

Maricopa Association of Governments
Human Services Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2004

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ATTENDING

Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler, Chairman
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
*Joan Ellis, DES
*Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe
Community Council
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Paige Garrett, Glendale Human Services
Council
*Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Jeannie Jertson, Maricopa County HS
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
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jose Mercado for Doris Marshall, City of
Phoenix
*Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
*Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community
Network

*Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
*Linda Snidecor, City of Goodyear
*Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
Lisa Kleinpeter for Judy Tapscott,
City of Tempe
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, Vice Chair
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Neal Young, City of Phoenix

OTHERS PRESENT

Henry Blanco, DES/A&AA
Joy Carter, MAG
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the Disabled
Debra Determan, MAG
Dawn Fiscus, City of Chandler
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
John Hoag, DES/OPPPC
Fred Karnas, Governor's Office
Mindy Wakefield, Maricopa County

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

Please note that due to schedule changes, the agenda items occurred in the following order.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of May 20, 2004 Joint Human Service Technical Committee Minutes

The minutes will be tabled for approval until the next HSTC meeting, as there was not a quorum.

4. Presentation on the Arizona Bullying Prevention Initiative

Chairman Tyrell introduced Dr. Xavier Morales, of the Arizona Prevention Resource Center, who provided a presentation on the statewide initiative sponsored by the Governor's Office and the Men's Anti-Violence Network to prevent bullying in schools. Dr. Morales began by briefly explaining the Men's Anti-Violence Network, which is an organization of Valley CEOs that seeks to address domestic violence issues from the abuser's side. MAN became involved in this anti-bullying project because many bullies and older abusers share some of the same issues. The Arizona Prevention Resource Center became involved because they are very interested in putting scarce resources to use in solving persistent problems by way of helping communities and schools to help themselves.

The initiative focuses on census tracts with the highest rates of juvenile delinquency and truancy in K-8 schools through using best practices, training, and follow-up technical assistance. Bullying affects the victim, the bully and the by-standers. Dr. Morales reviewed the findings regarding gender and age differences in bullying behaviors. In addition, bully prevention costs less than \$8 per student, while the cost to keep a youth in corrections is conservatively estimated at \$70,000 per year. Each high-risk youth prevented from continuing in a life of crime could save between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million. The program integrates school-wide, classroom-level, individual and family intervention and has seen a 50% to 70% reduction in student self reports of bullying and victimization, a reduction of self-reports of general anti-social behavior, and improvements in the "social climate" of the class. He added that although people often hear stories of how certain individuals stood up to bullies when they were young and the bully went away, we must keep in mind that we are typically only hearing from those victims who were fortunate in this regard. Those who tried to stand up for themselves and only received more punishment from the bully often do not share that information with others.

Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council, asked how long the reduction in bullying has lasted. Dr. Morales reports that the project was started one year ago and that the data has been gathered since that time.

Jeannie Jertson, Maricopa County, asked how the data was gathered and if there has been an adult link between bullying as a child and bullying as an adult. Dr. Morales reports that the data was gathered through self-reported behaviors of the children. Dr. Morales reported that there is a link between bully-related behaviors and the effects that they have into adulthood.

Paige Garrett, Glendale Human Services Council, asked about gender differences in bullying. Dr. Morales stated that girls tend to use exclusion more than boys. Exclusion is addressed by including exclusion in the anti-bullying pledge that the children take and staff is trained to handle exclusion when it occurs.

Mr. Morales handed out copies of an article in the Child Welfare League of America Journal, where this initiative is featured.

5. Presentation on the Governor's Aging 2020 Plan

Chairman Tyrrell introduced Fred Karnas, Policy Advisor on Aging in the Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, who discussed the Aging 2020 Plan and the long range, state-wide strategies to provide services to Arizona's aging population. Mr. Karnas began by emphasizing the massive demographic shift that is going to occur in Arizona over the next twenty years as the baby boomers begin to reach retirement age. Right now, one out of six or seven individuals is over 60 years old. In twenty years, one out of four will be over 60. This shift will present challenges in health care, housing, and to whole communities in general. However, the shift will present many opportunities as well. A higher percentage of the aged population will be more highly educated than ever before. They are also likely to be very engaged in their communities as well.

The Aging 2020 planning process kicked off last month with a two-day conference. The Governor asked each state agency head and the Attorney General's office to join in the project. The group is just beginning to think about how they can begin to prepare now for the coming demographic shift. A first step is that each state agency has identified a key staff person to work on the project. However, the planning process will likely prove difficult because some agencies work on aging issues on a daily basis, while other may only deal with it peripherally. For those who are focused on the day-to-day provision of services, it may be difficult to look ahead 10-15 years. For those other agencies that do not deal with aging services, they find it difficult to see why their agency should become involved. This has been true in other states that have already begun to plan ahead, but over time most have come to see the significance.

Mr. Karnas told the Committee that there will be an aging seminar in a couple of weeks and that the work group plans to spend the summer drafting ideas on how to move ahead with preparations. They hope to have a draft plan ready to go in September 2004, at which time they will take it out on the road in order to gather feedback. It will be during this phase when the work group might be able to use the assistance of the Committee as it looks to gather input from the local communities. The plan is to report back to the Governor at the end of the year. He stressed the need to start preparing for the changes now before they are upon us.

Debbra Determan, MAG Human Services Manager, asked if they are first collecting an inventory of currently available services. Mr. Karnas responded that they are not

gathering any new data because several good reports have come out in the last 18 months that already contain the type of information they will need; for example, the Coming of Age Report, a report done by Pima County, and various others. He stressed that this is not a research project and that they will be drawing upon the data that is already there. They hope to begin implementation of action steps as early as next year.

Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council, told Mr. Karnas that the City of Tempe recently received a planning grant from the Piper Foundation for a Life Options Center. He asked if Mr. Karnas knew of any other similar initiatives in the area to which Tempe could look for direction. Mr. Karnas responded that he did not, but that Mr. Henry Blanco from DES might be able to speak to that topic. To this point, Mr. Karnas's group has been looking mostly to other states for best practices.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, asked how the group plans to transition these long-term plans to new staff as time passes and new policy makers come into office? Mr. Karnas responded that while there is never any guarantee, the hope is that they can imbed the plans they are developing into the bureaucracy itself. They will not be able to begin all of the programs that will be required within the next 2-3 years, so they will have to be implemented in stages, over time.

6. Presentation on Again Services Provided by the Department of Economic Security

Chairman Tyrrell introduced Henry Blanco, Program Administrator for the Aging and Adult Administration (A&AA) at DES, who provided the Committee with a review of the services provided to the elderly population through DES. He began with the statement, "If aging is not your issue, it will be." He noted that everyone in the room was a future client, so everyone has a vested interest in these programs and services. Mr. Blanco reported that Arizona's older population is expected to double between 2000 and 2025. He also stated that aging services could affect a variety of other populations due to the fact that many grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Aging and Adult Services programs and services include Adult Protective Services, Home and Community Based Services, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Services, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, the Senior Community Services Employment Program (Title V), the Foster Grandparent Program, the Alzheimer's CARE Program, and the Family Caregiver Support Program. The Arizona Relatives as Parents Program no longer exists due to lack of funding. The programs through DES A&AA are targeted toward those adults that are low income and 55 years old or older.

Chairman Tyrrell invited Mr. Blanco to come back to the HSTC meeting, as there will likely be more discussion regarding aging services.

Ms. Jertson asked if there were any plans to help with funding deficits that are occurring now. Mr. Blanco reported that due to funding constraints, we need to start looking "outside the box" to address funding issues. He is also looking into analyzing

need through GIS programs. Ms. Jertson stated that the cities have been generous to social service programs, but that there wasn't any planning for recent decreases in funding.

Vice-Chair Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, asked about state generated funding for aging services. Mr. Blanco states that about 19 million state dollars go to services for older adults based upon a formula for distribution.

7. State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Chairman Tyrrell introduced Mary Thomson from the Governor's Division for Women, who discussed the State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Ms. Thomson reports that the concept of a state plan originated in 2000 when a subcommittee was established but sunsetted before a plan was developed. Governor Janet Napolitano gave the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women the charge of providing direction to the state with regards to domestic violence and sexual assault issues. The state plan's goal is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence in Arizona through increased awareness, efforts to prevent domestic and sexual violence, collaboration and coordination of key stakeholders to more effectively respond to domestic and sexual violence, increased safety for victims and their families, and increased accountability for offenders. Over 150 community members met from June to December in six subcommittees. These subcommittees included prevention and early intervention, offender treatment and accountability, criminal justice, victim services and crisis response, data collection and sexual assault. There is also a Children's Chapter which will address reforms within Child Protective Services, the creation of safe visitation exchanges and sites, and the development of a Bench Book and training for family court judges and personnel. The next steps include the development of Implementation Design Teams for Law Enforcement, Sexual Assault, Children and Domestic Violence and Prevention, meetings with other key community stakeholders, and identifying key legislation for the '05 session.

Mr. Wise asked what is Ms. Thomson's perception of the progress in these areas to date. Ms. Thomson stated that there has been increased awareness, increased willingness to collaborate, implementation of the school bullying prevention program, and an increase in the awareness of judges regarding domestic violence issues. Last year, 17,000 people were turned away from shelter. Ms. Thomson would like to see more long-term services, such as affordable housing available for domestic violence survivors.

8. Introduction of John Hoag, SSBG Planning Coordinator with the AZ Department of Economic Security

Chairman Tyrrell introduced John Hoag, SSBG Community Planning Coordinator with DES, to provide a brief summary of the 2004-2005 SSBG Plan. Mr. Hoag

reported that the funds are not likely to change in the upcoming year. The national figure has been \$1.7 billion. Mr. Hoag reported that he has had a lot of procurement experience and that he is more than willing to help with any questions regarding the SSBG.

Ms. Jertson asked about the SSBG formula for determining the allocation of funds, which is based upon population. She asked why providers have not seen any increase in funding even though Arizona has seen an increase in population. Mr. Hoag reported that there has been an increase, but that Arizona's population is not large enough to see significant changes in funding after the increase has been calculated in the formula. Mr. Hoag reports that he plans to attend as many of the HSTC meetings as possible and that he plans to meet with all of the COGS in the state. He is willing to take any questions or comments by phone at (602) 542-6159 or e-mail at jhoag@azdes.gov.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, asked how to get more of the state allocated funds for the local providers. Mr. Hoag reported that contracts go through the state's procurement process and funds are often used for managing these contracts that deliver services. Mr. Knaut stated that he would like to know what happens to those dollars on the state side. Mr. Hoag reports that he will look in to the answers to these questions more in depth.

Jose Mercado stated that the SSBG funds help the state provide direct services such as DES day care and Child Protective Services, both of which are very costly. He suggests that the Committee ask those who make the decisions these in depth questions about where the money goes.

Mr. Knaut stated that he does not want to risk current funding and that the Committee should be cautious about what questions are asked.

Chairman Tyrrell stated that the subcommittee put together to decide the direction of the HSTC has been discussing the need to come together to influence funding because everyone is facing funding cuts. Mr. Hoag reports that the State SSBG Plan is purely SSBG dollars and that TANF dollars can be used for SSBG funds.

Chairman Tyrrell stated that until there is an increase in funds, the question about what happens to the funds will continue to be asked. Mr. Hoag thanked everyone and offered to give the group the opportunity to obtain information about serving on contract evaluation committees for SSBG funds.

9. Announcements

Chairman Tyrrell then asked the Committee for announcements. Chairman Tyrrell stated that the next meeting for the subcommittee to discuss the direction of the HSTC will meet July 6th in Tempe.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm. The next meeting for the **Human Services Technical Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room** at the MAG offices. This will be a joint HSCC/HSTC meeting.