

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 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

Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix

Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of
Phoenix

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging

Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County

Nanette Lubin for 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

+ Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

+Linda Dillard, City of Goodyear

Wendy Miller, City of Phoenix, Public
Transit

Rachel Brito, MAG

DeDe Gaisthea, 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 12:57 p.m.

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 November 12, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the November 12, 2009, meeting minutes. Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, requested a correction on page six noting Kathy Breen's last name was misspelled. Mr. Ludwick made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested correction. Carol Sherer, DES/DDD seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. State Budget Update – *this item was taken out of order*

Chair Sheffield introduced Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona Families Coalition (PAFCO), to provide an update on the state budget and its impact on human services.

Mr. Schmaltz said the state deficit for the current year is \$1.5 billion; next year's deficit is expected to exceed \$3 billion. He said the economic forecast conference

indicated these conditions will remain for the next three to five years because Arizona will lag behind the national economy.

Mr. Schmaltz said there have been many discussions related to plans for a special session, sales tax referral, eliminating voter protection funds and additional cuts ranging from \$200,000,000 - \$300,000,000, including corporate tax, income tax and property tax cuts. He stressed the state budget and state economy is very volatile and the recent 15 percent budget reduction exercise requested by the Governor's office should be taken very seriously. The proposed reductions submitted will be looked at as a laundry list of potential cuts to reach the target.

Mr. Schmaltz reported on the number of people who have advocated at the capital over the past year. He said PAFCO is gearing up advocacy efforts and working on insider/outsider strategies. He advised everyone to stay informed, not give up, and not assume that matters cannot get any worse. Mr. Schmaltz said the Arizona Budget Coalition along with PAFCO have worked to provide budgetary options to the legislature such as borrowing money from the lottery fund. He said there are three elements to advocacy: presenting facts, telling stories, and providing pressure. The key is finding which combination will make a difference. He said the Universities are involved in the budget discussion and their lobbyists are very influential. He also raised the issue of how HB 2008 will change the nature of how the state responds to people in need.

Vice Chair Mathews commended PAFCO on their advocacy efforts and reiterated the need to maintain the fight for human services. He asked if there has been any support for a state tax reform and what the results have been at the state level in regards to cities having to raise taxes. Mr. Schmaltz said there have been discussions regarding tax reform to stimulate the economy. He said the Department of Revenue Joint Legislative Budget Committee reported expanding the sales tax would generate \$9 billion dollars worth of revenue in two years. Mr. Schmaltz said the Department of Economic Services has received a 31 percent reduction in state funding. They make up 11 percent of the state budget. He said if the additional 15 percent cuts were enacted, it would result in a 45 percent total reduction to the DES budget.

Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County Human Services Division (MCHSD), asked for an update on the proposed elimination of Social Services Block Grant planning dollars. Amy St. Peter, MAG, said staff has met with DES and were able to negotiate a reduction in the contract amount instead of the elimination of the contract. She said MAG is thankful to be able to retain a portion of the funding and hopes to obtain other funding to fill the gap. Ms. Leyvas shared her belief that SSBG and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding given to the Community Action Programs would be eliminated. Additionally, she believes DES will keep administrative dollars for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dollars.

Ms. Leyvas also discussed the potential affects HB 2008 will have on how MCHSD functions noting many other community action agencies in other states function differently. She referenced DES funding and the need to review their internal funding formula. She said the community action agencies need to reach consensus on how they can survive and function throughout the state instead of advocating for their own interests. Mr. Schmaltz cautioned everyone to be wary of HB 2008. He said there is fear among the Latino community that has resulted in the decrease of applications for assistance through Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). He noted a decrease in WIC participation and public health assistance could result in an increase in infant mortality. Mr. Schmaltz said several law firms and community groups have been conducting research to gather general information on the impact of HB 2008 throughout the community.

Ms. Leyvas referenced Proposition 200 which took effect December 2004. She said the DES Office of Audit and Management Services has since audited six to eight Community Action Agencies (CAA) and no evidence was found related to unqualified individuals. She commented the results of those audits have not been made public despite her request to obtain a copy. Ms. Leyvas said individuals impacted by Proposition 200 were already being required to provide verification of citizenship. Undocumented individuals do not apply for or receive benefits impacted by Proposition 200. Those affected are primarily elderly and individuals with disabilities who are legal residents but do not have acceptable documents. Ms. Leyvas commented the same situation will occur with HB 2008. She referenced an e-mail she distributed to all CAAs, effective November 24, 2009, enacting a temporary moratorium on application intake pending opinion from the Attorney General. She said before they can begin accepting applications, policies and procedures would need to be developed and distributed to sub-contractors for further review to ensure the process protects the providers.

Mr. Ludwick asked if there is a strategy related to assessing potential outcomes of the situations faced by Human Services staff. Mr. Schmaltz said the Hospital Association as well as homeless shelters are collecting data and stories about the affects people are experiencing. He said of particular interest is the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) reports are not increasing. He related it to CPS not conducting 100 percent investigations therefore professionals in the field are not reporting all incidents. He recommended City police and fire departments also begin to collect data on what they are experiencing.

5. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendations

Chair Sheffield thanked Committee members for their time and efforts in developing the SSBG allocation recommendations. Recommendations were derived from the target group fact sheets, the service ranking exercise and the funding formula developed last year. Chair Sheffield advised two funding options were being presented including an option to reallocate funds for transportation services to the lower ranked non-transportation services. Transportation services may be funded

through other non-SSBG funding sources such as Section 5310 and 5317. Chair Sheffield requested input from Committee members.

Mr. Ludwick expressed support for the option to reallocate transportation funds. He noted reallocation of these funds would result in the lowest ranked services (Group E) receiving a higher amount of funding than they received in FY 2010. Additionally, he said the second lowest ranked services (Group D) would receive more funds than if using the original formula without the transportation funds. He requested clarification on how allocations were determined.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, said there are transportation funds remaining from other sources that may be used to support transportation services funded by SSBG in the past. The re-allocated SSBG funds may then be used to minimize the impact of cuts made to the lowest ranked non-transportation services. She advised adjustments can be made to the allocations if the Committee so requests. Ms. St. Peter offered another option to reallocate funds to Groups A and B whose funding was increased based on the ranking.

Mr. Ludwick said he is in favor of reallocating funds to the lower ranked services. He commented allocations were not consistent with the original ranking in that more funding would be reallocated to the lowest ranked services (Group E) at a higher level, than to the second lowest ranked services (Group D). Ms. St. Peter agreed it would make sense to reallocate transportation funds at a higher amount to services that received a 10 percent reduction (Group D); and at a lower amount to services that received a 20 percent reduction (Group E). Ms. Sherer expressed support for reallocating a higher amount of funds to services in Group D. She noted two Developmentally Disabled services in Group (E) stating funds would be better utilized for Developmentally Disabled Extended Supported Employment Services, (Group D).

Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, asked for clarification on the amount of funds proposed for reallocation. Ms. St. Peter said the amount of transportation funding proposed for reallocation to services that would have otherwise been reduced is \$90,395.94. She clarified discussion to apply funds at a higher level to services reduced by 10 percent (Group D), then apply the remaining funds to Group E. Mr. MacFarlane suggested the least harm approach would be to follow the original methodology when applying the reallocation.

Vice Chair Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, expressed agreement with the option to reallocate transportation funds and apply a higher amount of funding to Group D. Vice Chair Matthews made a motion to recommend approval of the draft allocations with the noted changes. Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chair Sheffield asked for any further discussion or clarifications. Mr. Ludwick asked for clarification on the amount of transportation funds proposed for reallocation. Ms. St. Peter advised the transportation option represents \$90,395.94.

Chair Sheffield advised the draft recommendations will be distributed for public comment. The Committee will have an opportunity to review and take action on any recommendations or input received. The recommendation for approval will then be presented to the Human Services Coordinating Committee in January. The MAG Management Committee and Regional Council will be presented with the allocations for action in February.

6. MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan

Chair Sheffield advised the Committee that MAG has developed plans to coordinate human services transportation in response to federal legislation since 2007. She said the plan is being presented for action and includes an inventory of services, an analysis of the gaps and prioritizes strategies to meet human Services transportation needs through coordination. Chair Sheffield invited DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, to present the plan.

Ms. Gaisthea thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present the draft FY 2011 MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan. Additionally, she thanked the City of Phoenix for their continued financial support of human services coordination planning and everyone who provided input and feedback for the plan update. Ms. Gaisthea advised the Committee that stakeholders reviewed the draft plan and had no major changes. She said MAG has developed plans to coordinate human services transportation in response to SAFETEA-LU federal legislation since 2007. The plan contains an inventory of services, integrated suggestions from the committee making it more reader friendly; an analysis of the gaps in the region and prioritized strategies to meet human services transportation needs through coordination.

Ms. Gaisthea said MAG updates the plan yearly to enable potential agencies to apply for federal funding although they are not required to do so. The plan presents new strategies developed with input from stakeholders to address gaps. The new goals are consistent with the United We Ride goals:

- Providing more rides for the targeted population(s) for the same or fewer resources
- Simplify customer access to transportation
- Increase customer satisfaction

Ms. Gaisthea said the goal of the new strategies is to coordinate the resources of the current system both short and long term to ensure sustainability of coordination efforts. Ms. Gaisthea shared the following strategies:

Short-term:

- Implement more programs to serve people with low incomes, particularly in the Southwest Valley.

- Target travel training to clients of non-profit agencies, including homeless and domestic violence shelters.
- Research and implement van pools to bring domestic violence and homeless shelter clients to work and work preparation activities.
- Develop and offer training on data quality standards for reporting as well as a common set of definitions.

Long-term:

- Establish more taxi cab and mileage reimbursement programs, focusing on areas with less transportation infrastructure.
- Develop a coordinated volunteer drivers program on a regional basis. This will include training for volunteer drivers and the agencies that work with them; and centralizing the information about programs and opportunities online.

Mr. Ludwick noted the plan does not reference local free trolley services. He said these services have an impact on transportation specifically for the homeless population. He said services are not coordinated from one community to the next but several options are available and they should be mentioned in the plan. Ms. Gaisthea advised a listing of trolley services is available in the Service Provider list noting information about the trolley services can be added to the narrative as well.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, asked for an update on the closure of Special Transportation Services (STS). Ms. St. Peter reported clients have largely shifted to non-profits noting cities are working with remaining clients. Ms. Gaisthea said Valley Metro has been a great supporter in providing alternate options for former clients. Vice Chair Matthews commended staff for their work on the plan and acknowledged the City Phoenix partnership. He motioned to approve the MAG Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. Mr. Ludwick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. Committee Membership and Evaluation

The Committee evaluated projects completed to date and discussed strategies to strengthen the work of the Committee. Chair Sheffield noted several projects the Committee has addressed including work on the SSBG allocations, the Human Services Information Station and Virtual Youth Network. She noted data collection and organization, as well as presentations have been most useful and asked for further input from Committee members.

Vice Chair Mathews expressed support for coordination of information such as data, research and best practices. He said the Committee often refers to this information to move forward. He noted the availability of a research library would be beneficial. Ms. St. Peter advised a resource library has been provided through the monthly electronic newsletter and can be made available again. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, expressed agreement with the request noting information provided by MAG is invaluable. Ms. St. Peter asked for further input on how staff can ensure the work

being done benefits member agencies. She encouraged Committee members to share their ideas at any time.

Chair Sheffield advised Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona Families Coalition, had arrived therefore the Committee would return to agenda item four: the State Budget Update.

8. Committee Calendar – *this item taken out of order.*

Committee members reviewed the meeting calendar for FY 2010. Chair Sheffield asked for approval of the 2010 MAG Human Services Technical Committee Meeting Calendar recommending the meeting date for May remain on the calendar. Margarita Leyvas, MCHSD Community Services Division, motioned to approve the meeting calendar as presented. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

9. 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. No requests were made.

10. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Leyvas said the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable trust awarded grants to Community Action Agencies at a recent event held at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. Present at the event was Harriet Ivey, Trust President and CEO. Additionally, tours were held encouraging people to adopt a pet.

Ms. Leyvas said this is the third year MCHSD has participated in an “Adopt a Senior” tree. All 197 seniors had been adopted and case managers will be delivering items to those who participated.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.