

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
*Bob Baratko, City of Surprise
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of
Tempe
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
*Patti Evans, City of Goodyear
*Stefanie Garcia, City of Chandler
Community Services, Inc
Laura Guild, DES/CPIP
*Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of
Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Eileen Hartnet for Margarita Leyvas,
Maricopa County
+Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun
United Way
Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
+Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council

Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Christina Avila for Sylvia Sheffield, City
of Avondale, Vice Chair
Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Debbie Driscoll, Town of Buckeye
Diana Toussaint, DES/DAAS
Christina Ramirez, City of Surprise
Joel Millman, DES/DAAS
Michael Scione, DES/RSA
David Longo, DES/DCYF
Nate Hudson, DES/DCYF

Rachel Brito, MAG
Brandee Mead, MAG
Renae Tenney, MAG

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Carl Harris-Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee. No public comments were made.

3. Approval of June 11, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the June 11, 2009 meeting minutes. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, made a motion to approve the minutes. Carol Sherer, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. State of Arizona Human Services Presentations

Representatives from the DES Divisions receiving locally planned SSBG dollars reported on how the State budget has affected their funding and what has been implemented in response. Chair Harris-Morgan invited Laura Guild, DES, to provide a report on Community Partners and Innovative Practices (CPIP). Susan Hallett and Nina Sutton were unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Guild said Community Partners and Innovative Practices provide funding for several core areas of human services; including homelessness, domestic violence, and hunger. She noted MAG conducts regional planning in the areas of homelessness and domestic violence but does not develop allocation recommendations in the area of hunger. Ms. Guild said the Community Action Programs (CAP) handle the majority of dollars planned for by MAG that go into domestic violence and homelessness programs, case management, and basic need.

Ms. Guild referenced the DES Web site noting there have been consistent messages distributed directly from the director's office informing on the status of CPIP. She reported there have been more than \$3.3 million in reductions to core services in FY 2009. Of that, \$2.2 million was reduced from domestic violence programs with the majority out of emergency shelter. The homeless program was reduced \$283,000 and the hunger program experienced a \$167,000 reduction. Additionally, emergency services through the CAP offices and case management was reduced approximately \$636,000.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Ms. Guild for her presentation. Having no questions from the Committee, Chair Harris-Morgan invited Mike Scione, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to offer an update.

Mr. Scione said RSA is still in the process of identifying the impact of the state budget. He said it appears there will be additional reductions on top of what they have already seen and a five percent reduction in staff. The final outcome, he said, is dependent on what the legislature and governor does and like everyone else, they are waiting to see what happens. He said vocational rehabilitation is 80 percent funded by the federal government and non-federal funds have to be matched with another 20 percent. Unfortunately, a \$1 million cut means a reduction of \$5 million in their ability to serve individuals with disabilities. RSA serves anyone with a disability who is unable to obtain or maintain employment.

Mr. Scione said Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds are used to supplement services not funded by vocational rehabilitation funds in the areas of supported employment, independent living, and supportive counseling. He noted the most important and largest expenditure is supportive employment which includes long-term one-on-one job coaching required by individual with disabilities. He said federal law prevents the use of funds for anything beyond vocational rehabilitation services. He said individuals with severe disabilities must maintain employment through monthly contact in order to qualify for long-term support dollars. SSBG funds are

used to support individuals with brain injury, spinal cord injuries, or any other kind of disability to help maintain employment.

Mr. Scione said other available funding is primarily in the second category to support independent living. This includes devices such as assistive technical devices for the blind or visually impaired. Devices are purchased from a vendor that resides in Maricopa County. The third category of supportive counseling benefits those individuals not served by vocational rehabilitation program but who need supportive counseling to assist them in overcoming barriers.

Mr. Scione said RSA has implemented an Order of Selection; meaning anyone not having a plan of service as of March 15, 2009 has been put on a wait list. He said 35 to 40 states are also under an Order of Selection. Mr. Scione said they are required to contact individuals every six months to let them know they are still on a wait list and determine if the individual wishes to remain on the wait list or have their case closed. He reported 1,400 to 1,500 individuals are currently on a wait list. Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Mr. Scione for this report and invited Joel Millman to speak on behalf of the Division of Adult and Aging Services (DAAS).

Mr. Millman said the Assistant Director and Deputy Assistant Director were unavailable to attend. He said DAAS receives funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging as part of health and human services. The funding received primarily targets the 60+ population and those with a disability. He said DAAS contracts with the Area Agency on Aging who has absorbed a \$2 million cut in state funding. He said the direct impact is in areas such as case management, home base services, respite care, visiting nurse, and home health aid. These reductions impact one's ability to maintain independence in their own home. He said reductions in FY 2010 are an open chapter and like many others, DAAS is also waiting to see what happens. He said it is a very unsettling time and as cuts are made, resources are greatly impacted.

Mr. Millman said one positive element is that DAAS received \$1.9 million through the Federal Stimulus Recovery Act for congregate meals and home delivered meals. That was in addition to \$315,000 for the senior employment program which is funded through the Department of Labor. He said they will be working with the Area Agency on Aging to see how funds can be leveraged to sustain or maintain certain levels of services. Mr. Millman said funding for these programs ends June 30, 2010. He said DAAS is also waiting on the new budget. They have been greatly impacted by the reductions and are trying to adjust to the previous cuts made.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked if there is an expenditure deadline for the stimulus funding. Mr. Millman reported June 30, 2009, for the senior program and September 30, 2010, for the home delivered and congregate meals program. Additionally, he said Arizona is one of sixteen states that have received stimulus funding, and under federal guidelines, expenditures are monitored very closely. The first report is due October 10, 2009.

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Carol Sherer, DES, to offer a report on the Division for Developmental Disabilities. As with the previous presenters, Ms. Sherer said they do not have a budget at this time and do not know the impact it will have on the division next year. However, she said the number of individuals in the state-funded program grew by 1,300 over the previous year. Additionally, because no new funds will be available, those individuals will no longer receive services. Ms. Sherer said they had been able to supplement people living on their own with rent, employment, and transportation subsidies through special funding that no longer exist. However, they now have individuals who cannot pay their rent or live independently. She said it is too early to project how many are affected and the wait list for Section 8 is very long.

Ms. Sherer said cuts were primary made in staffing, leading to large increases in case loads. She reported what used to be an average of 47 cases can now be upwards to 90 or more. She said the number is higher in cases regarding early intervention due to the freeze on positions. She said cuts were avoided in service areas therefore most cuts fell on staffing. As such, they will continue to provide the services they have in place as much as possible but without the ability to provide service to new clients.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Ms. Sherer for her report. He invited Nate Hudson and David Longo to offer a report on Adults, Children, Youth and Families. Mr. Longo reported child protection services received the highest percentage of cuts in funding last February and as a result, they have had to make up a \$43 million shortfall. He said they made up for the shortfall in a variety of ways including laying off 200 staff, of which, 150 were direct line case workers. The result caused a severe impact to the workload for staff serving children and youth who are abused and neglected. He said they have developed budgets reflecting 75 percent of current funding by reducing costs such as allowances for emergency clothing, graduation funds, and vacations for kids.

Additionally, the division considered moderate level services, those which keep people in their homes, and cut those by 50 percent. Services such as parent aides, transportation, and counseling were reduced by 20 percent. Mr. Longo said the homeless youth program was suspended. Arizona Families First, which works to reunite kids with families, was reduced by 20 percent and the Healthy Families Initiatives was reduced by 75 percent. Mr. Longo reported an overall cut of 20 percent of their budget within a five month period. He said SSBG funds are used for counseling, counseling for teen mothers, and the crisis intervention programs.

He said for FY 2010, they are monitoring the budget and realize that most reductions will remain in place. Additionally, they are considering reallocating some in-home services. He noted the in-home case load dropped by 60 percent in four months and as of March, they are no longer investigating reports of neglect. Mr. Longo said this has received attention from the legislature. As a result, they have hired 75 additional case workers, partly from those who were previously laid off and others are students

from the university. He noted the legislature wants them back at 100 percent staffing but they do not have the funding to provide services.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked each of their presenters for their reports. He requested they provide input on the discussion regarding SSBG Target Group Fact Sheets.

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, asked where to find additional information, specifically about outcomes. He asked if there is a specific state agency that monitors domestic violence or senior services, for example. Brande Mead, MAG, advised Protecting Arizona Families Coalition (PAFCO) as a resource for information on the impacts of funding reductions. Additionally, she suggested the Coalition against Domestic Violence and the Coalition to End Homelessness as other resources.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, said that at some point individuals who have not been able to receive services will no longer request assistance. He said the challenge is to have the funding to track and maintain communication with people who were not able to access services. Mr. Knaut said resources need to be identified to address the concerns raised by the reports. Additionally, he said there is an increase of older adults experiencing a greater level of need. He said it is more expensive to maintain someone in an institutional setting rather than provide home-based care. Ms. Sherer said everyone will have a better idea of the situation once the budget is determined. She said agencies will then be able to identify how many clients are not receiving services. Without knowing the budget, the impact cannot be projected.

Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, recommended the DES presenters or a designee come back at a later date and provide an update on the information they reported on today. He said the information is very sobering and staggering, and because it is currently at the legislature, it is still very fluid. He said it would be beneficial to have an update once the budget has been passed. Additionally, Mr. Matthews said mid-year updates would provide him with a better sense of the statewide impacts, specifically for Maricopa County and Tempe. He suggested the updates may benefit other Committee members as it pertains to their specific locations. Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix, agreed and said the biggest concern is services that cannot be continued due to funding reductions. She said once the ability to provide those services is gone, they will not come back. She commented it will be very devastating to see additional cuts made and suggested the worse is yet to come.

Ms. Sherer noted the data reported on the fact sheets will change radically once the budget has been passed. Chair Harris-Morgan asked if the Committee had any interest in including updates similar to those given today, as part of the fact sheet updates or as a separate item. Mr. Matthews said including the updates as part of the fact sheet would assist the Committee with their job during this particular funding cycle. He said for next year's process, an informal report, such as those provided by PAFCO, would provide context for moving forward. Chair Harris-Morgan noted agreement from the Committee and asked for any further comments before moving forward to the next agenda item.

Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, said it would be beneficial to get updates on what is happening and the impact on human services. She said getting information on indicators such as how many calls are being made to Child Protective Services that go unanswered, or the number of senior centers not receiving food, are numbers that people can recognize. She agreed the reality of FY 2011 is going to be worse.

Mr. Matthews said moving forward, it would be better to have a more informed Committee and to have a semi-annual update by the presenters. An alternate option is to have the information presented made available on their respective Web sites if appropriate. He said it is important for the panel to realize the Committee members are not only planners, but also advocates for human services. More information will help the Committee do their jobs better. Mr. Matthews noted agreement with comments made by Ms. Lopez-Powell. Having no further comments, Chair Harris-Morgan thanked everyone for their input and moved forward to the following agenda item.

5. 2009 Social Services Block Grant Target Group Fact Sheets

Chair Harris-Morgan said the target group fact sheets will be used as one of the steps to develop allocation recommendations for the locally planned SSBG dollars. The fact sheets have been populated with the most current data available for this year and the template has remained the same with the exception of adding the homeless status category in the demographics section for each target group.

Chair Harris-Morgan referred the Committee to the fact sheets. He suggested continuing the discussion on the recommendation to include information provided by today's presenters to the fact sheets. Ms. Marshall asked when the American Community Survey (ACS) current data would be available. She noted the Elderly Fact Sheet indicated 2008 information was not available and noted the fact sheets could be effectively updated when the information is available. Ms. Mead said there are several items that are highlighted within the fact sheets indicating ACS data is not available at this point in time. She said the fact sheets would be updated once the information becomes available.

Chair Harris-Morgan noted support from the Committee to include the DES updates in the fact sheets. He asked the DES representatives if they had any concern with the concept of providing updates on the impacts. The DES representatives collectively indicated they would be happy to provide the updates. Chair Harris-Morgan asked MAG staff to coordinate with DES, and provide them with information on the process, schedule and timeline.

Ms. Mead said a recommendation had been made to include a homeless status category on the fact sheets. She said a section was added to each of the fact sheets based on data from HMIS. She clarified the information reported is just information on people in emergency shelter, transitional housing and/or permanent supportive

housing and does not include domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter as that information is not required to be reported in HMIS. She asked for input from the Committee on other recommendations for representing the homeless status category on the fact sheets. No additional recommendations were made.

Chair Harris-Morgan noted the fact sheets would be used in the current and future cycle. He asked for additional input from the Committee on anything else they would like included. Mr. Ludwick said it appears the demographic information available on the fact sheets, essentially census information, is not going to change very much from one month to the next over the next couple of years. However, he said some of the data elements relative to wait lists may change rapidly. He suggested there may be a few pieces of information that the Committee could use as indicators of change and demand such as adverse consequences of budget, impact on people being served, or crimes being reported. These indicators may be able to provide better information on the consequences of the current structure. He said the Committee can look at the resources available and may be better able to strategically allocate funding to have an impact on a particular area. Chair Harris-Morgan agreed adding a question or section to draw out specific information may provide better indicators. Ms. Guild suggested asking DES for input on the important demographics they want to point out to the Committee.

Mr. Matthews asked for clarification on how many years the fact sheets have been used as a resource for allocating SSBG funds. Ms. Mead replied this is the second year. Mr. Matthews said moving forward, the fact sheets overall are very well structured. In looking at future years, the Committee should begin looking at trends and historically charting key data points over time. He said it would be a tremendous opportunity to see the actual changes. Chair Harris-Morgan summarized the Committee's suggestion to include information on changes in demand, important demographic indicators, and trends. Mr. Millman addressed the Committee noting the sooner DES representatives are informed of the data points the Committee would be interested in, they would be better able to provide that information noting certain system or resources limitations.

Ms. Lopez-Powell said the Committee is asking DES to provide very important information that may assist them in making decisions down the line. She suggested a small workgroup may be necessary to get to the essence of what the Committee is asking DES to provide, noting it is difficult to determine what is needed within the context of a ten-minute presentation. Chair Harris-Morgan asked if anyone from the Committee would be interested in being part of a work group for the upcoming funding cycle. Ms. Lopez-Powell clarified the workgroup would identify what indicators would help inform decisions for the next cycle.

Mr. Ludwick said it appeared the presenters already have particular indicators they track and it may not be necessary to ask them to craft something different. Chair Harris-Morgan said he would rely on MAG staff to work with DES to determine what information is already being tracked and could be easily reported to the Committee.

The Committee agreed it would be good for MAG staff to work with DES and use indicators already available so as not to reinvent the wheel. Ms. Lopez-Powell said she would be happy to participate with MAG staff working with DES.

Mr. Matthews said he envisions MAG staff and DES representatives starting with the fact sheet and then adding or adjusting the fact sheets to include any other type of regularly tracked indicators. Chair Harris-Morgan agreed stating that was what the Committee members have in mind as well. Having no other suggestions or comments, he thanked the Committee and specifically DES representatives for their input.

6. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Amendment

Chair Harris-Morgan said a recommendation has been made to amend the Social Services Block Grant Allocation. He invited Ms. Mead to present the proposed amendment to be recommended for approval by the Committee as appropriate.

Ms. Mead said the request is to amend the FY 2010 SSBG plan by moving \$177,775 from the Elderly Supportive Intervention/Guidance Counseling line item to the Elderly Home Care line item. She referred the Committee to the handout highlighting the proposed changes. She said DES was contacted regarding the amendment and they indicated no contracting issues with the shift in funding if approved and recommended by the Committee. She said if HSTC recommends approval of the amendment, the request would move forward to the Management Committee and Regional Council in September.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked for questions or comments from the Committee. There was no discussion among Committee members. Ms. Marshall motioned to recommend approval to amend the Social Services Block Grant Plan to transfer funding of \$177,775 from the Elderly Supportive Intervention/Guidance Counseling line item to the Elderly Home Care line item. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2009 Regional Human Services Survey Results

The Committee was presented with a report on the initial findings of the survey distributed to inform upcoming human services reports and activities. Chair Harris-Morgan invited Ms. Mead to present the survey results.

Ms. Mead thanked the Committee for the opportunity to share the results of the 2009 MAG Regional Human Services Survey. She said the purpose of the survey is to inform upcoming regional human services planning and activities at MAG. She also thanked members of the Committee who provided feedback on the draft survey released in June. She said based on comments received, the survey was revised and distributed to all MAG Human Services Committee members and community partners on July 1, 2009. The deadline for submitting surveys was July 24, 2009, at which time, 28 surveys were received. The survey deadline was then extended to

August 10, 2009 with three additional surveys having been submitted. A total of 31 surveys were received.

Ms. Mead said results for the survey are reported in two main sections: the impact of the economy on human services delivery and the impact of regional human services planning. Ms. Mead referred the Committee to the handout on the MAG 2009 Regional Human Services Survey–Draft Results as she reviewed the results for each section of the survey.

She said the first item under the impact of the economy asked respondents to rank the most critical issues facing their agency or affiliation. She noted the top three issues were: Increased Demand for Service; Reduced/Eliminated Funding for Programs; and Unemployment. Ms. Guild noted “Increased Demand for Services” can be generic to all issues. Ms. Mead agreed.

Ms. Mead said the next question gathered data from respondents on the level of support dedicated to human services for FY 2009 and FY 2010. She said MAG looked at the projected reductions and noted the funding sources with the highest projected reductions for FY 2010 were: State Government at -10.64 percent followed by County Government projected at a -6.33 percent. In terms of how the services ranked for FY 09, Local Government, State Government, Other, Federal Government and County Government were the top five. Ms. Mead said the category labeled “other” did not provide additional information other than checked responses.

Ms. Mead said question three asked for information on strategies implemented by agencies or strategies they plan to implement in response to the economy. She referred the Committee to the two charts labeled Enhancements and Reductions. She reported reduced staff hours; reduced/eliminated services; reduced overlap, redundancies; reduced staff benefits/wages; and reduced overhead expenses as the top five categories with the greatest reductions.

Additionally, she reported increased fundraising efforts; increased services/beds; and increased volunteers/hours as the top three categories with the greatest enhancements.

Ms. Mead said question four asked what the impact was of implementing those strategies. Some of the comments received indicated:

- Fewer people doing more work
- Providing “core” services only
- Reduced quality of services, staff turnover
- More clients turned away for services no longer funded or because the need outweighed the resources
- New programs were delayed

Ms. Mead said the last section of the survey asked respondents to identify the regional human services planning activities that proved most useful to them. The top

three categories identified were: data collection and analysis; networking and electronic information; and communications.

Additionally, she said, respondents reported a variety of times when regional planning proved useful to their agency or affiliation. Examples given include:

- Networking is vital; data from MAG and other research assists with grants.
- Regional plans help communities to work together and stay focused.
- Keeps the community aware of what is going on in the Valley.
- Primarily resource information to supplement funding and service requests at a federal level.
- Regional plans help the community to meet goals with many external agencies and are more cost effective.

In conclusion, Ms. Mead said the information would be used when developing the crisis management report. The committee will receive a draft of this report at the meeting next month for review. Based on feedback, the report will be revised and will be placed on the October agenda for action by HSTC and HSCC. The survey results will also be used when developing the FY2011 Regional Human Services Plan due later this year. Ms. Mead concluded her report asking for questions or comments from the Committee.

Mr. Ludwick, referenced question number two on the survey pertaining to Budget Funding Sources for FY 2009 vs. FY 2010 Projected. He said the chart indicates 0 percent funding provided by tribal governments. Mr. Ludwick said tribal governments are putting a fair amount of money in and the chart does not accurately reflect what is actually happening. He recommended removing the information from the survey noting it would be better to leave it off. Ms. Mead thanked Mr. Ludwick for his comments. Se clarified the information reported is applicable to those that responded to the survey and there may be others impacted but who did not respond.

Mr. Mathews said great work was done on the survey. He directed the Committee's attention to the first chart pertaining to the level of support dedicated to human services. He said there needs to be a push to diversify the revenue source as the first four categories are all tied to government dollars. He said there is a dramatic impact when there is a reduction in government dollars and as was presented by the DES representatives, government funds are not recovering. Ms. Mead noted the recommendation can be included in the report.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked for additional comments from the Committee. Having no other comments, he thanked Ms. Mead and Ms. Tenney for their work and effort in preparing the report. Ms. Mead said the results are slated for approval by the Committee. Chair Harris-Morgan asked for a motion to approve the survey results. Ms. Sherer made a motion to approve the 2009 MAG Human Services Survey Results. Mr. Ludwick seconded the motion. Mr. Matthews asked if the motions include the recommendation to remove tribal funding results. Ms. Mead confirmed

that information can be removed from the spreadsheet. Chair Harris-Morgan added the motion also includes the recommendation regarding diversified funding. The motion to approve the results, including the recommendation to diversify funding and remove tribal funding sources from the survey results was passed unanimously.

8. Development of Virtual Youth Network

Chair Harris-Morgan said the Committee has expressed an interest in better coordinating youth activities throughout the region. As a result, the MAG work plan for FY 2010 includes a goal to establish a virtual youth network on the MAG Web site. This goal falls under the purview of the HSTC committee. He invited Ms. Tenney to report on the Virtual Youth Network.

Ms. Tenney said the purpose of the network is to maximize the resources in the region in order to serve youth more effectively. She said many youth commissions are doing great work and this would be a way of bringing them together and communicate and better coordinate their efforts. She said MAG HSCC voted at their meeting last month to include the following key elements to the site:

- A teen hotline
- Information related to substance abuse; specifically meth
- Use of creative strategies to reach targeted audiences

Ms. Tenney said additional recommendations included:

- Further discussion on whom and what age the target audience will be.
- Reaching out to non-profits that work with youth for the purpose of soliciting their input on what should be included.
- Sharing information with youth commissions and possibly creating a youth council stakeholders group to inform the project.
- Further discussion on who will update and maintain the virtual youth network.

Ms. Tenney opened the topic for discussion and asked for additional input to help fine-tune the project and direction received from HSCC. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, asked where and how the idea for a virtual youth network originated and if MAG has the resources to create and maintain the network. Ms. Tenney said the idea was suggested while working with youth focus groups to determine next steps for the Youth Empowerment Project. With regard to maintenance, Ms. Tenney advised the virtual youth network would be added to the existing Web of Friends Web site.

Ms. Guild asked for clarification on having a teen hotline and how many commissions and youth groups exist in the county. Ms. Tenney advised the teen hotline would consist of links on the Web site to pre-existing information and that it would not be a direct phone hotline. Ms. Tenney said at one point, there were 15-20 youth commissions in existence. However, the status of those commissions is unknown at this time.

Chair Harris-Morgan said his impression from the HSCC meeting was that elected representatives would be willing to carry this information back to their respective jurisdictions and make the necessary connections to help make this happen. Ms. Tenney agreed, stating there is a lot of willingness from HSCC to collaborate on this effort. Ms. Tenney asked the Committee for their thoughts or suggestions on creative strategies. Chair Harris-Morgan asked which age groups would be targeted and which technologies would be applicable to the age groups identified.

Ms. Tenney said YEP addressed teen dating and targeted an age range from twelve to twenty years old. She suggested looking at what age groups are in the youth commissions. Ms. McClain said youth commissions target teens in high school. Ms. Tenney said the virtual youth network could be specifically for high school youth, but also provide useful information for a younger or older group as well. Ms. Guild noted new commissions in the developmental stage may benefit from this effort.

Ms. Tenney noted high school and middle school youth use Face Book and Twitter to communicate. She said those are two options that can be researched; including whether or not there would be any legal ramifications. The group further discussed constant use of cell phones and texting by youth. Ms. Guild recommended having youth involved if an advisory group is formed. Ms. McClain recommended ensuring accessibility to the virtual youth network for those teens that do not use Face Book or Twitter.

Ms. Tenney summarized the following recommendations:

- Include Web links to resources such as teen hotlines.
- Target primarily high school students and youth commissions, as well as reaching out to middle school youth.
- Explore the possibility of using Face Book and Twitter .
- Provide Web site access.

Ms. Tenney asked the Committee for recommendations related to specific youth groups. She said MAG worked with a good core group for the YEP including the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA. She suggested using that network. The Committee suggested Tumbleweed and City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation. Ms. Tenney asked for further input on updating and maintaining the network. Chair Harris-Morgan suggested MAG take on that responsibility.

Chair Harris-Morgan said HSCC has requested HSTC take the lead in implementing the new network. He asked for any additional recommendations from Committee members. Having no further suggestions, Ms. Mead said a motion is needed to approve the work as discussed. Ms. McClain made a motion to approve the work as discussed. Ms. Guild seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Marshall said the City of Phoenix has never charged a membership fee for senior centers, however, as of July 1, 2009, a ten dollar annual fee for residents and twenty dollar fee for non-residents was implemented. Additionally, they have implemented a four-day schedule for home delivered meals. A frozen meal is being provided to supplement the fifth day. She said the project started as a pilot project. The City finds it a viable option and will continue it. Ms. Marshall offered to report back on challenges faced by the program changes.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.