

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of
Tempe
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
+Linda Dillard for Patti Evans, City of
Goodyear
*Stefanie Garcia, City of Chandler
Community Services, Inc
Laura Guild, DES/CPIP
Tim Cole for Jeffery Jamison, City of
Phoenix
Jessica Gonzalez for Deanna Jonovich,
City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Eileen Hartnet for Margarita Leyvas,
Maricopa County
+Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun
United Way
Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise

Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council
Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice
Chair
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Donna Crews, Advocates for the Disabled,
Inc.
Rachel Brito, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Carl Harris-Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee. There were no comments made.

3. Approval of April 9, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the April 9, 2009 meeting minutes. Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix, made a motion to approve the minutes. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

This item was taken out of order and was heard after the Social Services Block Grant allocation recommendation item, originally #5 on the agenda.

Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona Families Coalition (PAFCO), provided an update on legislative activities and the State budget. He reported the Senate and House have passed a budget that in many people's judgment is bad for human services and behavioral health. He said PAFCO and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are in the process of delivering a letter to the Governor's office asking Governor Brewer to veto the House and Senate budget. Mr. Schmaltz said for DES, the budget represents a \$74 million lump sum cut on top of the 2009 budget cuts of \$153 million. Mr. Schmaltz said a Senior Governor's aide advised him the Governor's commitment to helping human services has not diminished. He said the Governor's budget would restore 100 percent of child protection investigations, in-home services, early intervention, and other similar restorations including protecting behavioral health.

Mr. Schmaltz said PAFCO's advice to everybody in community groups is to gather their leaders and citizens and write to the Governor asking her to veto the budget and negotiate for a better budget. Mr. Schmaltz discussed the effects of eliminating funding for Kids Care parents and how that would jeopardize children in that program. He said there are a variety of issues in the legislative budget similar to this example that are bad options. As alternative options, Mr. Schmaltz said PAFCO, Children's Action Alliance, and SIEU- the public workers union - formed the Arizona Budget Coalition. He said they have hired a consultant who found \$4 billion worth of non-tax alternatives and \$2.5 in tax alternatives that can be implemented. He said while not all of the options are favorable they do offer options that would prevent further cuts to Adult Protective Services and the domestic violence line item.

Mr. Schmaltz referenced the many domestic violence cases that have been in the news lately; he said this is a problem that will remain after the budget session. He said from PAFCO's point of view, the system is being rebased and the path to full funding has been driven back. Mr. Schmaltz said the bottom line is that it is not over; everyone should continue to be engaged until the end of the budget session. Mr. Schmaltz offered to provide information to MAG staff for distribution, however, he commented changes are occurring on a day-to-day basis.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, commented that the Governor is asking for groups to support the tax increase initiative. She is asking agencies to have their Board of Directors advocate as a constituent within their districts. He asked if Mr. Schmaltz believed the Governor would compromise health and human services concerns with legislative leaders in order to pass a budget. Mr. Schmaltz said he was strongly assured that the Governor is not giving up on the health and human services aspect of the budget. He discussed the political aspect of everyone supporting the concept of human services, but their votes on funding to sustain human services line items may be in conflict.

Mr. Mathews thanked Mr. Schmaltz and Valley of the Sun United Way for their work. He said there is still a call to action for all constituents, all advocates and all voters. Ms. Lopez-Powell encouraged everyone to visit the Valley of the Sun United Way Web site at www.vsuw.org and join the advocacy group Arizona that Cares. She said they have connected with CapWiz which provides the opportunity to send statements to the legislators. Mr. Schmaltz said they also have CapWiz capability and citizens' voices do make a difference.

5. Social Service Block Grant Allocation Process

This item was taken out of order and was heard before the Legislative Update, originally #4 on the agenda.

Chair Harris-Morgan invited Amy St. Peter, MAG, to report on the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Allocation Process. Ms. St. Peter referred the Committee to the *Maricopa Association of Governments Social Services Block Grant Fact Sheet Template Draft*, dated July 24, 2008. She requested input from the Committee to further define the process for determining SSBG allocation recommendations. Ms. St. Peter advised the template is also available on the Web site for those Committee members attending via teleconference.

Mr. Matthews asked for a brief overview of how the Fact Sheet Template was developed. Ms. St. Peter said the fact sheet was developed last summer. She said the goal of the template was to present data that were consistently available across all four target groups. She said the template was developed to better inform the process to develop allocation recommendation. Ms. St. Peter said the template provided baseline data for Committee members to use in conjunction with the service ranking and the funding formula developed last year. Ms. St. Peter asked for input on the usefulness of the fact sheet and for recommendations on improving the process.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, asked for clarification regarding how demographics are reported. Ms. St. Peter said demographics are reported per target group at a regional level. She said the data were derived from the American Community Survey, however, in instances where data were not available, additional service data was obtained from local sources such as the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Ms. St. Peter said in comparison to last year, the street count percentages have increased, but there is no significant change in data from the American Community Survey.

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, requested homeless status be added as a category under demographics. He said homelessness is an issue the Committee values in the process and it could be relevant for elderly and developmentally disabled populations. Ms. St. Peter asked if there were additional data elements that should be recorded on the fact sheet. She said staff can collect a number of different elements and the Committee may refine the template if the data are not consistently available or relevant.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the fact sheet template as proposed, with the addition of homeless status added for each data set, as well as the ranking process and prioritization formula. Ms. Marshall asked to clarify the motion; specifically on what was being added. Chair Harris-Morgan reviewed the motion as approving the fact sheet template with the addition of homeless status for each target group's demographics, the service ranking, and the funding formula developed last year. He asked for any further discussion or questions. Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked the Committee and Ms. St. Peter for their assistance in developing the process. Additionally, he thanked staff for the work they have done and will continue to do.

Ms. St. Peter reviewed the *Notice of Public Hearings Schedule on SSBG Plan for FY 2010*. She said the hearing for this region is scheduled for June 24, 2009 from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the Metro North Building. Ms. St. Peter said she will be in attendance along with representatives from Maricopa County. She encouraged everyone to attend and said this is a great opportunity to offer public comment for the record. The complete schedule of hearings along with the SSBG draft plan is available in the meeting handouts. Ms. St. Peter added the numbers represented in the plan are the numbers submitted by MAG; the difference being that MAG reports by target group, and the State of Arizona reports by DES departments. She said no SSBG cuts have been proposed as in recent years.

Chair Harris Morgan welcomed Tim Schmaltz, PAFCO, and redirected the Committee to item #4 on the agenda.

6. 2009 Heat Relief Network Report

Tim Cole, City of Phoenix, Eileen Hartnet, MCHSD Community Services Division, and Brande Mead, MAG, presented a report on this summer's activities to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths.

Chair Harris-Morgan said there have been a number of heat-related deaths throughout the past year and since that time, a number of organizations have come together to provide resources. He invited Mr. Cole, Ms. Hartnet and Ms. Mead to present their reports on heat relief efforts.

Mr. Cole reported the City of Phoenix began heat relief efforts after a number of heat related deaths in 2006. He said those efforts grew into the Heat Relief Network which is comprised of faith based, private and non-private partners. Mr. Cole said Mayor Gordon put out the annual call for water on May 5, 2009 however, due to the economic situation, water donations have been low. Mr. Cole said the City of Phoenix instituted a new protocol whereby they would coordinate heat relief efforts and deliver water to anyone requesting it. However, due to budget cuts, they are now relying on the Heat Relief Network to pick up the water rather than City of Phoenix

delivering it. He said 226,000 bottles of water were supplied by the City of Phoenix and surrounding areas last year.

Mr. Cole also reported on heat relief presentations made to fifteen senior centers. He said during this time of year, seniors on fixed income face decision of whether to eat, pay their bills or continue using their air conditioning. He said many seniors turn off their air conditioners which results in a number of elderly heat related deaths. Mr. Cole said a number of individuals over age 60 died from the heat in 2007.

Mr. Cole said they are also visiting senior centers for the purpose of signing up individuals for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and utility discounts for seniors. He reported 547 households were screened and 421 were eligible. Funding was made available to seniors who could not otherwise afford to pay their utility bills. Mr. Cole said the City of Phoenix paid future bills for those who did not have current bills due to allow them relief.

Mr. Cole also discussed the Summer Respite Program which runs from June 1 to September 30. He said items such as water and t-shirts among other things are collected at family service centers and then distributed to individuals on the street. Additionally, Mr. Cole reported St. Mary's Food Bank is providing storage space for items collected by the City of Phoenix or other surrounding areas.

Ms. Hartnet reported similar heat relief activities outside the City of Phoenix and Mesa. She said the Community Action Program (CAP) is administered through a number of subcontracts and provides services for a balance of the County outside of Phoenix and Mesa. She said the CAP programs each have a specific heat plan for the summer and provide items such as water, juice, hats, and sunscreen. She Maricopa County has case managers who provide services to adults by checking on the vulnerable and ensuring they are okay. She said they are also installing fans and window units as well as providing referrals to weatherization programs. Ms. Hartnet said CAP agencies also distribute LIHEAP funds and provide walk-in events for people who need assistance. She said the largest event brought in 231 households in Gilbert with more than 150 applications for utility assistance.

Brande Mead, MAG, thanked all those involved from the city, county, faith-based, and private sector that assisted with the Heat Relief Network and the significant impact made since 2005. She said the number of deaths is decreasing, especially among the homeless population. Ms. Mead said new locations were added to the water hydration and collection and donation sites; maps detailing the locations are available on the MAG Web site and through Community Information and Referral, emergency responders, and homeless outreach teams. Ms. Mead said the City of Phoenix reported water donations are not what they have been in the past. She said there has been some preliminary discussions about helping communities conduct a regional water drive. Ms. Mead said the topic will be discussed at the next Planning Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Ludwick asked if the Committee is in a position to quickly implement water drives when temperatures rise to 100 degrees or above. Mr. Cole responded that a Heat Relief meeting was held on June 10, 2009 and the amount of water available was low. He said The Salvation Army was able to provide some water to the Heat Relief Network but their current status of available water is unknown. Mr. Cole commented that not as many people think about donating water when the temperature is at 90 degrees or below, however, donations increase as temperatures rise.

Ms. Hartnet referenced an article in the newspaper about epidemiology and tracking heat-related deaths. She said the article talked about hot weather states and how those states are not receiving enough weatherization money. Ms. Hartnet asked if heat-related deaths are being tracked truly as what they are, or if there are a larger number of deaths that are not being categorized as being heat-related. Ms. Mead responded epidemiology is the best source to provide an answer. She said epidemiology is tracking the number of deaths related to and caused by the heat, however, there may also be a number of deaths where the heat may have had an impact, but is not the main cause. The difference in those numbers is unknown.

Mr. Matthews said the issue of how consumer buying habits have changed has been discussed in meetings regarding water donations. He said consumers are getting out of the habit of buying bottled water and, if this is occurring, it may shift how the request is made for donations. For example, rather than asking for bottled water to be donated, monetary donations can be requested so water may be purchased in bulk. Mr. Matthews added this may offer an opportunity for municipalities to provide drinking water in parks or other public places. Ms. St. Peter shared that Native American Connections is doing something similar in that they have installed a water fountain and have made it available for the public. In this manner, they provide water while conserving the environment.

7. Development of Human Services Reports

Chair Harris-Morgan said the FY2010 MAG Unified Planning Work Program includes the development of a report about crisis management strategies to assist the region in addressing the impact of the economy on human services and a report to illustrate the impact of regional human services planning. He introduced Ms. St. Peter to discuss the two reports.

Ms. St. Peter said the MAG Unified Work Plan progress report was approved by the Regional Council in May 2009. Projects for the plan were previously discussed by the Human Services Technical Committee and the Human Services Coordinating Committee. Ms. St. Peter said staff is now looking at how best to achieve those projects scheduled in the first quarter.

The Human Services Impact Report is a new effort. The goal is to show the effects of coordination at the agency, municipal, and regional level. Ms. St. Peter said the previous Regional Human Services Plan focused on the results achieved through funding and allocations recommended by MAG Committees.

Ms. St. Peter said the second report will to determine the most critical needs and issues faced by the region as well as best practices being implemented with the goal of promoting replication of those successful efforts to meet any future challenges. Ms. St. Peter said both of the proposed projects are new and she opened the topic for discussion by the Committee.

Mr. Ludwick said it would be helpful to be able to look at different funding streams adding that HSTC influences a funding stream (SSBG), and the municipalities and the federal government have control over other funding sources. He suggested when discussing the impact of any one funding source, it is in the context of what is occurring in the other sources. Mr. Ludwick referenced private contributions as an example. He said there have been some differences, but overall contributions are because individuals' contributions have increased but donations from realty companies have decreased. Mr. Ludwick suggested finding a way to graph relative funding sources available over time. Ms. St. Peter agreed that trends from different sources may be tracked. She said that data can be added over time to present a more complete picture.

Ms. St. Peter offered to have MAG staff develop a draft survey that can be proposed to Committee members for review and feedback. She said the survey can then be distributed to community partners with initial findings presented to the Committee in August. A draft report could be made available to HSTC in September for review and a report for action can be presented to HSTC and HSCC in October. She said the Impact Report can be merged with the Regional Human Services Plan and the process to develop SSBG allocations. The Committee expressed consensus with Ms. St. Peter's proposal to develop a draft survey and to communicate via email rather than scheduling an in-person meeting for July.

8. Comments from the Committee

There were no comments from the Committee.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:21.p.m. Chair Harris-Morgan reminded the Committee there is no meeting scheduled for July. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room. He wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and reminded Committee members to RSVP to staff when meeting notices are distributed.