeting minutes. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, made a motion to approve the minutes. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Sustainable Communities Grant

Chair Sheffield invited Amy St. Peter to report on activities and status of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. Ms. St. Peter advised the grant is a new initiative offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. This grant opportunity is being offered for the first time and makes available \$100 million for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning

Grant Program. The program will support planning efforts that integrate housing, transportation and land use, promotes social equity and enhances the environment.

Ms. St. Peter gave a brief overview of the funding available through the grant. She noted the competitive process is expected to award ten grants or 25 percent of the grants to small metro and rural areas and up to 30 grants to larger regions. Ms. St. Peter advised green housing and jobs along high capacity transit routes has been identified as one impact area in this region. She said discussions are leading to a consensus for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to serve as the lead applicant in a partnership with the Pima Association of Government (PAG) and the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) on behalf of the Sun Corridor. These efforts would be coordinated through the Joint Planning Advisory Council (JPAC) with activity driven at the local level. The planning grant would encompass a three year time period. The application due date is August 23, 2010.

Ms. St. Peter discussed requirements to apply as a consortium. The consortium includes a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as well as nonprofit organizations and public and private partners. Participating partners for the planning grant are currently being confirmed. Ms. St. Peter noted signed partnership agreements are required from all members. She said one of the benefits to applying is receiving preferred sustainability status. This distinction is given to applicants who pass the threshold requirements and can be beneficial when applying for funds in the future. The process is being addressed in three phases. The first phase will determine current standing and integrate existing plans. In the second phase, sustainability strategies would be developed. The third phase determines how to achieve the goals with community engagement and social equity being key components.

Ms. St. Peter recommended anyone not currently receiving information about the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant process to notify her so their name can be added to the email distribution list. Steve McFarlane, City of Phoenix, asked what role Human Services has in the process. Ms. St. Peter advised MAG would be the lead applicant and she would supervise an associate under Human Services. She noted MAG has had a human services division from nearly the beginning. While the work is separate from the other divisions, it is an underlying factor that brings together a number of disciplines.

Vice Chair, Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, asked if an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is required to be in place prior to submitting an application for the grant. Ms. St. Peter advised HUD has not specified an IGA is required, but has indicated a formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be in place. A more formal agreement will be required if funding is awarded. Mr. Ludwick expressed concern about the level of approval required at the time the application is submitted. He noted some cities may not yet have approval from their City Council. Ms. St. Peter advised there has been discussion on who will sign the partnership agreement noting it may vary from community to community. Vice Chair Ludwick requested the partnership agreements be made available quickly to allow

time for review by an attorney. Mr. McFarlane inquired about the Human Services Coordinating Committee's role. Ms. St. Peter advised staff will seek the support of HSCC and request assistance from them in obtaining the required signatures for the partnership agreements.

Chair Sheffield confirmed the Sun Corridor will include the counties of Maricopa, Pima and Pinal. She asked if the planning grant will focus on high speed rail between the cities of Phoenix and Tucson. Ms. St. Peter advised that could be one theme, as well as economic development, improving the foreclosure crisis and looking at reusing vacant commercial buildings. She noted Tucson is embarking on an Imagine Greater Tucson visioning process. The goal is to have a positive impact that addresses the goals of the region.

Ms. St. Peter advised MAG agencies were surveyed to determine agencies who would be submitting grant application directly, who were in support of MAG applying on behalf of the MAG Region, and who were in support of MAG applying on behalf of the Sun Corridor. There was overall support for MAG to apply as the lead agency and on behalf of the Sun Corridor. Ms. St. Peter advised individuals cities can apply for funding under the Challenge Grant which is more focused on implementation. She advised HUD has confirmed the Sun Corridor is an eligible to apply. If funding is not awarded, an opportunity will still exist to move forward with some of the planned activities. She provided a brief overview of the application guidelines and advised letters of support may be submitted. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter will provide a sample of the partnership agreement to the Committee. Any additional questions or feedback throughout the process is welcomed and can be addressed to Ms. St. Peter.

5. Community Planning for Aging Well – An Overview

Chair Sheffield invited Amy St. Peter to provide an overview of Community Planning for Aging Well. Ms. St. Peter said the purpose for discussion is to seek input on efforts the Committee would like to undertake to respond to the increasing demand for aging services. She recalled a previous presentation given by Nora Hanna, Experience Matters, who discussed helping people re-career or volunteer.

She referenced the handout provided and gave an overview of the different scenarios and tools in the document. Ms. St. Peter asked for input on what agencies are experiencing and whether or not it would be helpful to develop a more specific local government response for people who are aging. It was noted the Foundation for Senior Living is no longer providing adult day care services in the City of Tolleson and the City of Phoenix has cut \$2 million in funding for senior companion programs as well as reducing transportation services for seniors. The Committee discussed a trend in services and information moving toward technology. Additionally, services eliminated are affecting older generations more so than baby-boomers. The baby-boomers, who are in their 50s, seek different services and are not as interested in senior centers. Charles Boyce, Valley of the Sun United Way, said there is a large population that is moving toward technology based services. He advised VSUW has had to reduce funding in the older adult services area as well. Mr. Boyce informed

the Committee of the Neighbors Who Care volunteer program in Queen Creek that supports the community. Ms. St. Peter commented replicating their model of service would be beneficial. Other cities that have similar volunteer programs include the Town of Fountain Hills, Ahwatukee, and the City of Chandler.

Carol Sherer, Arizona Department of Economic Security, advised the federal government is looking at cooperative efforts with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). In DES, the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is taking the lead in this effort. Arizona Agency on Aging, ABIL, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), DES/DAAS and the Division for Developmental Disabilities are all cooperatively working on this project. Ms. Sherer will provide additional contact information.

Ms. St. Peter asked for input on leveraging work on an aging plan and how it could relate to sustainable development. Chair Sheffield recommended transportation be the main focus as this issue greatly impacts aging individuals. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, agreed, but noted it should not be the only focus given the many cuts to human services funding. He recommended identifying how transportation fits in with other services many may see as a more urgent need. Ms. St. Peter suggested a standpoint of regrouping to address the need now as well as in the future. Vice Chair Ludwick recommended looking at key issues separately. He noted in many cases with senior services, social workers provide a lot of referrals. However, with potential funding cuts reducing the number of social workers, there are fewer resources to assist seniors.

Mr. Boyce recommended addressing future needs. He noted the potential for senior services losing their relevance over time. This may be more likely given the move toward on-line services. Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, noted the lack of a referral system for families seeking assistance to help transition aging parents or grandparents. Ms. St. Peter recommended Duets as a possible option for assistance.

Ms. St. Peter summarized the Committee's interest in pursuing this topic by addressing transportation issues, replicating other successful models, identifying other services older adults view as being critical to their needs, addressing potential funding cuts in the number of case workers and the services they refer clients to, and planning for different needs at different ages. She will continue the discussion at the next HSCC meeting and research options to undertake this effort as part of the sustainability planning grant.

6. Funding Impact Study

Chair Sheffield invited Rachael Gibb, MAG Intern, to report on the Impact of Human Services Funding Reductions Study.

Ms. Gibb advised she has created a spreadsheet with each city budget by human services category. She is currently in the process of collecting data from fire departments related to the number of calls received in 2008 and 2009. Ms. Gibb

advised the Human Services Funding Reduction Study survey was distributed on June 24, 2010, however only five responses have been submitted to date. She confirmed only one survey is requested per agency. She asked for recommendations or alternative methods that would increase the number of agencies responding to the survey. Committee members recommended redistributing the survey and following-up by phone if necessary. Ms. Gibb will redistribute the survey with a one-week extension.

7. Transportation Ambassador Program Regional Meeting

Chair Sheffield invited DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, to report on the success of the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program and next steps for addressing human services transportation needs. The MAG Transportation Ambassador Program Regional Meeting was held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the AE England Building. Moving Communities Forward was the theme for the event. She noted 120 people registered, including guest speakers, participants and staff with approximately 80 people attending the event.

Guest speakers at the event included Kathy Chandler, Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority; Dave Cyra, United We Ride Ambassador; Mary Pat Lawlor, Puget Sound Regional Council and Chris Zeilinger, National Resource Center for Human service Transportation Coordination. Local guest speakers were Elizabeth Banta, Duet; David Carey, Arizona Bridge To Independent Living; Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections; and Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Alliance.

Ms. Gaisthea gave a brief overview of the day's events which included a morning panel on Local Emerging Trends and Initiatives, small group discussion on a variety of topics, and a luncheon panel on National Promising Practices. Small group discussions addressed topics such as:

- Effects of Budget Cuts on ADA Services
- Alternative Transportation Resources
- Navigating the World of Private Grants
- Outreach to Faith Communities
- Section 5310, 5316 and 5317 Application Process

Ms. Gaisthea advised the small group discussion reconvened after lunch to identify key strategies to address issues identified in the morning discussion. Some recommendations included:

- Expanding partnerships with the faith based community to provide alternative transportation options.
- Surveying insurance companies and identifying methods from non-profits regarding overcoming insurance barriers.
- Increasing use of technology to reduce travel time, cost and increase staff productivity.

- Conducting an application walk-thru for Section 5310, 5316 and 5317 application process followed by Arizona Department of Transportation and City of Phoenix webinars.

Ms. Gaisthea advised a summary of strategies and outcomes identified by participants will be distributed. She expressed appreciation to the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for funding the Transportation Ambassador Program.

Ms. St. Peter said a Coordination Plan is a required in order to receive federal funding. She displayed a map created by MAG personnel that identifies the service delivery areas of human services transportation providers in Maricopa County. The map enables service providers to see what other resources are available within their service area. The map will assist agencies in coordinating their efforts more efficiently.

Andy Hall, DES, inquired about TERROS. Ms. Gaisthea advised TERROS had submitted an application for a mobility management project. They are collaborating with four different agencies in their efforts. She advised this is the second year TERROS has been awarded a grant. Ms. St. Peter advised funding awarded may be used for staffing as well as for fleet management software. She advised the mobility management concept was introduced just a few years ago and this region was one of the first to receive funding. She acknowledged TERROS for the work they are doing.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were given an opportunity to suggest topics or issues of interest they would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting. Chair Sheffield suggested an update on the funding reduction study.

9. Comments from the Committee

Committee members were given the opportunity to share comments or information related to community events. Mr. McFarlane advised Jose Mercado has retired. As such, the City of Phoenix will be requesting a replacement to serve on the Committee.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.