

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING AND
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING
JANUARY 29, 2004**

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ATTENDING

Dennis Cahill, City of Tempe, Chair
Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear
Martha Bails, City of Surprise
*Linda Huff Redman, Tempe Community
Council
Kyle Jones, City of Mesa
*Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix
*Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale
*Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale
Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging
*Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert
Kathleen Nicola, Town of Fountain Hills
*Phillip Westbrooks, City of Chandler
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County

Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
*Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
*Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Linda Snidecor, City of Goodyear
*Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
*Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services
Council
*Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
*Neal Young, City of Phoenix

OTHERS PRESENT

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ATTENDING

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community
Network, Chairman
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
*Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
*Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area
Agency on Aging
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
*Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community
Service Program
*John Paul Lopez, City of Tolleson
Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW
Norma Quevedo for Dan Lundberg, City of
Surprise
*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix

Celeste Adams, Save the Family
Joy Carter, MAG
Terri Collins, Valley Metro
Margot Cordova, Native American Connections
Maureen Decindis, MAG
Debra Determan, MAG
Joyce Forsythe, Maricopa County
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Jerry Hancock, DES
Roger Herzog, MAG
Trina Jenkins, Maricopa County
Lisa Kleinpeter, City of Tempe
Allie Masters, Maricopa County
Judy Novak, Salt River Project
Bruce Raden, Congressman
Shadegg
Vicki Staples, DHS
Virginia Sturgill, Maricopa County
Mindy Wakefield, Maricopa County
Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community
Action Association

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Welcome Address and Introductions

Dennis Cahill, Chair of the Human Services Coordinating Committee and Sandra Reagan, Chair of the Human Services Technical Committee called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. The Chairpersons made opening remarks and led in the introductions. The chairpersons introduced new members to the HSCC/HSTC. The chairpersons also explained the role of the HSCC and HSTC. These roles were described as the following: the HSTC does research on Human Service issues and presents their findings to the HSCC, which reviews the HSTC's recommendations and forwards them on to the MAG Management and Regional Committees, in that order. Chairperson Reagan then led the group in an icebreaker and then lunch.

2. Let's Keep Moving

Maureen Decindis, MAG, introduced Roger Herzog, MAG, (for Eric Anderson, MAG, who was at the legislature), Teri Collins, Valley Metro and Trina Jenkins, Maricopa County Human Services Department who gave a brief overview of transportation planning for the next 20 years.

- Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Project Manager presented an overview of the 20 Year Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Herzog also discussed how the Regional Transportation Plan would help with increases in traffic congestion in the next 20 years. Mr. Herzog continued to report that improved public transportation is good for the community because it ensures that people have adequate access to jobs, health care, recreation and schools.
- Teri Collins, Valley Metro, Principal Transit Planner, presented detailed bus, rail and dial-a-ride plans and discussed the implication for human services. She also reported that if the Regional Transportation Tax Plan is not approved, cities that do not have a transportation budget would lose their bus services in 2005. Ms. Collins related this to the issues stated by Mr. Herzog regarding how improved transportation helps the community by providing citizens with access to jobs, health care, recreation and schools.
- Trina Jenkins, Maricopa County Human Services Department Special Transportation Manger, presented how the Special Transportation Services program fulfills the needs of special populations who are unable to utilize public transportation. In addition, Ms. Jenkins discussed another program that is offered by the county called Work Links. She described Works Links as being a 24/7, regional transportation service for low-income workers and job seekers that provides multiple transportation resources. These resources include fixed route vans, bus passes and tickets, bicycles, gas stipend, and car repair and insurance. Ms. Jenkins reports that both of the above-mentioned programs have had positive outcomes.

3. Poverty Report

Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix, presented the following statistics according to a recent Community Food and Nutrition Program Report:

U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Survey:

- ✓ The recent U.S. Conference of Mayors annual survey shows that hunger in American cities and requests for emergency food increased an average of 17% in 2003.
- ✓ Phoenix was ranked the 7th highest with an increase in requests for emergency food at 20%.

Food Stamp household characteristics Nationally for FFY '02 released by USDA:

- ✓ An average of 8.2 million households or 19.1 million people received Food Stamps
- ✓ 28% of Food Stamp recipients are working versus 21% of TANF recipients
- ✓ Gross income fell by 1.6% to \$633 per month
- ✓ Average countable resources \$134
- ✓ 51% on Food Stamp recipients are younger than 18 years old
- ✓ 1/3 of children on Food Stamps are pre-schoolers
- ✓ 9% of the individuals on Food Stamps are 60 years old or older
- ✓ 87% of all households contained a child, elderly or disabled person

Mr. Gallegos introduced Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association, who gave an overview of the Poverty Report.

- Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association, Executive Director, presented on the Poverty Report that has been recently developed. Ms. Zwick stated that the statistics outlined in the Poverty Report are based upon the US Census Bureau's definition of poverty which is "an individual making approximately \$8900 a year, or a family of four making \$16,700." Some of the findings of the report include:
 - ✓ In 2000, the Arizona poverty rate was 13.9%, the 14th highest in the country, the national average is 12.4%.
 - ✓ Arizona's per capita personal income was \$23,937, 14% below the national average of \$27,880.
 - ✓ 19.3% of Arizona's children live in poverty – higher than any other group.
 - ✓ Arizona is in the top 10 states with the largest gap between rich and poor.
 - ✓ Arizona is 50th in the Country in combined state and local spending on social services at 16% vs. 26% nationally.

As outlined in the Poverty Report, Ms. Zwick described factors that contribute to poverty which included substandard wages, housing affordability, a high percentage of income that goes to rent and utility costs, education issues, child care costs, welfare reform, health care costs and lack of transportation. Ms. Zwick presented the recommendations described in the Poverty Report, which included

helping people obtain a livable wage, affordable housing, child care, health care, transportation jobs and income. Ms. Zwick also stated that people in poverty need an adequate safety net and resources to improve family and child well being, in addition to affordable housing, sound fiscal policy, education and good nutrition. In addition, a well-known corporation pays their sales clerks a salary of \$14,000, which is below the federal poverty guidelines of \$15,060 for a family of three. Ms. Zwick suggests that individuals contact their legislators, ask tough questions, and make suggestions for change.

Jeannie Jertson asked what people could do about poverty. Mr. Cahill suggested that when speaking to the community about poverty related issues, individuals could relate poverty to other community costs.

4. SSBG Allocations

Jim Knaut , Area Agency on Aging, Region One, introduced himself. In Mr. Knaut's introduction, he stated that he appreciated the opportunity to have served on the MAG Technical Committee for seventeen years with so many dedicated and committed individuals. In addition, Mr. Knaut emphasized the importance of SSBG funding to the human services arena and discussed the following:

Mr. Knaut stated the very nature of the tremendous benefits that SSBG funding brings to the human services community is also its greatest liability. The flexibility of the funding allows for a wide range of critical services serving families, the elderly, and the physically and developmentally disabled. At the same time, that flexibility makes it difficult for us to effectively tell our story as the funds are used across a spectrum of services.

He continued that it is imperative we get across to our elected officials the importance of returning to the 1998 level of funding for SSBG. We are not asking for an increase in funding; we are simply asking for the funding to be restored to its original level. We cannot rely on other states or constituencies to do our work for us. It is incumbent on each one of us to work with our elected officials at the federal level to restore this funding.

Mr. Knaut stated the subcommittee, chaired by Patrick Tyrrell two years ago, recommend cuts in programs as a result of funding reductions were some of the most difficult decisions required of the Technical and Coordinating Committees since they have been in existence. Though the decisions resulted in the loss of some very important programs, it was agreed by virtually all parties involved that they were necessary in order to keep the remaining programs viable. In reviewing those decisions last month, the Technical Committee subcommittee recommended that we continue forward utilizing that same premise for the coming year.

Jim Knaut introduced Jerry Hancock, DES. Mr. Knaut thanked him for his service and dedication to the MAG Technical and Coordinating Committees over the years. Jerry Hancock has always been there to help the Technical Committee understand what is happening at both the federal and state levels that affect SSBGS funding and assist us in our deliberations. As a committee we wish him the best in his retirement

to begin this summer, and thank him for his support and continual vigilance over SSBG for the State of Arizona.

- Jerry Hancock, DES, SSBG Community Planning Coordinator, presented a history of SSBG funding for Arizona, anticipated funding for the next fiscal year and required planning efforts. Mr. Hancock described the following:

The SSBG started out as a part of the Title XX Act. Under which required a state match in order to obtain funding. Governor Castro created the Councils of Governments (COG's) in the 70's to act as a conduit to assist Arizona in being able to match the Title XX federal funds. In the 80's President Reagan changed the Title XX funds from a state match program to a block grant, which doesn't require a state match and is based upon the population of the individual states. SSBG funds are not to be used for medical expenses, supplementing public education, and the purchase of land or buildings. Twenty-seven percent of these funds are allocated to planning and seven percent of the funds are allocated to Indian Communities, with the remainder going to the Department of Economic Security.

Federal funding allocations for the SSBG have been reduced significantly since 1996. In 1997, the passage of the Transportation Grant required the transfer of some funds from SSBG into the Transportation Grant Fund. This further reduced SSBG funding levels. Mr. Hancock anticipates a slight increase in SSBG funding due to the increase in population that Arizona has experienced.

Mr. Knaut then introduced Sandra Reagan, HSTC Chairperson. Mr. Knaut thanked her for serving as the Chairperson of the Technical Committee for the past three years. He further stated that she has led us through some difficult decisions and has demonstrated her leadership abilities throughout the process.

- HSTC Chairperson Reagan, reviewed the process the volunteer SSBG subcommittee went through when developing the recommendations on December 18, 2003. Chairperson Reagan explained the decision making process for the FY 2005 SSBG funding allocations was based upon the committee work that was completed in 2001/2002. In this careful study, the volunteer SSBG Committee prioritized the SSBG funded services for FY 2003. The methodology chosen was to prioritize the most "essential basic needs." That same study committee based their recommendations upon cutting the lowest prioritized services until the reduction amounts were met. Ms. Reagan then reported that the group did not have a quorum, but entertained the motion to have a vote without a quorum and MAG staff will follow through with a phone vote of members who were presented but had to leave for business reasons. Chairperson Cahill made the motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Kyle Jones.
- Ms. Reagan then proceeded into the SSBG vote. Ms. Reagan reported that the SSBG subcommittee recommends language changes to the persons with disabilities target group. Jim Knaut explained to the committees that the changes in the persons with disabilities SSBG target population were intended to bring the language of the SSBG in line with federal contract guidelines. No changes in

funding amounts were recommended. Chairperson Cahill motioned to approve the language changes to the target group of persons with disabilities, Kyle Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the HSCC/HSTC.

- Ms. Reagan then proceeded to the vote upon the FY 2005 SSBG funding allocations. Ms. Reagan explained that the funding levels for FY 2005 are the same as for FY 2004. Therefore the volunteer SSBG subcommittee recommends that funding levels and allocations remain the same for FY 2005 as for FY 2004. Chairperson Cahill then motioned for the committees to approve the volunteer SSBG subcommittee's recommendation to have the FY 2005 SSBG funding allocations mirror FY 2004. Councilmember Kyle Jones seconded this and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of the HSTC/HSCC.

5. Previous Ballot Results and Ballot #2 Distribution

Ballot results from the July Advance were distributed and reviewed by Chairperson Reagan. Results showed that the committees ranked the allocation of funds, elderly mobility, and financial literacy as the more important issues addressed by the HSCC/HSTC. Ballot #2 was distributed to the persons present. Debbra Determan requests that the ballots are returned to MAG staff either at this meeting or sent to the MAG office.

6. Wrap up

HSCC Chairperson Cahill closed by thanking everyone for attending and for their hard work in the Human Services arena. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

HSCC: April 8, 2004 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. MAG Offices Cholla Room

HSTC: February 19, 2004 1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. MAG Offices Cholla Room