

MINUTES OF THE
MAG HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
April 14, 2016
MAG Office Building, Chaparral Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#Melanie for Andrew Carlson, Town of Gilbert
#Caterina Daneri, Tempe Community Council
#Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
#Janeen Gaskins, City of El Mirage
Jessica Gonzalez, City of Phoenix
*Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security
*Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Jacqueline Edwards for Bruce Liggett, Maricopa County Human Services Department

*Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way
Debbie Pearson, City of Peoria
*Christina Plante, City of Goodyear
Leah Powell, City of Chandler, Vice Chair
*Cindy Saverino, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Cynthia Segovia, City of Phoenix
*Stephanie Small, City of Avondale, Chair

*Neither present nor represented by proxy.
#Attended by telephone conference call.
+Attended by videoconference.

OTHERS PRESENT

Brande Mead, MAG
Samuel Richards, Protecting Arizona Families Coalition
Patrick Hartley from Pima Association of Governments

1. Call to Order

Leah Powell, City of Chandler, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 the March 10, 2016 HSTC Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the March 10, 2016, meeting minutes was requested. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging motioned to approve the minutes. Jacqueline Edwards, Maricopa County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Social Services Block Grant Funding Allocation Planning and Process for FY2018

Vice Chair Powell thanked Patrick Hartley from Pima Association of Governments (PAG) for calling in to the meeting to provide an overview of their SSBG funding allocation recommendation process.

Mr. Hartley said that PAG has an Advisory Committee that meets in the fall to review their SSBG process each year, debrief, and make changes to the current years' process. They work to have their recommendations developed by November or December of each year. He added that their old process included fact sheets and a service ranking exercise but they were frustrated by that process.

PAG convened a small group to review the process with the goal of making it more objective. They considered many options, such as, zero based budgeting. He added that some of the challenges are lack of resources and staffing and that it is hard to compare groups and categories to each other.

Mr. Hartley said they have developed a new process that began with a town hall type of summit, with experts in each service area. Staff asked experts to submit the following information:

- Changes to services in the past year
- Changes in need over the past year
- Funding changes over the past year

He added that they decided to default to the previous years' funding recommendations, especially if there are no major changes. He continued that the new process follows the following steps:

- Convene the Committee in the late Spring to debrief on process and plan;
- The Planning Committee identifies experts in each of the service areas;
- Send the experts the three questions about changes;
- Schedule presentations with experts and allow 20 minute presentations from each expert to speak to the Committee on the three questions and their service area. Also asks expert if their service area receives funding from other funding sources and if funds could be used to leverage other services. Also ask what the plan would be if they did not receive funding for their service area.
- Ask agency representatives for data to share for each service area.

Mr. Hartley added that he would share their written process with the Committee. Jacqueline Edwards suggested inviting a representative from DES to provide a report on performance matrix and ask how agencies are performing on a whole.

There was discussion on the process that PAG uses and consensus from the Committee to develop a similar process. It was decided that this will be discussed further for action at the next meeting.

5. 2016 Human Services Coordination Conference

Ms. Mead provided a brief update on the 2016 Human Services Coordination Conference. She indicated that staff is seeking recommendations on venue ideas and speakers for the conference that will be planned in late summer or early fall. She reminded the Committee that the primary focus is on coordination of human services. The top issues that should be addressed, according to the survey responses are:

Mental/Behavioral Health (1st most important issue): number one gap in mental/behavioral health is access to services, followed by coordination and social awareness, staffing was also a gap.

Housing (2nd most important issue): number one gap in housing is safe and permanent housing options (rapid re-housing, permanent supportive, affordable, etc.), followed by coordination.

Well-being / Safety of Vulnerable Populations* (tied with housing): number one gap in well-being and safety of vulnerable populations is coordination of services, followed by social awareness, safe and permanent affordable housing options (rapid re-housing, permanent supportive, affordable, etc.), and access.

*(Vulnerable populations included: homeless, seniors, and low income and children)

Transportation (3rd most imp. Issue): number one gap related to transportation is lack of access to public transportation, followed by specialized transportation options (for seniors, disabled and low income).

Ms. Mead provided the following overview. The purpose of the conference is to create an 'Action Agenda' to guide the work of the Human Services and Community Initiative Committee. The outcome will be goals/vision identified to improve human services coordination across the Region. The format will be interactive, focused forum sessions with an objective facilitator. She added that it would be ideal to have information sharing opportunities and learn from best practices and identify best practices.

Discussion ensued and members recommended the focus be on coordination of behavioral health: narrow in on gaps, improvements, best practices from other states/agencies. Suggested opening session on history and where we are now. It was also recommended that the location be central with ample parking.

Ms. Mead said that staff will be working on identifying the venue and a date and will follow up at the next Committee meeting with an update.

6. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Powell invited Mr. Richards to provide a legislative update.

Mr. Richard thanked members and provided an overview. He indicated that First Things First is gone now and that there have been several attacks on funding for people with disabilities. A positive update is that Kids Care may be restored. If it is restored, 30,000 plus kids will get health care and will hopefully be part of the state budget. The budget will likely be out early next week.

An update was provided on HB2388, which would create 529 plans and a college fund for people with disabilities. An overview was also provided on HB2770, on sober living homes. Mr. Richards said that PAFCO does support this bill as it has been worked on at length and is a much better bill now, in his opinion.

Discussion ensued about how the budget process works and there were no additional questions.

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. Members suggested finalizing the SSBG funding recommendation process and an update on the conference.

8. Comments from the Committee

Committee members were given the opportunity to share comments or information related to community events. No comments were made.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.