

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christina Avila for Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair
Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, Vice Chair
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
Judith Fritsch for Laura Guild, DES/DAAS/OCS
Tim Cole for Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Jessica Gonzalez for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix

+Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council
*Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Marty Finnegan for Carol Sherer, DES/DDD
+Leah Powell, City of Chandler

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Brito, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, 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 September 8, 2010 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Ludwick called for a motion to approve the September 8, 2010, meeting minutes. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Allocation Recommendation Process

Vice Chair Ludwick recalled discussion from the previous HSTC meeting about developing allocation recommendations to assist Department of Economic Security this year. A timeline for the process has been developed on the basis of the Committee's action at the September meeting. Vice Chair Ludwick advised fact sheets have been updated noting the *Adults, Families, and Children* fact sheet

includes recent data from the Community Action Programs (CAP). The percentage of first time visitors is reported for the CAP offices outside the City of Phoenix. Phoenix does not collect this data but has presented other information from their CAP Offices. Vice Chair Ludwick advised the Committee that Carol Sherer, Department of Economic Security, is collecting data for the *Persons with Developmental Disabilities* fact sheet. He acknowledged Mr. Knaut for providing information on service delivery for older adults and Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral, for providing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

It was noted service delivery data from Rehabilitation Services at DES is needed. Vice Chair Ludwick asked for Committee members to share any contact information available that can assist with obtaining the required information. He said DES has advised that planning funds previously allocated to the Councils of Governments has been added to the state planned dollars and will not be available for the allocation of locally planned dollars through this process. Amy St. Peter, MAG, acknowledged Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association, for her assistance in this process. She requested any additional updates to be included in the DES section, including service cuts or funding which has been eliminated, be submitted.

Mr. Knaut expressed concern about the decline in the number of people being served noting this may be interpreted as a decrease in need. He said people are opting not to sign up for waiting lists and recommended adding information to clarify the data further. Ms. St. Peter requested updates be submitted by the following Monday at noon so they may be included in information presented to the Human Services Coordinating Committee on October 20, 2010. Vice Chair Ludwick asked if there is a methodology for calculating the artificial reduction in demand. Mr. Knaut noted the Area Agency on Aging is maintaining a turn away list, although it is difficult to do so as individuals are not willing to provide required data elements. He noted referral services are no longer making referrals. Vice Chair Ludwick suggested prior year data could possibly be used as a baseline noting people do not believe there are services available to them.

Marty Finnegan, DES, advised the federal government uses the term “discouraged” for workers no longer seeking employment. She said a formula may be available on their website for calculating “discouraged” workers. Additionally, she advised people have stopped looking to the Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD) for employment programs and are most likely not applying for services as they believe there is a two to three year wait. Ms. St. Peter offered to further research the formula for discouraged workers. Judith Fritsch, DES, advised they may have information they can also provide. Ms. St. Peter clarified DES has not yet been requested to provide information this year. Information received will be included in updates presented to HSCC and will be considered in the service ranking process in November. Data will also be reviewed again in January.

Ms. Fritsch recommended not only presenting information on wait lists but also on the services that may be at risk if the funding needed to satisfy the federal 25 percent

match is not maintained in the state budget. Ms. St. Peter clarified the funding COGs used to receive have been added to state planned dollars for services and are not part of this planning process. Funding allocated for services will remain level. Mr. MacFarlane asked how the state is going to allocate funding for the state planned services. Ms. St. Peter advised she was uncertain of the process but would follow-up. Mr. Knaut said many states use SSBG dollars for administrative costs. He expressed concern that at some point, given the state deficit, SSBG dollars will not be used to address the local need. Ms. St. Peter advised some COGs have expressed the same concern noting DES' current position is that funding will be used to address services. Mr. Knaut said he commends DES noting his concern is not intended as criticism of their efforts.

Vice Chair Ludwick asked for a motion to approve the recommendation process and target group fact sheets subject to additional information provided by Mr. Knaut and the Department of Economic Security. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, made a motion to approve the process, timeline and fact sheets awaiting amendment from necessary parties. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Statement

At the previous HSTC meeting, the Committee discussed advocating about the impact of funding reductions to human services programs. Vice Chair Ludwick invited Ms. St. Peter to offer an update on activities taken since the meeting. Ms. St. Peter thanked Mr. Matthews for helping to draft the Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Statement. The statement is still in draft form and input from the Committee is requested. The goal is to raise awareness about the impact of reductions to human services while not advocating for or against reduction made or additional potential reductions. Ms. St. Peter stressed to goal is to present a balanced appeal and bring awareness to the long-term effects to our communities.

Ms. St. Peter advised once completed, the statement will be presented to HSCC, then to Management Committee, with final approval sought from the MAG Regional Council. Pending approval, the statement will be distributed through different avenues such as the Human Services and MAG newsletters and community partners. Ms. St. Peter asked for feedback and changes from the Committee.

Mr. Mathews thanked Ms. St. Peter for further revising the draft statement. He recommended the final version not be passively presented to elected officials at the State Legislature but to have either the Committee Chair or members of Regional Council present and review the statement with key leadership members of the legislature. He noted there are many constraints on the state budget, and many people lobbying for reduction of cuts, stressing the importance of ensuring key points of the statement are understood. Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, recommended including the source of data provided in the statement as people often inquire from where data was obtained.

Ms. Fritsch noted a common response to funding cuts is to defer to “other funders”. She recommended including a statement about how “giving” has decreased across the board. Mr. Knaut noted Arizona now has the second highest poverty rate which is affected by all services and is well sourced. Vice Chair Ludwick added the increased percentage of Arizona residents eligible for food stamps is also a good source of information and provides some objective for current situations.

Ms. St. Peter advised changes would be made and redistributed to the Committee. She invited members to call in or attend the HSCC meeting on October 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Lopez-Powell also recommended addressing the common response that it is not the government’s responsibility to provide services. She said people can help themselves towards self-sufficiency if they are provided with help to get them started.

Ms. St. Peter summarized the Committee’s requests to source specific websites and Protecting Arizona’s Families Coalition (PAFCO) data; to include information on Arizona’s poverty rate and increases in food stamp eligibility; address the issue of “other funders” and reduced giving across the board; and highlighting people can help themselves better if they can receive some assistance. Once the statement has been approved by the MAG Regional Council, it will be presented to all cities, towns and MAG member agencies. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, inquired how the Committee members could be of assistance as the statement moves through the approval process. Ms. St. Peter answered that Committee members could debrief elected officials in their municipalities.

Vice Chair Ludwick asked for a motion to recommend approval the draft Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Statement. Mr. Morgan made a motion to recommend approval the draft statement with changes requested by the Committee and recommendation for the statement to be actively presented to leaders. Mr. MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Presentation

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. St. Peter offered a presentation about activities MAG is undertaking with community partners to address domestic violence at the regional level. She said the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project addresses how domestic violence offenders at the misdemeanor level are arrested and prosecuted noting felony cases are better documented and have a higher conviction rate. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the Governor’s Office for the STOP grant and St. Luke’s Health Initiatives (SLHI) for funding the process to undertake the project and update and create a new regional plan to end domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Press Conference was held October 6, 2010 at the Chrysalis Shelter. Ms. St. Peter expressed gratitude for Chrysalis’ hospitality and noted more than 80 people were registered to attend the event. Committee members had the opportunity to listen to an actual domestic violence call which was played at the press conference. Ms. St. Peter advised Phoenix police officers enter 49,000 homes each

year in response to domestic violence. The domestic violence call illustrates the importance of protocols, shows that often children are witnesses to domestic violence, and also highlights the trauma of domestic violence. These types of calls are the most common and most dangerous. Two officers will typically respond to domestic violence calls. They also have the option of calling first response teams and/or crisis interventionists.

Ms. St. Peter continued that PEP is currently in the process of reviewing best practices for allocating resources quickly and appropriately as well as looking at what processes are being used, what is having the greatest impact, and how to replicate those best practices in our region. A community meeting was held on October 5, 2010 to gather input from stakeholders on protocols that are causing the most concern. Additionally, a roundtable event is being planned for December 1, 2010 which will include speakers from across the country. The basis of this event will lead to a curriculum for future training. It was noted SB1070 policies reducing the number of people who call the police for fear of deportation.

Ms. St. Peter expressed gratitude to all of the speakers and participants of the Domestic Violence press conference. She referenced the Domestic Violence Awareness calendar which highlights events occurring throughout the month of October asking Committee members to share the information with others.

7. 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. Vice Chair Ludwick requested an update on the Human Services Funding Impact Statement presentation to HSCC.

It was noted General Elections will be held November 2, 2010 which could bring about many new changes. The State conditionally enacted budget will impose another \$50 million in budget cuts to DES and \$45 million to DHS. A presentation was requested on the results of Propositions 301 and 302.

Mr. Knaut requested a presentation on the upcoming Census data scheduled to be released soon.

8. Comments from the Committee

Committee members were given the opportunity to share comments or information related to community events.

Mr. Morgan informed the Committee he will resign his seat on HSTC as he has accepted a new position at the city of Chandler. He noted that Leah Powell will continue serving as the City of Chandler's representative. Vice Chair Ludwick thanked Mr. Morgan for his years of service and extended congratulations on his new position.

The Committee briefly discussed political signs in East Mesa regarding proposition 302. It was noted the intent of the signs appears to sway people to vote contrary to what their interests are.

Ms. St. Peter advised MAG did not receive the award for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities grant. More than 1,000 applications were submitted to HUD for which 45 awards totaling nearly \$100 million were awarded across the country. She offered congratulations to Apache County as they were awarded funding in the grant application process.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.