

MAG Human Services
Coordinating and Technical Committees
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2003

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ATTENDING

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

 Jim Knaut, 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
 Jose Mercado for Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
 Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
*Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
 Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
 Rex Critchfield for 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
 Neal Young, City of Phoenix

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
 Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe
 Community Council
+Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
 Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
 Connie James, City of Scottsdale
 Mindy Wakefield for Jeannie Jertson, Human
 Services Department
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on
 Aging

OTHERS PRESENT

 Nichole Ayoola, City of Mesa
 Debbra Determan, MAG
 DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
 Denisse Gee, Senate Research
 Trina Jenkins, Maricopa County
 Sheryl Rabin, MAG

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

1. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Vice Mayor Rogers announced that she will be chairing the meeting today in Chairman Cahill's absence. Introductions of new members and guests ensued.

2. Approval of May 8, 2003 HSCC Minutes

A quorum was not available for approval of minutes.

3. Approval of the September 18, 2003 HSTC Minutes

HSTC Chairman Reagan called for a motion to approve the September 18, 2003 meeting minutes. Sylvia Sheffield moved to approve, Moises Gallegos seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Update of Human Services ADVANCE

Chairman Lopez-Rogers asked Chairman Sandra Reagan for her comments on the ADVANCE. Chairman Reagan discussed accomplishments from the ADVANCE stating that it was a very productive strategic planning session where they prioritized areas of concentration. By the end of the ADVANCE, participants ranked their agencies' priorities over the next 18 months. Interest was shown in a number of areas, but areas mentioned by many included SSBG allocations, financial literacy and EITC initiatives, and planning for older adults, particularly regarding elderly mobility. A follow-up meeting was held by the technical committee on September 8 to take steps for action for the next 18 months. They would like to bring information to the whole committee and ask the coordinating committee to accept the recommendations.

Chairman Lopez-Rogers stated that they should begin with the task of making recommendations to the overall coordinating committee and regional committee.

Chairman Reagan stated that since a quorum was not met the committee would take this under advisement for further discussion.

5. Presentation of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Initiative

Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, Nichole Ayoola, City of Mesa, and Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council, gave a powerpoint presentation on EITC. Copies of the presentation were made available. (The presentation can be viewed on the MAG website by using the following link: <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=3037>) Carl Harris-Morgan asked how early publicity should begin on this project. Wayne Tormala stated that publicity can't start early enough and that the City of Phoenix is currently working on getting their computer equipment together for the program.

Jose Mercado commented on the age eligibility and if the elderly qualify. Wayne Tormala answered that the elderly generally do not qualify unless they have dependent grandchildren. The qualifying ages are between 21 and 65.

Rex Critchfield commented about finding human service organizations to take on the project, such as domestic violence shelters or community action agencies.

Wayne Tormala announced that the City of Phoenix would be hosting an EITC forum later in the fall. He stated that there is a good match between publicity through the city's public information office and other agencies' specific missions. He discussed collaboration opportunities.

Councilmember Phillip Westbrook asked about start-up costs. Steve Wise stated that the Tempe Community Council hired a consultant for the project. Mesa used only staff resources. The City of Phoenix is working totally within its current budget and three staffers work on the project full-time with additional assistance from other staff.

Chairman Lopez-Rogers asked if the initiation of the project began within each city or with the IRS. She also asked how the projects moved forward.

Steve Wise stated that the Tempe Community Council (TCC) is a non-profit. The contact came from the IRS. The TCC took the idea to the Tempe City Council and asked the council to join the project. Tempe donated a lot of resources, and someone from the mayor's office provided many hours of assistance. Additionally, the city provided technological assistance.

Nichole Ayoola reported that Mesa was contacted by the IRS, and the project snowballed once the city became involved. One person now handles the project

Wayne Tormala stated that he wasn't sure if the project started within the city or with contact from the IRS. The city has a human services commission that has endorsed the project. They are in the process of going to the core council committee. The concern is that the campaign will grow too big, not that it won't be approved.

Chairman Lopez-Rogers and Chairman Reagan discussed if consensus existed on bringing EITC to the Management Committee and the Regional Committee for information, discussion and comment. The committee indicated that consensus does exist.

Debra Determan stated that if the group is in agreement with moving forward with EITC, the next step is to bring the proposal through the Human Services Coordinating Committee and get it to the MAG Regional Council. This will help disseminate information on the EITC program and help garner municipal support.

6. Call to the Public

No announcements were made.

7. Announcements

Chairman Rogers-Lopez asked the committee if there were any announcements. Nicole Ayoola stated that Mesa would be having an expo on Saturday, October 11 from 10-2 at Centennial Hall.

Maureen DeCindis, MAG, announced that Senior Trail Day is November 5, 2003.

Moises Gallegos reminded everyone of the Veterans Stand Down on October 24-26. He encouraged everyone to attend and hear him DJ.

Chairman Reagan commenting on behalf of Joyce Lopez-Powell, announced that the next Protect Arizona's Families Coalition meeting will be on November 12 from 8-9:30am.

Sylvia Sheffield stated that Avondale's Western Heritage Days/Founders' Day Celebration would be held next weekend.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm. The next HSTC meeting is scheduled for November 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Committee's Annual Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2004.