

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
*Laura Guild, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
*Brandy Howard, City of Mesa
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
+Janey Montoya for Joy McClain, City of
Tolleson
+Leah Powell, City of Chandler
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

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

Chair Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Introductions ensued. She welcomed new Committee member Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe.

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 January 12, 2011 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the January 12, 2011, meeting minutes. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Sheffield advised Timothy Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, was delayed due to prior commitments. Ms. St. Peter offered an opportunity for Committee members to add input for the legislative update. Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, addressed the Committee. She advised VSUW monitors legislative activities. This includes the Department of Economic Security (DES) and how it will be affected by the cessation of American Reinvestment Recovery Act funds. She said loss of these funds will create an additional shortfall of about \$50 million in general funds. Childcare funds, on a national level, appear to be

facing a \$10 million dollar reduction. Additionally, the President's budget proposes severe reductions to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). She said these reductions will place Arizona even lower in terms of energy assistance.

Ms. Lopez-Powell advised DES continues to work with First Things First to provide scholarships for families affected by childcare funding reductions. First Things First has a tentative agreement to provide a 24 hour loan to the State to help maximize everything in the budget. The loan would then be paid back. Governor Brewer has applied for a federal Medicaid waiver that has the potential to eliminate 280,000 individuals from receiving healthcare. She noted 5,000 of those are individuals diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) but do not qualify for Title XIX and are not eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Ms. Lopez-Powell noted job loss in the health sector would be upward of 50,000 jobs due to individuals losing health coverage. She said First Things First continues to be targeted as an available pool of funds.

Ms. Lopez-Powell provided a briefing of the following bills:

- HB 2179 Department of Housing Continuation: Extends the termination date of the Department of Housing out 10 years.
- HB 2550 - Payday loans repackaged into small dollar loans. This bill enables companies to charge three digit interest rates and allows individuals to roll the same loan over a maximum of four times. It adds minor changes but does not specify how it will be monitored. The bill requires companies to work with individuals on a budget.
- SB 1198 Low-income housing credits. This bill would allow tax credits to building owners who add low-income housing units to their building.
- SB 1349 Child care programs. Proposes a sliding scale fee for services. How the program will be implemented and monitored has not been identified.

Ms. Lopez-Powell advised Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) has a reduction in eligibility from 60 months to 36 months. She said when the eligibility period was at 60 months, DES reported 500 families were eliminated from TANF every month. The outcome at having a 36 month window is not known at this time. Ms. Lopez-Powell advised Arizona has passed the one million person mark as far as people receiving food stamps. The housing crisis reflects 40 percent of houses sold in December were foreclosures; one in six families are underwater in their mortgage. She said support systems for these families and individuals is limited.

Marge Leyvas, MCHSD Community Services Division, inquired about a bill that addresses revamping HB 2008. She advised Section 501 of the bill relates to federal dollars; section 502 relates to state dollars. She said the intent is to remove language allowing state law to supersede federal law. Ms. Lopez-Powell advised VSUW is not

tracking this particular legislature. She offered to research further. The Committee moved forward to agenda item number five.

(This section of the agenda was taken after agenda item number 5)

Mr. Schmaltz arrived and addressed the Committee. He discussed possible outcomes should the AHCCCS waiver be denied noting many other services will be reduced or eliminated. He said there are many bills of interest including HB 1405 which would require individuals to provide proof of citizenship when being seen in a hospital emergency room. Ms. Lopez-Powell added another component of HB 1405 requires the admissions office to contact the local federal immigration office. Mr. Schmaltz said there are many liability issues with this legislation.

Ms. St. Peter asked for updates on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Mr. Schmaltz said Community Action Programs (CAP) are also at risk. Ms. Leyvas noted severe funding reductions to CAPs were noted in the President's budget plan. Community Action Agencies (CAA) are holding a meeting to discuss the situation. Additionally, there has been discussion to eliminate Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) or reduce it by 50 percent in addition to making it a competitive grant process nationwide. It was noted Arizona has not fared well in competitive grant processes. Ms. St. Peter added Maricopa County was not awarded any funding in the Challenge Grant, Sustainable Communities or Tiger grant processes. Most of the funding for these competitive grants has been awarded in the East coast. Chair Sheffield thanked everyone for their input.

5. Human Services Funding Reduction Study

Chair Sheffield said based on feedback and guidance from the Human Services Coordinating Committee, staff has revised the approach with the Human Services Funding Reduction Impact Study. The draft revision was sent last Friday for review. She invited Amy St. Peter to offer an update.

Ms. St. Peter said the study continues to be a work in progress. She provided a recap of the study and steps taken to develop the report. The study consisted of three sections: key informant interviews; a survey of the cities and towns; and a review of budget information. Ms. St. Peter advised the budget analysis did not provide a complete picture and could therefore be misleading. She said HSTC had requested a more qualitative report.

Ms. St. Peter referred the Committee to the Draft FY 2011 Human Services Funding Impact Study Survey Results. She reported thirteen cities and towns responded to the survey representing 86 percent of the population. The survey results, upon review, provided good information about the scope and impact of human services. Ms. St. Peter noted prior discussion about the difficulty in defining Human Services. She said the survey asked respondents to indicate what services they funded. The responses provide their definition of human services which then allows staff the ability to track services funded and to what degree. Ms. St. Peter referenced the Job

Elimination chart and Human Services Budget Reduction chart. She advised most cities and towns reported reductions in human services budgets, but not quite as many reduced jobs. Ms. Leyvas recommended adding information to clarify that the 13 municipalities are representative of 86 percent of the population.

Ms. St. Peter advised tracking human services funding reductions is in the work program for next year. She asked for input on how to further refine and enhance the study. Ms. Lopez-Powell inquired whether or not data from the Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits is referenced in the study. Additionally, she advised the Lodestar Center also has data available with regard to nonprofit communities. Both can provide input to the study. Ms. St. Peter advised both studies will be taken into consideration as they can provide more context to what is happening at the nonprofit level.

Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix, noted another dimension to keep in mind when considering job elimination and budget reductions is the number of people being served. He stated cities will strategically make decisions about when to eliminate staff positions based on the anticipated number of people to be served and funding anticipated for the future. Ms. St. Peter advised the current survey does not collect this data but can be incorporated into the future study. Ms. St. Peter offered to add additional information recommended from the Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits and Lodestar and bring back to the Committee for action at the next meeting. Committee members agreed with Ms. St. Peter's recommendation.

The Committee returned to agenda item number four to hear an update from Mr. Tim Schmaltz.

6. Revised FY 2012 Committee Goals

Chair Sheffield thanked everyone for their input last month about the proposed goals for the Committee's work beginning in FY 2012. She advised HSCC reviewed the draft goal at their meeting in January and requested an additional goal as highlighted in the handout. Additionally, they requested a goal to enhance public involvement activities in human services. Chair Sheffield asked for suggestions from the Committee on how to get the public more involved.

Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, said the Tempe Community Council has experience organizing tours as they currently do one-day tours for their leadership program. Mr. Matthews said tours are easy to arrange, yet can be time consuming. He asked if tour participants would consist of HSCC members. Ms. St. Peter advised tours could target a broader audience including leadership from the State legislature.

Ms. Lopez-Powell suggested holding a forum or breakfast and inviting speakers from housing agencies, domestic violence shelters, and other areas to speak to the participants. She commented many legislators are unaware of how the Human Services sector conducts business and the impact they have on society. Mr. Matthews agreed noting how the tour or breakfast could be structured depending on whether participants want to learn processes and procedures or want to see the facilities and

their impact on clients. He suggested a combination of both ideas. Ms. Leyvas noted the measure refers to nonprofit agencies. She recommended the partnerships with cities and towns be noted as well. She expressed her agreement with conducting tours to promote a regional aspect.

Ms. St. Peter advised HSCC delayed recommending approval of the goals until more details have been added to make them more measureable. She requested input from the Committee. Chair Sheffield said it appears the Committee wants to provide a hands-on experience including visits to Central Arizona Shelter Services and other providers. Mr. Matthews agreed a regional approach is necessary to create balance. He cautioned against promoting or providing preferential treatment of a specific agency. Leah Powell, City of Chandler, recommended nonprofits also speak of their partnership with other nonprofits highlighting their reliance on each other as they come up with innovative solutions. Mr. Mathews suggested partnerships with cities also be highlighted.

Mr. Jamison discussed a prior meeting at which they addressed “How to tell your story”. He said it is important to let participants see programs in action so they are aware of what is being addressed through the funding requested. Mr. MacFarlane recommended showing the outcome of a client who has benefitted from services provided at the nonprofits such as through employment or independent housing. He recommended agencies develop a tool such as a power point or brief video to tell their own story.

Ms. Leyvas said the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) is offering a poverty simulation at their annual conference. The poverty simulation provides an individual the opportunity to role play a situation such as that of a single mother with children seeking assistance. Others may participate in an intake role. She said the Western Arizona Council of Governments has trained individuals that can set up a poverty simulation. She suggested including this as part of the tour.

Ms. Lopez-Powell said Project Connect is life-changing. Many people wonder why someone needs help. She said when they have an opportunity to see what it takes to help one individual; the volunteers that it takes to help that person get through the system; and the number of organization involved; along with the coordination and collaboration efforts, they begin to see the barriers and how all the pieces are life changing for people that have gone through it. She suggested using this existing process and collaboration to move forward.

Mr. Matthews asked for clarification on the desired outcome. Ms. St. Peter said the outcome is to offer elected officials an opportunity to participate in a tour or stay in a shelter and to bring awareness to the difficulties accessing services. She suggested a menu of options as extensive as the poverty simulation to Project Connect, a tour, or breakfast. She offered to refine the process further and bring back to HSCC at the next meeting noting the goals will be offered as part of the work program presented to

Regional Council in July. Chair Sheffield thanked everyone for their input noting Ms. St. Peter will provide an update at the March HSTC meeting.

7. U.S. Census Data Presentation

Chair Sheffield said data is critical to helping tell the story about the needs that exist in our region. The U.S. Census Bureau provides rich data. Using this data effectively can help Human Services raise money, awareness, and support. She invited Jami Garrison, Socioeconomic Research Program Manager at MAG, to offer a presentation that will help utilize data about human services needs and demographics. Ms. Garrison referred the Committee to the Census Data Update–Quick Facts handout. She gave a Census Update power point presentation that included an overview of Census 2010 vs. 2000; the American Community Survey; how to obtain data; and the data release schedule.

She discussed differences in data collection for Census 2000 vs. Census 2010 and included information pertaining to use of the Short Form and Long Form. Ms. Garrison advised the American Community Survey (ACS) provides a smaller sample size than Census 2000; provides period estimates; new data annually and socioeconomic data. She provided a brief overview for each category. In addition, Ms. Garrison reviewed the social, economic and housing characteristics that make up the ACS data. A brief tutorial showing where and how to access the ACS data on the U.S. Census Bureau website was provided.

Ms. Garrison discussed the new American Fact Finder and data transition schedule. She noted ACS 2005-2008, 2002 Economic Census and annual Census surveys will transition late Spring/early Summer 2011. Economic Census 2007 and ACS 2009 will transition mid to late Summer 2011. The Legacy American Fact Finder will be discontinued in the fall of 2011.

The Census 2010 data release schedule for Arizona is expected by April 1, 2011. The ACS 2010 data release schedule is Fall/Winter 2011. Ms. Garrison informed the Committee of an upcoming Census Data Workshop: Accessing Census Data Products Effectively scheduled for Tuesday February 22, 2011. Anyone interested in attending may contact Ms. Garrison to register for the workshop.

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 noted an update on the Human Services Reduction Study and Committee Goals.

9. Comments from the Committee

Committee members were given the opportunity to share comments or information related to community events. Mr. MacFarlane advised Gloria Hurtado, Human Services Director, will be leaving the City of Phoenix. Ms. Hurtado is relocating to San Antonio to take a position with the City's Community Initiatives Department. Ms. Hurtado is wished well in her new endeavors.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.