

Maricopa Association of Governments
Human Services Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network, Chairman	Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way	*Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
*Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services	Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Diane Janovich for Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix	Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council	Linda Snidecore, City of Goodyear
+Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert	Mark Ludwig for Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
Sue Zevan for Sandra Holt, DES/AAA	*Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
Connie James, City of Scottsdale	Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
Margarita Leyras for Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department	*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging	Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA	*Neal Young, City of Phoenix
*Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community Service Program	
John Paul Lopez, City of Tolleson	
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way	
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise	
*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix	

OTHERS PRESENT

Nichola Ayoola, City of Mesa
Debra Determan, MAG Staff
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG Staff
Trina Jenkins, Maricopa County
Jason Moore, JAG
Grace Candia, JAG

+Those member present by audio or videoconference.

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy

1. Call to Order
Chairman Reagan opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. introduction of committee members ensued.
2. Approval of April 17, 2003 Human Service Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
Chairman Reagan called for a motion to approve the Revised April 17, 2003 meeting minutes. Steve Wise moved to approve, Wayne Tormala seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of May 15, 2003 Human Service Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
Chairman Reagan called for a motion to approve the May 15, 2003 meeting minutes. Patrick Tyrrell moved to approve, Sylvia Sheffield seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

Chairman Reagan stated that Jerry Hancock, DES, was not available to present and had asked Debbra Determan to discuss DES materials reviewing impact on the region without restoration of funds. Debbra stated that the information from DES, CSA, was produced for discussion attempting to look at a short history of funding. In attempting to advocate to bring the SSBG funding totals back to a maintenance level, it was suggested that we obtain materials to show exactly which client populations have had the greatest impact during the budget cuts over the past few years. A copy of the material that Rex Critchfield outlined the CSA, SSBG allocated funding 2000-2004 was handed out. A copy of the response Jerry Hancock e-mailed was also handed out reminding all HSTC members that when significant cuts were made to SSBG funding, TANF funds were used as backfill. His suggestion was to compare those years where TANF has not been used as backfill. Jerry sent latest update via e-mail. He stated that at the Federal level they are still working on findings of 04' before 05' anticipated allocation would be released. Sandra Reagan would like confirmation as to whether there are plans for TANF backfill this year. Discussion was held regarding how this might affect 04 funds. It was suggested by the committee that all DES managers attempt to develop a historical spreadsheet for comparison. It was also suggested that the information only be for District one. Debbra will get in touch with those DES managers not at this meeting.

5. Ready to Learn

Chairman Reagan introduced Connie James, City of Scottsdale who presented information for this project, which was spearheaded by Mesa United Way. The City of Scottsdale has developed a Ready to Learn Educational initiative as well.

Connie James stated that one of her staff had attended the Training the Trainer presentation and highly recommended the program. Mesa United Way has an extensive training program to provide outreach to civic and community groups to teach the community about the importance of early brain development and how interaction with caregivers is the primary model to implement. On October 19-25 is Little Kids Big Plan Week the City of Scottsdale will have a variety of events going on. Scottsdale packet named Children are Our Future. A video supporting Ready to Learn was presented. The video was an excellent presentation about early brain development as well as support for other early development programs. Ready to Learn has captured many people's attention and the video had elected officials as well as screen stars supporting the early childhood development projects. The video also made statements of support for parent's involvement in primary interaction with their children and the importance of health and safety, education. "Children learn mostly through the people in their lives" and statements regarding the importance of access to public health and access to positive reinforcements.

Steve Wise questioned what the municipality's roles could be in a similar project. Connie James reported that in Scottsdale the Steering committee meets four times a

year with a variety of people on the committee. The meetings generally relate to planning for marketing this program. The goal is to educate the widest range of residents about the need for early brain development and stimulation. Their role has been to bring this information to the community and spread the word. She also reported that the City Council has embraced this project and they also made a proclamation of support.

Patrick Tyrrell asked what is your role for this project and does City staff put on the workshops? Connie James said the role is to provide staff support for the program and training for staff. The training is provided by Mesa United Way.

Debra Determan stated that this was also one of the initiatives from the Advance and she is willing to schedule presentations for each of the new initiatives that we discussed at the Advance. We would invite those that did not have the chance to present at the Advance for HSTC and HSCC consideration.

Chairman Reagan stated that this is an effort to be more educated because we are responsible for SSBG funds locally, as the technical committee we need to be well versed and increase our knowledge.

6. Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (JAG)

Chairman Reagan introduced Jason Moore, State Program Manager and Grace Candia, President who presented an overview of this project. Grace Candia stated that Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (JAG) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help students' stay in school and to acquire the academic and personal leadership skills to be successful. Grace Candia stated that Mayor Keegan has introduced this program in Peoria.

Jason Moore stated that the program identifies low achievers and economically disadvantage students coming from a poor household. They identified 40 junior students not going to graduate and got them involved by helping them to obtain job attainment and team leadership skills. Career association help develop programs of community and leadership projects. The JAG program has logged over 1,800 community hours, with over 20 community hours of service per student. The goal is graduation but the staff stay connected with students 12 months to continue securing education or a job that they had wanted to pursue in high school. JAG's dropout rate is 17%, graduation rate in 2001 was 99% and in 2002 93%, the average starting salary for graduates was \$8.61.

Carl Harris-Morgan asked if JAG had any difficulty with the students or companies participating and what is the role of the companies. Grace stated that JAG has been a very successful program with a waiting list of over 100, it has been a very popular project that the students know is needed and are excited about. There have been no difficulties with companies participating, each organization comes in and explains what is expected of the students if they were employed. JAG has also had universities and colleges wanting to participate.

7. Review of the Advance

Chairman Reagan stated that on July 17, 2003 there was a joint meeting of the HSTC and HSCC to develop a strategic plan for the next eighteen months. Debra Determan gave a review of the Advance with ballots results of priorities reached.

Debra Determan commented that we need to be aware we often have to work to have a quorum and we also need to look at our membership base. With the outcomes from the Advance the next step is where do we want to go from here and what issues to look, we will continue look at SSBG funding.

Debra Determan stated that high on the priorities were issues of domestic violence, elderly concerns and homeless. Of the new initiatives, ranked the highest was financial literacy, EITC. We are also aware the Governor's office has taken on EITC as a priority. Next was planning for older adults and then transportation. The next step is planning for next 18 months and discussion of what activities the committee should move forward with.

Chairman Reagan called for discussion. Sylvia Sheffield commented that Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) looked like a good collaboration and in Avondale we are working with Arizona Saves and developing an IDA program. The goal is developing a savings program for (5) five families home ownership

Wayne Tormala stated that City of Tempe had a good campaign last year with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); this would be a good issue for the committee and would encourage us as a coordinating body to look into.

Connie James stated that the presentation given at the Advance regarding EITC was very interesting and if we assisted with marketing this, it would be a great way to help the region.

Chairman Reagan called for action on this agenda item. Wayne Tormala motioned for official initiative from MAG, Steve Wise seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

Chairman Reagan stated that we could learn from cities that have had success in the past and the need for this to be a joint effort. Nichole Ayoola commented that the IRS has a shortened training program. There is a 20 hour self paced training called Tax Wise which is a little difficult if you have not had tax knowledge but manageable. We've heard positive feedback from Mesa and Tempe regarding their results and with the Governor's Office involved, this could get quite a bit of publicity.

Debra Determan stated that early intervention prevention was another issue the committee wanted to look at and planning for aging services. It was suggested the presentations be made to the committee regarding these issues.

Carl Harris-Morgan stated that human service transportation issue is another important topic that was discussed. Since the half-cent sales tax will be voted on, this may be an issue where timing of our discussion is important.

Debbra Determan stated that this was a good comment and timing is critical for transportation service, this would be a good second issue for the committee to focus on. Connie James had questions about the transportation tax and what portion would go to human services. She cited the need for this to be broken down for the committee.

Carl Harris-Morgan made a motion to consider human service transportation as a priority for discussion, Sylvia Sheffield seconded the motion, motion carried. The committee agreed for further research by MAG for the next meeting

8. Call to the Public

Chairman Reagan asked the public for comments. There were no comments made.

9. Announcements

Chairman Regan asked the committee if there were any announcements. Steve Wise stated that the east valley needs assessment will have a summit on November 14 in Mesa, Debbra will send out information. Tempe needs assessment by target group, focusing on needs of the disable, looking for people who are interested.

Chairman Sandra Reagan stated Joyce Winston presented a Board of Director Workshop on September 30. The topic was roles and responsibility of board and directors on how nonprofits function, flyers were handed out.

Debbra Determan stated that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. There will be a faith base conference October 4 in Chandler around domestic violence issues.

10. Adjourn

Chairman Reagan adjourned the Human Services Technical Committee meeting at 2:41 p.m. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Human Service Coordinating Committee schedule for Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 1:00 pm.