

MAG Human Services  
Technical Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2002

MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage  
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way  
Margot Cordova, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Debra Detterman, City of Mesa  
\*Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix  
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council  
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert  
Connie James, City of Scottsdale  
Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department  
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging  
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
\*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix  
\*Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging  
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix  
\*Diane Mullin, City of Glendale  
\*Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD  
Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network,  
Chairman  
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF  
Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA  
Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council  
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix  
\*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options  
\*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler  
\*Rebecca Van Marter, The Community Forum  
Neal Young, City of Phoenix

\*Those members neither present nor represented  
by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Suzanne Quigley, MAG Staff  
Mary Thomson, MAG Staff

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Sandra Reagan called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. TANF Transfer

Mr. Genualdi of DES regretted that he was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute because of an unexpected commitment.

Ms. Thomson, MAG Staff reported that she was able to meet with Mr. Genualdi. He explained that the \$1M TANF transfer that falls under the COG planning is listed in a line item "Community and Emergency Services" of the budget. To date, the Legislative Subcommittee on Welfare Reform has not selected this line item to be reduced to meet the current shortfall in TANF dollars. However, the TANF transfer still remains in question for the FY 2003 planning year.

MAG Staff will keep apprised of the cuts being proposed at the legislature and brief the Committee on any proposed cuts that will affect the current funding levels.

Chairman Reagan inquired if Mr. Genualdi could be invited back for the next meeting scheduled in March.

### 3. Report Out of the Annual Advance

Suzanne Quigley, MAG Staff reviewed the outcomes of the breakout sessions A and B during the Advance. She referred to the chart that detailed the needs assessment process as well as a summary of the report out from each break out group detailing strategies for moving forward.

Ms. Quigley first reviewed notes from Breakout Session A - *How Can We Improve How We Assess and Prioritize Needs* (See Attachment in your packets)

She discussed the Needs Assessment Matrix developed and the need to have a more representative sample of the agencies, commissions, and committees in the region. She suggested that the best means of completing the matrix would be to inventory all relevant groups in the region and survey those groups. There was a consensus from the members to create a survey to complete the matrix.

Ms. Quigley noted that another strategy that came forth was to develop a pie chart detailing the amount of funding per category (i.e. adults, families and children, people with disabilities, people with developmental disabilities and elderly).

Ms. Quigley went on to discuss strategies from breakout session B – *Increasing Membership*. One strategy that came forward dealt with better communicating the benefits of belonging to the Committee other than solely planning for SSBG dollars.

One action, that Councilmember Pettycrew requested was to submit a recruitment letter to potential municipalities and organizations not currently represented requesting their participation.

Ms. Quigley then asked members to comment on the outcome of the Advance and possible actions for moving forward over the next year.

Mr. Wise reviewed the suggestion for developing a website and posting as much information as possible on the website for public access. He also suggested to follow up on outreach to commissions and boards or conduct a forum in each community.

Chairman Reagan stated that Community Councils have been meeting on a regional basis. Vice Chairman James also added that Scottsdale has spent many hours meeting on human service issues. She stressed that If we do outreach to these groups, we need to have a specific focus.

Mr. Jose Mercado stated that the Phoenix Human Services Commission has hosted other community meetings. He also reiterated we need to be very specific in what we want to accomplish if we hold these forums.

Mr. Wayne Tormala spoke about facilitating breakout session B during the advance. He also supported the idea of collaborating and partnering with the various commissions and boards.

Chairman Reagan suggested that the focus areas for this year might be on completing the needs assessment and identifying the gaps that exist between commissions.

Ms. Margot Cordova stated that the challenge in completing the needs assessment grid will be for the Committee to learn more about where the gaps are and where those groups are that we currently don't know about.

Ms. Jeanne Jertson emphasized that the primary purpose of this group is to do planning for SSBG. Elected Officials need to be apprised of the impact of those funds through presentations from agencies and community action agencies and of the importance of those funds. We need to focus on personalizing the numbers more.

Ms. Cordova added that we need to know how human services are being funded and supported on a regional basis – SSBG only represents a small portion. There is now no place for the community to find out about comprehensive funding and services and identified gaps.

Mr. Jim Knaut added that all units of service do not cost the same. He stated that the information on the number of people served with the SSBG funds as well served in total as well as the number of people on waiting lists for services would be valuable information to have access to when making funding decisions.

Chairman Reagan inquired if the group felt ready to move forward on some of the activities discussed. Ms. Jertson made a motion to move ahead with the first three bullets from breakout session A; developing a comprehensive list of boards, commissions and committees involved in human service planning; completing the needs assessment piece by surveying those not currently listed; gathering a comprehensive list of agencies that are funded by SSBG/TANF and creating an inventory demonstrating the proportion of funding according to each service.

Mr. Knaut seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Tormala stressed the need to focus on making the committee stronger before we focus on how to increase membership.

#### 4. Food Brochure

Chairman Reagan stated that APS was gracious enough to print the Food Brochure. We are currently working with them to get 25,000 printed. Mr. Carl Harris Morgan requested that we provide the brochure in Spanish. Staff relayed that they will look in to having it translated. Chairman Reagan asked the members to assist with distribution of the brochure. The following individuals volunteered:

- Ms. Jertson for the County's 13 Community Action Programs as well as the HeadStart programs
- Mr. Tormala for City of Phoenix's Family Support Centers
- Mr. Harris Morgan requested Spanish translated brochures in Gilbert.
- Ms. James for the neighborhood centers in Scottsdale.
- Chairman Reagan for the Southwest Community Network
- Mr. Wise of Tempe Community Council
- A suggestion was made to have them distributed through the Food Banks
- Ms. Pieper for City of Tolleson

#### 5. Legislative Update

Ms. Quigley provided the Committee with an overview of current legislative bills and issues prevalent to social services. She noted the stakeholder meeting convened by DES Director John Clayton to discuss the proposal that they will be submitting to the Governors Office detailing the line item cuts in the budget. She stated that the recommended budget cuts by DES fall on those services supported by the General Fund.

Ms. Quigley reviewed the services that were mentioned at the stakeholder meeting:

- General Assistance
- Non-medical home and community based elder care
- Intensive Family Service (e.g. CPS)
- Summer Youth Programs – County
- Emergency Services – Homeless, Domestic Violence and Hunger Programs
- Developmental Disability services for non Title XIX clients.
- DES Operational Funds

Ms. Quigley also spent some time discussing the legislative agendas for specific social issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, children's advocacy and hunger programs.

Mr. Knaut added that there are also considerable cuts expected under healthcare and AHCCCS, which has significant ramifications for the elderly population.

Ms. Quigley added that since the stakeholder meeting at DES, The Basic Needs Coalition met with Mr. Clayton. They were able to demonstrate how the emergency services line item cannot be sacrificed since they are also facing considerable cuts under TANF. Since the stakeholder meeting, DES revised their proposal to exclude the emergency services line item.

Ms. Quigley also review some bills at the National level that involve keeping SSBG funded at it's original level of \$2.8 Billion. Mr. Mercado included that TANF Reauthorization and Food Stamp Funds are also being considered by Congress during this current session.

#### 6. Taxonomy

Ms. Thomson presented the Committee with the current 2002 Taxonomy of Human Services Report. She discussed her role as liaison on the Taxonomy Committee and also highlight some of the current changes in the Report since 2001. She encouraged all members to incorporate these definitions into their program planning areas. She also discussed how the Department of Administration will be incorporating the service definitions into their procurement procedures.

#### 7. Call to the Public

No public comments were made.

#### 8. Approval of January 31, 2002 Annual Advance Minutes

Chairman Reagan asked that this agenda item be move back on the agenda until enough members were present to comment and approve with a quorum.

Chairman Reagan asked for comments and a motion to approve the January 31, 2002 Advance Minutes. Mr. Mercado motioned and Ms. James seconded, the minutes were approve unanimously.

#### 9. Announcements

Ms. Jertson stated that DES needs to make suggestions for cutting \$17M in the general fund. She asked Ms. Swartz if it was also necessary to make similar recommendations for reducing TANF. Ms. Swartz indicated that DES would also be making recommendations for reducing TANF.

Ms. Jertson inquired if the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement under TANF to the states applies to more than just benefits. Ms. Swartz stated that we have to apply the MOE

federal requirements to emergency services, which makes it more difficult to comply with during difficult financial times as these.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Chairman Reagan thanked everyone for their attendance and noted the next meeting is March 21, 2002 from 1 –3 p.m. at MAG Offices.