

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair  
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community  
Council, Vice Chair

\*Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe

+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF

Laura Guild, DES/CPIP

Tim Cole for Jeffery Jamison, City of  
Phoenix

Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging

Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County

+Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun  
United Way

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale

\*Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix

Jose Mercado for Doris Marshall, City of  
Phoenix

\*Joy McClain, City of Tolleson

+Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert

Louis Serra for Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix

Rachel Brito, MAG

Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by  
audio/videoconferencing.

\*Those members neither present nor  
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, 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 October 8, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the October 8, 2009, meeting minutes. Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County Human Services Division, made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Service Ranking Exercise Results

Chair Sheffield said the service ranking exercise has been completed to develop a funding formula for locally planned SSBG funds. She thanked Committee members for completing the exercise. Chair Sheffield advised 175 surveys were returned from MAG Human Services Committee members, community partners, MAG member agencies and people who utilize SSBG funds. She reported 13 HSTC members and four HSCC members completed the exercise. There are 16 HSTC members and 12 HSCC members for response rates of 81 percent and 33 percent respectively.

The charts distributed reflect results from a number of perspectives. Results are available in summary form, by each subpopulation completing the exercise, and by target group. The funding allocated for FY 2010 is also presented in chart form. Chair Sheffield asked for discussion and or questions from committee members.

Ms. Leyvas expressed appreciation for staff's efforts in moving forward. She noted the SSBG ranking by *all groups* did not differ much from last year's results. Amy St. Peter, MAG, advised eight additional surveys were received from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) clients that are not reflected in the current results. She noted slight differences from the Committee rankings versus the *all group* ranking. She gave a brief overview of last year's funding allocation process which categorized services into one of three groups: those that received an increase in funding, those that received a decrease, and those held harmless with no changes made. Ms. St. Peter said last year's process can be applied to this year's rankings if the Committee chooses to do so. Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, advised Committee member Steve MacFarlane has offered to assist with the allocation formula this year.

Ms. Leyvas asked for clarification on which results will be used to determine allocations. Ms. St. Peter said the Committee would need to determine which set of results to use along with the base for funding. She noted last year's results did not include much input from clients so the Committee results were used. Ms. Leyvas made a motion to use the "all groups" ranking results which included 175 responses. Ms. St. Peter asked for clarification on whether or not to include the additional surveys received from UCP. There was agreement to include the additional surveys. Ms. Jonovich seconded the motion. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, asked if there was any confusion among survey respondents in terms of understanding the ranking instructions. Ms. St. Peter advised there did not appear to be any confusion noting instructions were clarified from the year prior. She summarized the motion to use the *all groups* results incorporating the additional surveys received from UCP. The motion passed.

Ms. St. Peter asked for input on the funding base to be used. Vice-Chair Matthews recommended using the same funding base as last year. He said the process worked well; noting no reason to make a change. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, agreed with the recommendation. Ms. St. Peter advised staff will work with Mr. MacFarlane to prepare the allocations using last year's funding base. The results will be made available to the Committee for review prior to the December meeting.

5. Data for the Development of Social Services block Grant Allocation Recommendations

The updated target group fact sheets that will be used to inform the process to develop the SSBG allocation recommendations were presented to the Committee. Chair Sheffield said the fact sheets were updated to reflect budget reductions proposed by DES at the Governor's request. She asked Committee members for input on additional information they would like to have included in preparation for the Committee's vote on the allocation recommendations at the December meeting.

Ms. Leyvas commented DES swept the state planned SSBG dollars last year and replaced them with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administrative dollars. She said for agencies that receive SSBG dollars for community action agencies, there is a possibility of a similar situation happening this year. She said there is also concern that the State's administration of LIHEAP funds using the SSBG formula is inappropriate as there is a formula for administering LIHEAP.

Ms. St. Peter said DES is proposing to eliminate local SSBG funds used for planning. She said MAG has been under contract with DES for the past 30 years to manage the planning function. The proposal by DES would eliminate the planning contracts and move the funds into child welfare services; thereby doing away with MAG Human Services and MAG Committees. Ms. St. Peter said staff has met with DES to express concern over the proposal and significant impending changes. The proposal could take effect at the end of December; until such time, MAG staff will continue work under the current contract.

Mr. Ludwick said the discussion of LIHEAP dollars and SSBG funds relate to federal dollars being reallocated from one activity to another. He said federal grants prohibit certain activities and asked if staff has reviewed federal regulations to determine if any violation of law has occurred. Ms. St. Peter said staff has not looked at the regulation regarding SSBG but will do so. Mr. Morgan asked what the Committee can do to bring awareness to the issue or address the concern. Ms. St. Peter advised staff is working through the process to have more clarity about what can be done.

Ms. St. Peter readdressed SSBG allocations. Current available data includes the fact sheets which have been updated to reflect 15 percent budget reductions; SSBG ranking results; and the funding formula used last year. She asked for input on additional data required to determine funding allocations. Vice-Chair Mathews commended staff's work and thoroughness and made a motion to move forward with the data presented. Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Knaut clarified the Grandparent Kinship Care Program falls under the Elderly target group and not under Adults, Families and Children as presented.

6. Human Services Information Station and Virtual Youth Network

Chair Sheffield said HSTC has been developing the human services information station and virtual youth network to be a resource for MAG member agencies and the community. She introduced Ms. St. Peter to offer an update about the data proposed for the projects.

Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone who helped develop the information used to organize and centralize data for the human services information station and virtual youth

network. She said with assistance from the stakeholder group, initial data has been assembled and will be made available on the MAG Web site by the end of December. The goal is to keep the information current and to serve as a bridge connecting people with information on who to contact for specific services. She said the site is not intended to replace Community Information and Referral. Ms. St. Peter advised both projects fall under the purview of HSTC and HSCC therefore additional input and approval is requested.

Ms. Jonovich asked for clarification on how the list was assembled. Ms. St. Peter said recommendations were made by agencies present at the stakeholder meetings. Further recommendations were made to include Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA), Phoenix CAP, A New Leaf (MesaCAN), Tempe Community Council and Glendale Community Council. Ms. Leyvas requested a correction to Maricopa County Human Services Commission noting the correct name is Maricopa County Community Services Commission.

Vice Chair Mathews made a motion to recommend approval of the data presented for the human services information station and virtual youth network, with possible future recommendations being added to improve the site as needed. Ms. Leyvas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### 7. FY 2011 Goal Planning

Committee members were given an opportunity to raise and discuss issues to be addressed as goals in the MAG FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Chair Sheffield said given State funding shifts, it is critical that representatives of cities and towns present how the MAG process is important to them, what additional services are needed, and their support for human services at the planning level. Ms. St. Peter advised the Human Services Coordinating Committee has discussed cost shifting and how cities, towns and service providers are affected when changes are made at the State level. She asked for other specific examples of cost shifting effects.

Ms. Jonovich noted the possibility of eliminating funds for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). She said the affects are still unknown as it depends on what changes are implemented at the State level. Ms. Leyvas said with growing demand, there is increased anger directed towards Community Action Planning (CAP) staff. She said this is a result of staff shortage and their capacity to assist people.

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, discussed the desperation felt by individuals. He said 12 clients have been referred to the hospital for a 24-hour assessment as they presented sufficient evidence that they may harm themselves or others. He said an issue that could present itself is Councils may decide to follow suit if the State determines certain services are no longer going to be provided. He recommended gathering data from cities and towns on the most basic level of services being provided and at what level those services are being sustained. He suggested it would help to determine demand at the local level, the worst case scenario for demand and how the need is being addressed.

Vice-Chair Matthews said the City of Tempe has seen an increase in demand for services including requests from individuals from other cities. He said restraints on Government budgets as well as other constraints in communities supporting human services are creating spillover from communities that are overflowed. Vice-Chair Matthews discussed the urban core of the cities increasingly connected by means of the light rail and said increased demand and constraints on existing services makes it more difficult for Councils that are in a favorable situation to continue strong support. Additionally, he said it is difficult to demonstrate the impact of services when the numbers keep increasing.

Vice-Chair Matthews said he fears the environment will become more competitive and less collaborative and that will position cities against one another. He said this type of situation would not be likely at a transportation level, stating it would be a shame and a travesty to have it occur at the human services level. Chair Sheffield referenced the Continuum of Care Homeless Street Count and MAG's role in organizing the activity. She asked who would take on that role if MAG were unable to continue it. Ms. St. Peter noted the significant advances made in the annual street count due to MAG's efforts as well as the leadership from City of Phoenix and others who have helped in the process. She said the Continuum of Care Committee brings to the region \$22 million in HUD funding; noting the possibility of those funds being lost if there is no staff to manage the process.

Vice-Chair Matthews highlighted leveraged resources, collaboration and partnerships. He suggested without MAG, the SSBG process would not be as successful noting it would have been a competitive process. He said MAG is a place where best practices are shared, solutions are improved on, and new solutions are created. Mr. Knaut added the benefits from collection of data used for planning. He complimented staff for their efforts. Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone for their input. Staff will prepare the information and bring back to the Committee in for review and approval to include in the MAG FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program pending the outcome of funding.

Mr. Ludwick recommended developing a reporting format that identifies human services resources in each community. He said by having a common format that each community can use to report the services they offer, would provide a better picture of the availability of services and to some extent would assist in the support of those communities. Ms. St. Peter said data gathered from year to year would provide useful trend information. Chair Sheffield advised staff will prepare the information and present it at the December meeting for action.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were given an opportunity to suggest topics or issues of interest they would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting. Vice-Chair Matthews requested an update on the State budget.

9. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Leyvas commented on concerns over House Bill 2008. She said one aspect of the bill would affect the administration of LIHEAP funds. The bill would require an additional notarized statement from the person(s) requesting LIHEAP assistance to ensure that all of the documentation provided is true and accurate. Ms. Leyvas said the additional requirements would put a tremendous strain on Community Action Program staff in terms of capacity, cost, timing and liability.

Mr. Ludwick announced the Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors has named Kathy Brain, CAP Director, as citizen of the year. Mr. Ludwick said the work she has done to try to help raise funds for emergency services has been recognized.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.