

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2009

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler,
Chair
*Vice Mayor Rob Antoniak, Goodyear
+Councilmember Dave Crozier, Gilbert
+Jason Matthews for Lance Cypert, Tempe
Community Council
+Susan Hallett, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
Kathleen Hemmingsen, Scottsdale Human
Services Commission
Councilmember Dina Higgins for
Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh, Mesa
*Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale
Vice Mayor Manuel Martinez, Glendale
Dan Wollam for Carol McCormack, Mesa
United Way
*Councilmember Michael Nowakowski,
Phoenix, Vice Chair
*Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Tempe
*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa
County

OTHERS PRESENT

Lee McIlroy, Arizona community
Foundation
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice
Chair HSTC
Donna Crews, AFD
Diana Toussaint, DES/DAAS

Rachel Brito, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Renae Tenney, MAG

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Eddie Caine, Valley Metro RPTA, addressed the Committee regarding the possibility of a
United We Ride Grant for the region. He said citizens in need of para-transit or ADA
transportation services find it difficult to navigate through multiple agencies and telephone
systems across the region. He said a few years ago, a consultant developed a plan for a one-
stop call center that would cost \$1.7 million. Mr. Caine said with no other current funding
available to support the full project, the grant would provide an opportunity modify the
design and to build a virtual call center and the money could be used to train people to work
from home. Individuals in need of these types of services would call one number for
assistance and be connected with a scheduler. Mr. Caine said Valley Metro RPTA is looking
for organizations that support the concept for the grant and asked for those interested to
contact him directly.

Dina Higgins, City of Mesa, asked if the concept for a one-stop call center would replace having to call different providers. Mr. Caine confirmed that individuals would only need to call one number to be connected with someone who can assist with scheduling transportation.

Vice Mayor Martinez asked to have Mr. Caine present at a future HSCC meeting. Amy St. Peter confirmed Mr. Caine can be asked to return and present at the next HSCC meeting in April as part of the regular agenda.

3. Approval of October 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Martinez called for a motion to approve the October 21, 2008 meeting minutes. Jason Matthews, Tempe Community Council, motioned to approve the minutes. Susan Hallett, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Housing Transportation Survey Report

Lee McIlroy, Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), offered a Power Point presentation on the housing and transportation survey completed by the foundation.

Mr. McIlroy thanked the Committee for the opportunity to share information on recent endeavors and research undertaken by ACF in support of affordable housing. He gave a brief overview of the history of ACF stating the foundation was founded in 1978 and manages more than 900 funds, including 30 supporting organizations, with endowment and trust assets exceeding \$500 million.

Mr. McIlroy discussed the ACF Fund for Affordable Housing. He gave an overview of the recoverable grant pool that offers zero-interest loans to nonprofit housing developers. Grants for the program are underwritten by their partner, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). He said these affordable housing loans can be used by nonprofit housing developers who are in need of funds to cover expenses such as appraisals, site planning or initial engineering evaluation among others expenses. The program supports multiple types of affordable housing in Arizona including shelters, transitional housing, rental and home ownership opportunities.

Mr. McIlroy discussed the gap that exists between home prices and family income. He shared a chart reflecting the difference between median home prices and median family income from 2000 to 2007. He said ACF has developed a tool to help convey how commute times and access to affordable housing impact the employer sector. The survey was designed to measure the impact that employee commute times and the lack of affordable housing have on Arizona employees; to gauge the fiscal impact that increased commute times and the lack of affordable housing have on Arizona employers; and to understand what Arizona businesses are doing in response to commuting and housing issues.

Mr. McIlroy said this type of research is original in that no survey such as this has previously been conducted for Arizona businesses. The research, modeled after a national survey, was

conducted from April to May 2008. ACF received a 40 percent response rate based on 590 interviews conducted in Maricopa, Pima and Coconino counties.

Mr. McIlroy gave a brief overview of the survey questions and response received. The questions asked in the survey focused on the following issues:

- Primary Business Concerns Facing Arizona Employers
- Concerns about the Availability of Affordable Housing
- The Impact on Employee Recruitment and Retention
- The impact of Commute Times on Employers
- What Employers are doing to help with Commute Times
- The Likelihood of getting involved – participation in programs or initiatives that provide access to affordable housing to help attract/retain quality staff.

When asked how ACF defined affordable housing, Mr. McIlroy said it was not defined in the survey. He added that Maricopa County mirrors statewide results.

Mr. McIlroy said they also discovered a “noteworthy group of employers” that indicated they were not impacted by increased commute times. He added these employers were already offering the same types of programs as suggested in the survey which perhaps mitigated the issue.

The survey results concluded that:

- Recruiting and retaining a qualified workforce are the key concerns for businesses throughout Arizona.
- Employers expressed a need to have accessible, affordable housing for employees near their place of business.
- Employers also expressed a strong willingness to participate in affordable housing programs if they also reduce commute times and retain employees.
- Long employee commute times also have a direct impact on Arizona employers in several important areas.
- The accommodations offered to employees to help them cope with their daily commute are consistent across different groups of employers.
- Employers should consider the benefits of collecting fiscal data that can help inform how commute times and the lack of nearby affordable housing affect the real costs of recruiting, training and retaining employees.

Mr. McIlroy said the next steps for ACF is to continue collaborating with key business and community leaders to establish an agenda to address these issues that will allow for meaningful engagement in short-term and/or longer-term strategies.

Vice Mayor Martinez thanked Mr. McIlroy for his presentation to the Committee. Staff confirmed that the presentation would be emailed to all committee members as requested.

5. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendations

Vice Mayor Martinez said the MAG Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC) has been working to develop a new process for recommending allocations for the Social Services Block Grant. He introduced Sylvia Sheffield, Vice Chair of HSTC, to provide a report on the draft allocations that have been developed and the process used to develop them.

Ms. Sheffield thanked Vice Mayor Martinez and members of HSCC for the opportunity to present the draft allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant. She said HSTC has completed an extensive assessment of the region's needs and has ranked the services funded by SSBG. HSTC is proposing to shift \$22,402 from low ranking services to high ranking services in order to maximize this resource and best meet the region's needs. The proposal increases funding for shelter, case management, home delivered meals and 13 other services and reduces funding of five services that exclusively benefit persons with disabilities and persons with developmental disabilities. She said clients of services proposed to be reduced may be eligible for other services, including those proposed to be increased.

Ms. Sheffield said the proposed allocation recommendations were developed using a funding formula that reduced the lowest ranking services by 20 percent and low ranking services by 10 percent. Allocations for the highest ranking services were increased by 20 percent proportional to last year's allocation. High ranking services were increased by 10 percent proportional to last year's allocation. Services ranked in the middle were held harmless and did not receive any increases or decreases. The services were ranked based on data presented through fact sheets for each target group, committee member expertise, and presentations throughout the year.

Ms. Sheffield said HSTC recommends using the funding formula in the future with refinements being made each year. She acknowledged Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, for his role in developing the funding formula and as well as the time and effort given by all Committee members throughout this process.

Councilmember Higgins, City of Mesa, asked for clarification of the language pertaining to the shift in funds. Ms. St. Peter gave a brief overview of the ranking process. She said the Committee reviewed all of the information in aggregate to determine the services that were the most essential. The services were then broken out into five different categories based on how they were ranked and the funding formula was then applied to develop the recommended allocations.

Vice Mayor Martinez said he had read the material pertaining to the SSBG allocations and noted the impact of money being taken from basic needs services. However, looking at the over all scheme, he said the amount of funds being shifted is not that high of a percentage.

At this time, the Committee did not have quorum. They moved to agenda item number six to allow more time for additional Committee members to attend the meeting. Upon quorum, the discussion continued.

Vice Mayor Martinez asked Ms. Sheffield to provide a quick summary for those Committee

members joining the meeting. Ms. Sheffield gave a brief overview of the process and steps taken by HSTC to develop the funding allocation recommendations.

Vice Mayor Martinez asked for a motion to approve the SSBG allocation recommendations. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY 2010 Regional Human Services Plan

Vice Mayor Martinez said MAG used to develop a regional human services plan on an annual basis in conjunction with the SSBG allocations. He said a new draft plan for FY 2010 has been developed and he invited Amy St. Peter to give a brief presentation on the elements of the plan and action taken by HSTC.

Ms. St. Peter said the first Regional Human Services Plan was extremely comprehensive. The current plan will be more concise, user friendly and provide the ability to access information quickly. It will be used as a tool for the region and will highlight community best practices. The Regional Human Services Plan focuses on three funding sources: SSBG, Stuart B. McKinney, and Section 5310, or the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation Program.

Ms. St. Peter said during the last HSTC meeting, six Committee members volunteered to read and provide feedback on the plan. HSTC recommended the following elements be incorporated into the plan:

- Be mindful of changes since 2006
- Include funding comparisons as in the 2006 report
- Discuss best practices and efforts to leverage resources
- Include elements that make the report easier to read
- Include information about consolidated plans

Ms. St. Peter said HSTC provided great feedback with no major changes. She noted the document distributed had not been through the final proofing process nor had it been formatted. Ms. St. Peter asked for feedback on the plan. No questions, comment or changes were noted. Vice Mayor Martinez asked for a motion to recommend approval of the draft FY 2010 Regional Human Services Plan. He said the motion may allow for staff to make minor changes as a result of proofing.

Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Councilmember Dave Crozier, Town of Gilbert, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FY 2010 Committee Goals

Vice Mayor Martinez said the Committee previously discussed areas of focus for the upcoming year. Since then, staff has developed goals to address the areas of focus and HSTC unanimously recommended approval of the goals at their meeting earlier this month. He said if approved, the goals will be forwarded for inclusion in the MAG FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program to be approved by Regional Council.

Ms. St. Peter added the areas of focus between HSTC and HSCC correlated well to each other. She asked Committee members for their input regarding changes. No questions, comments or changes to the goals were noted. Vice Mayor Martinez asked for a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2010 Committee goals as drafted. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the goals as presented. Ms. Hallet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. MAG HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group Report

Vice Mayor Martinez introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, to present a report on focus groups conducted with teens and other activities of the MAG HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group. The group is proposing to expand the Youth Empowerment Project to focus more on assessing and providing resources to teens who abuse or are at risk for abusing their teen dating partners. Vice Mayor Martinez said the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group has been assisting in the implementation of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP).

Ms. Tenney thanked the committee for the opportunity to report on the activities of the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group and to seek feedback on future activities. She said the program focuses on the issue of teen dating violence through the Web of Friends Web site and the Public Service Announcement (PSA) competition. The program is funded through an Innovative Domestic Violence Prevention Program grant.

Ms. Tenney said six different teen focus groups were held throughout the month of November and she highlighted some of the feedback received. She said teens noted communication and acknowledging personal space as signs of healthy relationships; control and abuse were noted as signs of unhealthy relationships; and arguing and insecurity were noted as cautionary signs. In terms of outreach, teens talk to parents, friends or go to the internet to seek information.

Ms. Tenney said teens were asked for their recommendations on how to end dating violence. They recommended talking to the abusers. Ms. Tenney said the program has focused on addressing the victim, but not the abuser so far.

She said the MAG HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group met in December to assess and discuss the program. The information was also presented to HSTC to seek additional feedback. Recommendations for future expansion of the program include:

- Adding a risk assessment tools to the Web of Friends Web site.
- Providing tool kits for practitioners who work with teens.
- Creating a virtual youth network which includes a youth speaker's bureau and a list of youth commissions on the MAG Web Site to provide a place for youth to become more involved.
- Maintaining the Web of Friends Web site. Ms. Tenney said the number of hits to the site has increased from 1,100 to 11,000.

Councilmember Higgins asked for clarification on funding for the program and information on demographics. Ms. Tenney confirmed the program is in its third year of funding with the hope of obtaining another grant that would move the program forward to the next steps. She said the program addresses teens throughout Maricopa County.

Kathleen Hemmingsen, Scottsdale Human Services Commission, asked where and how teens find out about the Web site. Ms. Tenney said Web of Friends business cards are distributed to teens as well as to practitioners involved in working with teens. Ms. St. Peter noted the program is also promoted by CPS case workers and other professionals. Councilmember Higgins and Vice Mayor Martinez noted their request to have a link to the Web of Friends on the City of Mesa and City of Glendale Web sites.

Vice Mayor Martinez asked for a motion to approve the activities of the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group and recommendation for next steps. Ms. Hemmingsen made a motion to approve the activities and steps as noted. Ms. Hallet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Committee Updates

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

Renae Tenney, MAG, presented an update on the Legal Assistance Study that was started in October. She said the purpose was to research awareness, availability and accessibility of services. Interviews were conducted with professionals and survivors of domestic violence and surveys were distributed to service providers at domestic violence shelters and individuals working in the legal profession. Ms. Tenney noted surveys were also posted on the Craig's List Web Site and in the Arizona Republic to generate more awareness about the study.

As of January, the study has generated close to 200 responses. The first draft of the legal assistance study is currently being developed. Ms. Tenney said the general findings of the survey indicate that survivors are not aware of existing services; there is limited accessibility due to lack of finances; and many individuals believe they would benefit from services but are not aware of how or where to access services. The draft will be shared with the committee once it has been finalized.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

Brandee Mead, MAG, provided an update on the new Regional Plan to End Homelessness. She said the update has been under development for the past year and is currently on the agenda for the January 26th Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness meeting. The Committee will review and plan and vote on recommending approval to the MAG Regional Council in February.

Ms. Mead said plans are also underway for the Implementation Summit planned for March 2009. The goal is to create energy and excitement and develop a strategy for implementing the actions steps of the Regional Plan.

MAG Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Committee

DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, provided information about the upcoming grant competition as well as the proposed new goals for the 2009 MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan.

Ms. Gaisthea said the application grant process for Sections 5310, and section 5316 and 5317 is now open. Applicant training is scheduled during the second Transportation Ambassador Program (TAP) meeting on January 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Active Adult Center in Mesa. Ms. Gaisthea said a follow-up training is scheduled for January 30th at MAG for those agencies not able to attend on the 27th. Ms. Gaisthea requested committee members speak with her if they are interested in applying for a grant.

Ms. Gaisthea said TAP has been moving forward with its strategies and is now in full implementation. Three strategies currently being worked on and that will be identified in the next transportation plan are:

- To maximize resources and provide an extra incentive for agencies to coordinate with each other.
- Develop an inventory of travel training programs in the region.
- Develop a mechanism to increase the number of trips offered by agencies. Ms. Gaisthea said agencies were asked to complete a capacity form to assist in gathering information about which agencies have additional transportation resources available. The request was sent to public agencies and Committee members.

10. Comments from the Committee

There were no comments or questions from the Committee. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m. The next HSCC meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2009.