

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 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  
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix  
Mitzila Hogans 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  
Martha Finnegan for Carol Sherer, Arizona  
Department of Economic Security/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

+Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye  
Sheila Patton, Care 1<sup>st</sup> Health Plan  
Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family  
Coalition

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 1:03 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 February 10, 2011 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the February 10, 2011, meeting  
minutes. Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, made a motion to approve the minutes.  
Martha Finnegan, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Sheffield invited Timothy Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, to  
provide an update on legislative activities. Mr. Schmaltz gave an update noting  
reports that the budget is being worked on behind closed doors. He said this is  
causing much speculation. Speculations reflect additional severe budget reductions to  
the Department of Economic Security (DES), Temporary Assistance for Needy  
Families (TANF), Department of Health Services (DHS), Arizona Health Care Cost  
Containment System (AHCCCS), and Arizona universities. Additionally, Mr.

Schmaltz advised the Omnibus SB 1611 (immigration omnibus) and SCR 1026 (state appropriation limit; constitutional amendment) are in the process of moving from the Senate to the House. He also mentioned various Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) bills are being considered.

Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, inquired what form of budget reductions may be experienced by the cities. Mr. Schmaltz said details have not been made available, however, he recommended cities, county lobbyists, and advocates begin to question their legislative leadership regarding anticipated budget reductions and what to expect.

Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, said there are several bills moving through the legislature each with varying degrees of angst associated with them. Ms. Lopez-Powell further discussed TABOR noting information received from the Center on Budget and Public Policy. She said the agency has a good track record of helping states oppose TABOR bills. TABOR bills may appear beneficial from a conservative standpoint, but take control of funding away from legislatures.

Ms. Lopez-Powell provided an overview of legislature on the federal level. She discussed the 2010 budget continuing resolution with the second version in effect until March 18, 2011. She said it is unclear what will happen between that date and June 30, 2011. She discussed the President's budget in conjunction with the legislature's budget that reduce or eliminate funding for programs. For example, funding for youth employment and adult employment training programs has been eliminated in the President's budget as well as in the legislature's budget. She expressed concern about eliminating funding for battered women's shelters, monumental cuts to community health centers, the child care block grant, and major funding reductions to community services block grant monies.

Mr. Jamison noted more importantly, the Community Services Block Grant would become a competitive grant. He said this could wipe out community action programs which are the backbone of local Community Action Programs. Ms. Lopez-Powell suggested there is a need to focus on where the biggest impact can be made and what programs and services can be kept in operation. She recognized PAFCO for doing a great job of leading in the human services arena and for not pitting one service against another. Mr. Schmaltz said there is an attack on many different fronts including TABOR bills and federal and state budget reductions. He said all have tremendous economic consequences for Arizona.

Mr. Jamison clarified the continuing resolution is a temporary resolution effective through March 18, 2011. The Senate is working on the resolution that has passed the House, which represents \$51 million in budget reductions. However, the Senate has not come to an agreement and is working on a compromise between the House and Senate budgets. He noted the President's proposed budget reductions are for next year and suggested focusing on decisions currently being made by the Senate. Ms. Lopez-

Powell noted Arizona does not have a representative on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Jamison said they are speaking to community groups about federal funding in an attempt to educate the public and clarify what programs do. They are asking community members, local organizations, businesses, churches, to become involved as they have a vested interest.

5. Care 1<sup>st</sup> Avondale Housing and Resource Center Update

Chair Sheffield said she is pleased to share information on the Care 1<sup>st</sup> Avondale Housing and Resource Center. She invited Sheila Patton, Care 1<sup>st</sup> Health Plan, to join in the presentation. Chair Sheffield referred Committee members to the handout regarding agencies that provide services at the resource center. The center was established in April 2009 and is unique in terms of its public-private partnership to provide human services in the Southwest Valley. It serves as an incubator to allow agencies and organizations that provide human and housing services in Phoenix and the East Valley to be able to have a space to provide services in the West Valley.

The resource center is administrated by the City of Avondale Neighborhood and Family Services Department but is funded through Care 1<sup>st</sup> Health Plan Arizona. Ms. Patton served as the first coordinator for the center. Additional funding for the resource center was made available through First Things First to support programs that serve children ages zero to five years. The center also offers free meeting room space.

Chair Sheffield said 3,622 people visited the center in January 2011. The majority of those clients were for Women, Infant and Children (WIC) services. WIC is temporarily located at the Care 1<sup>st</sup> Avondale Resource and Housing Center. Upon relocating to a different facility, WIC will maintain personnel at the resource center. The center is located in old town Avondale and serves a largely Hispanic lower income population; many of whom walk to the resource center as it is conveniently located.

Chair Sheffield said the center received a Best of the West award in 2010. She invited Ms. Patton to provide an overview of services. Ms. Patton said Care 1<sup>st</sup> is thrilled to be able to partner with the City of Avondale. The center has now been open for two years. There were 12 customers when they opened in April; they now have 3,600 as of January 2011. The majority of people visit for WIC and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment (AHCCC) services. In addition, the center offers parenting classes, baby boxes, and other bundled complimentary services such as classes to obtain a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), job counseling, and English classes for people who have English as a Second Language (ESL).

Ms. Patton said the center is proof that public/private partnerships provide higher quality customer services. She shared a picture of the in-home children's caregiver program highlighting the multi-generational aspect of the community services center.

Care 1<sup>st</sup> is planning to mirror the resource center in Gila Bend. The partnership will include funding from The Town of Gila Bend, Care 1<sup>st</sup>, and First Things First. The Town of Gila Bend will provide the building and in-kind services with a grand opening targeted for July. The Gila Bend Resource Center goal is to be a destination family resource center. Ms. Patton discussed her previous experience in Gila Bend when working for the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. She said services offered will include AHCCCS, job counseling and behavioral health services; a replication of the City of Avondale's center.

Ms. Patton said she participated in Family Development Specialist training at the City of Mesa. As one of the goals for the center is outstanding service, the training will also be offered to Care 1<sup>st</sup> staff, Town of Gila Bend staff, and other agencies interested in participating. Ms. Patton noted Care 1<sup>st</sup> is also attempting to replicate the center in the Town of Buckeye beginning in summer 2011. She noted Care 1<sup>st</sup> is from California and work is in progress to establish two similar resource centers in Southern California.

Mr. Knaut congratulated Ms. Patton on the services provided and progress toward establishing new centers in Gila Bend and the town of Buckeye. Chair Sheffield said it would be nice to see more public/private partnerships. Mitzila Hogan, City of Phoenix, acknowledged Care 1<sup>st</sup> efforts and community liaison Brandon Newman. She said Mr. Newman does a great job of sharing information about the resource center and work being done in the West Valley.

Ms. Patton noted the Town of Buckeye's resource center goal was derived from the Faith Builders Task force. Their goal is that a clergy office will be available at the Center. Ms. Patton noted while the centers will be similar, each resource center will have its own unique spin.

6. Human Services Funding Reduction Study

Chair Sheffield advised the Committee reviewed the Human Services Funding Reduction Study last month and requested a few changes. The report has been updated to reflect information from the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits' report, "Breaking Point." She invited Amy St. Peter to provide an update.

Ms. St. Peter thanked the Committee for their support of the study as it has moved through many phases. She said additional information was obtained from the Alliance for Arizona Nonprofits and was included in the revised version. The updated draft has been reviewed by Patrick McWhortor, President and CEO, Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits. Ms. St. Peter said she was unable to locate data from the Loadstar report that was recommended to be used in the study. She requested anyone with that information please forward it to her.

Information from the Alliance was included to give context to the work done by nonprofits and local governments working together noting the work of one greatly impacts the work of the other. The information added is nonprofit data that parallels

what was presented for the public sector. Chair Sheffield asked for a motion to recommend approval of the MAG Human Services Funding Reduction Study. Martha Finnegan, Arizona Department of Economic Security, made a motion to recommend approval of the study. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Ms. St. Peter advised the study will be presented to the Human Services Coordinating Committee in April.

7. Municipal Aging Services Model Project

Chair Sheffield invited Ms. St. Peter to report on a new grant to support the aging services initiative previously discussed. Ms. St. Peter said she is very excited for this opportunity to work with the Committee and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust on this new initiative. Aging services have sustained significant funding reductions at the same time that demographics of people needing the services are changing. The project is an opportunity and a responsibility to research how the two come together such as what services remain, what services are need, and how best to meet the need through effective service delivery.

The grant was awarded on February 14, 2010, and is moving through the MAG committee process in terms of formally accepting the funds and amending the budget. The project is scheduled to take place from March 2011 through April of 2012. Part of the process includes issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP). Therefore, MAG will be accepting proposal from people who would like to provide professional services to support the grant. MAG is seeking individuals who have expertise with aging services and who can assist with conducting focus groups throughout the region to help determine what needs are manifesting throughout the community and to help evaluate, according to national best practices, how best to meet those needs.

Part of the RFP will be to conduct a statistically reliable and valid survey to check the results of the focus groups and engage a broader population. The RFP will be distributed March 22, 2011, with a due date of April 18, 2011. Ms. St. Peter said MAG is seeking volunteers to assist with review of the proposals and asked for volunteers from the Committee. In the past, RFPs have resulted in five to ten proposals. She said it is important to have several people review proposals to ensure every angle is considered. Staff will also be forming a stakeholder group to help engage individuals from throughout the community. The project activity will be overseen by HSTC and HSCC.

Ms. St. Peter said input is also requested on basic guiding principles for the project. Examples include developing a model that is within the current financial local government budget so that the model can be used given current budget constraints. Another example may be to maintain the dignity and safety of older adults. She asked for questions or input from the Committee. Laura Guild, Martha Finnegan, Sylvia Sheffield, and Jim Knaut volunteered to help review proposals. Ms. St. Peter asked that anyone else who is interested in assisting please contact her. She advised participants for the review panel are not required to be on the Committee.

In terms of time commitment, the Stakeholder group will meet at least one time per quarter. She asked for input on what specific groups or individuals should be invited to participate on the stakeholder group. Ms. Guild asked for further details on the stakeholder group invitation. Ms. St. Peter said the invitation would explain the projects phases:

- Develop an inventory of services currently provided.
- Community engagement through a survey, focus groups, and a community forum.
- Develop a model/menu of different options that different size communities can review and choose techniques best suited to their needs and capacity.

Ms. Lopez-Powell asked if a list of individuals has been developed by staff or if Committee members may submit recommendations. Ms. St. Peter advised the invitation will be sent through the MAG distribution lists which is a broad list. However, staff also wants to ensure a list of key participants is developed.

Ms. St. Peter advised city and town representation is always included, noting input is also requested from nonprofit, state and county agencies. She advised AARP has been contacted.

Recommendations were made to include the following individuals and/or agencies:

- Michelle Dionisio, Benevilla
- Alice Ghareib, Doves
- An agency representative of populations with Alzheimer's or other such diseases
- Foundation for Senior Living
- West Valley participants
- ABIL
- Mental health agencies
- Arizona Veterans Administration
- The Hispanic community such as from Valle del Sol, Chicanos por la Cause or Friendly House. It was noted Friendly House has a new Executive Director; the stakeholder group may provide a good avenue for participation.
- Greater Phoenix Urban League
- Caregiver agencies representative of homebound populations
- Duet
- DES representative. It was recommended MAG contact Melanie Starns to seek further DES recommendations.
- Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS)

Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone for their input. She requested further recommendations be forwarded to her attention. Additionally, she asked for input from the Committee in terms of guiding principles such as ensuring financial feasibility; and/or protecting each person's safety and dignity. Recommendations include that the guiding principles be responsive to and representative of cultural

diversity; and maintain an individuals' independence. Ms. St. Peter advised the first stakeholder meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the MAG offices. HSTC will receive an update about the Stakeholder meeting in April.

Ms. Guild suggested providing information on how the data will be used and what is its intended outcome. Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone for their input. She noted the project is on the agenda for a motion from the Committee. Ms. Guild made a motion to recommend approval of preliminary guiding principles and stakeholders for the Municipal Aging Services Model Project. Ms. Hogans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Revised FY 2012 Committee Goals

Chair Sheffield advised the Committee previously discussed the MAG Unified Planning Work Program for 2012. She said there were several suggestions for outcome measures which are reflected in the meeting handouts. Chair Sheffield asked for input, comments, or suggestions from the Committee.

Ms. St. Peter advised changes include coordinating tours as well as presentations by local governments and nonprofit agencies. Additionally, language was added to ensure outcome measures were measurable. And with regard to public involvement, a goal was added to ensure more feedback is received from the community.

Chair Sheffield asked for a motion from the Committee. Mr. Knaut made a motion to recommend approval of the revised FY 2012 MAG Unified Planning Work Program Committee Goal. Mr. MacFarlane 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. Chair Sheffield noted updates will be received on several items currently being worked on.

10. Comments from the Committee

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

Mr. Knaut commended Ms. St. Peter and staff for their efforts on coordinating the census workshop.

Ms. Guild asked for an update on the Social Services Block Grant recommendations to DES. Ms. St. Peter advised the MAG Management Committee has recommended approval. The recommendations will be presented to Regional Council at the end of the month.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.