

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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
Laura Guild, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Tim Cole 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
*Leah Powell, City of Chandler
Marty Finnegan for Carol Sherer,
DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Brandy Howard, City of Mesa
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Ram Muppirala, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter
Services

Rachel Brito, MAG
Rachel Gibb, ASU
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 October 14, 2010 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2010, meeting minutes. Vice Chair Paul Ludwick requested a correction to 1) *Call to Order* – change his affiliation from City of Avondale to City of Scottsdale and 5) *Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Statement*, third paragraph, third sentence, change the word understand to understood. Vice Chair Ludwick made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested corrections. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Sheffield invited Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Families Coalition, to report on the recent elections and upcoming Legislative session. Mr. Schmaltz gave a brief overview of election results noting the Arizona House of Representatives will be divided with 40 Republicans and 20 Democrats. The Legislature is facing an \$850 million deficit due to the rejection of Proposition 301 which transfers money from a land-conservation fund to the general fund and Proposition 302, a measure to repeal the First Things First education program. The rejection by voters of these two ballot measures will result in additional budget cuts. Mr. Schmaltz noted a special session is not likely to occur before the November elections. Therefore, cuts are likely to occur unless other options are considered such as borrowing, fund sweeps, or roll-overs.

Mr. Schmaltz discussed Proposition 204, noting it is voter-protected. He said the Arizona Department of Economic Services (DES), the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), universities, and K-12 education have all sustained significant budget reductions. Given the need to reduce funding further, funding for the Department of Corrections may also be on the table. He noted a pattern of 75 percent of cuts in the past two years have been in education and health and human services. Funding reductions for health services were minimized due to some stimulus funding which will soon run out. He noted the DES budget depended on \$100 million of stimulus funding that was used to back fill state funding reductions. He advised Title XX will also become part of the mix resulting in funding for current services being redirected and state funded services also being eliminated.

Mr. Schmaltz noted people take a strong stance and are committed to their values. He said there are deep convictions about health and human services, children, and the nature and role government plays in these key areas. He again noted the percentage of funding reductions facing DES and DHS will most likely increase. Additionally, Mr. Schmaltz said employment is also down by 300,000 jobs in Arizona alone. He noted the bright side is that there is commitment to create new jobs. Mr. Matthews, Tempe Community Council, asked for input on how best to create new jobs. Mr. Schmaltz said the Legislature has suggested tax cuts as an option. He said agencies need to be prepared as local officials and as advocates. PAFCO recommends communicating to lobbyists, representatives, and leadership about the consequences of these measures and the impact on homelessness, domestic violence, fire, and police. He stressed the need to aggressively present and actively protect one's interests.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, said the fact that a tax was passed last year because people do not want to see services cut is being ignored. He asked if that has at all been discussed. Mr. Schmaltz responded noting the rejection of Propositions 301 and 302 reflect support for funding services. He said education and social services are highly valued by people, but funding for these programs has not been protected. Mr. Matthews said it will take the nonprofit community to advocate for programs when municipal staff are not allowed to take a public position. He said nonprofit agencies have a heavy load to carry but that they may assist with advocacy as well. Vice Chair Ludwick added not only advocacy from the nonprofit agencies will have an impact, but also having the clients show up and speak up at every possible opportunity.

Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services, asked about the potential of retroactive budget adjustments. He questioned whether or not CASS should be concerned about giving money back that has already been spent. Mr. Schmaltz noted state contracts are “subject to appropriation” and while this is still speculation, deep funding reductions to programs could result in there being a rescission.

5. Draft Human Services Funding Reduction Study

Chair Sheffield advised the draft Funding Reduction Report was recently distributed to Committee members. HSTC has been working on this report since the summer through the assistance of an intern from ASU’s CARE program. She invited Rachael Gibb to discuss the draft report. Chair Sheffield noted the Committee may want to postpone the final vote pending inclusion of any minor revisions. Amy St. Peter, MAG, addressed the Committee and thanked Ms. Gibb for her work. She noted Ms. Gibb will soon be moving out of the country and congratulated her for defending her thesis and having it approved without any corrections.

Ms. St. Peter advised data is being checked for accuracy. Staff is awaiting further input from two cities. Information received from one of the cities would call for minimal changes in the aggregate results; however, significant changes are not anticipated. Ms. St. Peter noted the Committee would have an opportunity to review the data should any significant changes occur. She noted the overall report will be reported on a regional level and will not include individual data from the cities and towns.

Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, recommended using a hatching scheme rather than shading on the pie charts due to difficulty viewing when printed in black and white. Vice Chair Ludwick noted the report appears to be true and correct and is well done. He noted some of the things mentioned in the report are already occurring and some things have changed even more due to further budget cuts. Vice Chair Ludwick recommended adding further detail to the first paragraph of the executive summary to ensure clarity on the report’s timeframe being a snapshot of a point in time. He noted the impact of attrition on human services operations stating that the impact of attrition and hiring freezes is in reality a funding reduction. He recommended updating the report to identify trends as circumstances change quickly.

Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, asked for clarification regarding increases due to federal funding and whether or not those were stimulus funds. Ms. St. Peter advised staff is unable to identify stimulus funds through the budgets as the survey only asked about federal funding and did not specify otherwise. Mr. Matthews noted creating a mechanism for continuous updates will help prove that as stimulus funds are no longer available, cities and towns will see a more direct impact to local services. Chair Sheffield asked for a motion to recommend approval of the draft human services funding reduction study. Marty Finnegan, DES, made a motion to recommend acceptance of the study with the recommended changes. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

6. Update on the Human Services Funding Reduction Statement

Chair Sheffield advised the revised funding reduction statement the Committee acted on in October was included in the materials for this meeting. The MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee recommended approval with minor changes to emphasize the collective responsibility government, nonprofits, and private citizens have in meeting human services needs.

Chair Sheffield reported that the draft statement is on the MAG Management Committee agenda for this month. If recommended for approval, it will move forward to the MAG Regional Council at their next meeting in early December. If approved, it will be released publicly through MAG's distribution lists. All community partners will be invited to do the same. Elected officials have been invited to personally deliver the message as well.

Ms. St. Peter reported the statement has been recommended for approval by the MAG Management Committee. Regional Council will meet in December. If approved, the statement will be ready for public distribution.

7. Social Services Block Grant Service Ranking

Chair Sheffield noted as in past years, HSTC has developed allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant. HSCC approved the process at their meeting in October. She invited Amy St. Peter to present on the next steps.

Ms. St. Peter advised service rankings were distributed at the same time last year. She discussed options for ranking the top ten services by target group, noting in past years, ranking has been completed independently of the target groups. Target groups include: Adults, Families and Children; Persons with Developmental Disabilities; Elderly; and Persons with Disabilities. Ms. St. Peter noted services such as case management can be present in all four target groups.

She said while it is difficult to rank services and some target groups may be impacted more than others, it is necessary to do so. The Committee continues to be responsible for developing allocation recommendations. Ms. St. Peter advised DES will honor

the recommendations provided through this process. As requested, they are working to provide a list of agencies that were awarded funds during the last process.

Ms. St. Peter reviewed the process for using a base formula noting ranked services will be divided into five groups. The group of services that receive the highest ranking will receive a 20 percent increase. The second highest services will receive a 10 percent increase. The third group will be held harmless. The fourth group of services will receive a 10 percent decrease. The lowest ranked services will receive a 20 percent decrease. Additionally, she asked the Committee for input on the deadline for completion of service rankings. The current deadline is November 30 but can be extended as late as December 7, 2010.

Mr. McFarlane suggested all ten votes could be used by someone who views case management as most important because this service impacts all target groups. He suggested not limiting the vote to only the top ten. Ms. St. Peter suggested increasing to either 15 or 20 to allow for more choices. Mr. McFarlane recommended ranking all 30 services. Mr. Knaut agreed. Mr. Matthews recommended not changing the timeframe, but to keep the deadline of November 30. He asked if all Committee members agree with utilizing the same funding formula. Committee members expressed agreement. Ms. Guild noted inconsistencies in the use of acronyms. Mr. Knaut asked to whom the surveys will be distributed and how are the results tallied. Ms. St. Peter advised surveys are provided to the Committee members, individuals on the HSTC "Others" list as well as community partners and Human Services Coordinating Committee members. Results are tabulated separately for Committee members and community partners. Mr. Matthews noted tabulating the results separately will provide an indication of whether or not results from Committee members are in line with those of the community partners or if some areas are more heavily weighted than others.

Chair Sheffield summarized the Committees request to rank all services, keep the current deadline and utilize the same funding formula as last year. She asked for comments from audience members. Mr. Holleran addressed the Committee regarding how CASS is affected by SSBG funding. SSBG funds are used to pay for a significant part of the programs offered through CASS. He said case management dramatically impacts clients in multiple ways, which helps to stabilize clients. Without the ability to provide case management, CASS will serve fewer people. Mr. Holleran expressed concern over the impact this may have on the community over all. There is also concern regarding the potential of retroactive adjustments.

He noted as money is awarded to CASS by DES, the funding has been coming from different sources within DES from one year to the next. Mr. Holleran said he is hopeful CASS will not lose SSBG funding as people will be on the streets if CASS is unable to deliver services.

Mr. Knaut expressed his support for CASS noting the incredible difference they make in people's lives. He noted that many other agencies also provide critical and

effective services. Mr. Knaut expressed support for Mr. Holleran's advocacy, and noted his appreciation of comments made. He stated this itself is the challenge faced by the Committee. Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the process to complete the service raking as part of the process to develop allocation recommendations for the SSBG. Marge Leyvas, Maricopa County Community Services Division, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

8. FY 2012 Goal Planning

Chair Sheffield advised at the HSCC meeting in October, Committee members approved the current areas of focus to carry over into next fiscal year. In addition, they discussed the possibility of creating a local government aging services model in partnership with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Chair Sheffield asked for input on any additional areas of focus HSTC Committee members would like to propose.

Ms. St. Peter recalled in July the Committee discussed an aging services model with the possibility of utilizing the Communities Aging Well Toolkit. The toolkit offers surveys, community forums, and focus groups as a means to develop an aging services delivery model. It also evaluates the role of local government. An initial letter of intent has been submitted and a full proposal is anticipated to be requested within the next month.

Ms. St. Peter continued that the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee recommended the current focus for goals in FY 2012. She asked the Committee is there was any additional feedback.

Mr. MacFarlane asked if anyone was aware of a faith based agency inventory, similar to Community Information and Referral. Ms. Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, said she serves on a coalition of faith-based organization that were members of former Governor Napolitano's faith-based agency group. The group now has their own organization and is involved with Louis Palau and City Fest which will occur March. The organization has a website where they are collecting tremendous information. This information will be available to the local community after the festival in March. She recommended speaking with Chuck Fitzgerald at DES for more information.

Vice Chair Ludwick referenced outcome measure number three: *Analyze the impact of funding reductions to municipal human services programs by the fourth quarter of FY 2011.* He suggested the need to start tracking information on a set of worst case scenarios such as the number of homeless individuals, admission to state and county hospitals, and domestic violence crimes. He said those are indicators that would be measured if the system were to fully collapse. He suggested when people begin to put the state back together again, having information on what was most critically impacted may be a worthwhile project to consider. Ms. St. Peter noted the Morrison Institute maintains indicators and some work in this area may already be done.

Ms. Leyvas referenced ARRA stimulus dollars. She said they have to report on jobs created and retained but would be interested in information pertaining to jobs lost or reduced in the human services field. Mr. Matthews said presenting this type of information is key as these budget cuts directly impact people's lives.

Chair Sheffield summarized the feedback as including a request to obtain information from the Morrison Institute to establish baseline measures for homelessness, domestic violence, mental health, jobs, and how services have decreased or changed. Ms. Leyvas made a motion to approve the additional areas of focus for the MAG FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program goals Vice Chair Ludwick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. 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. There was a request to address human services indicators as discussed in the meeting.

10. Comments from the Committee

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

Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, advised the City of Tolleson is competing for a \$250,000 Pepsi Refresh grant to build a new ball park in the City of Tolleson. The grant winner is determined by popular vote. Ms. McClain asked for support and encouraged everyone to visit www.refresheverything.com/forthekidsoftolleson to submit their vote for Tolleson.

Marge Leyvas, MCHSD Community Services Division, requested an update from DES on the final close out on the FY 10 SSBG funding and entities that received funds.

Ms. St. Peter invited everyone to attend the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project Roundtable event on December 1, 2010 and to help spread the word to anyone interested in participating.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.