

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council, Vice Chair
Keith Burke for Kathy Berzins, City of
Tempe
+Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
Andy Hall for Laura Guild,
DES/DAAS/OCS
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of
Phoenix
*Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Frances Delgado for 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 Dorris Marshall, City of
Phoenix
+Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Toussaint, DES

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 1:04 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 December 10, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes
Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the December 10, 2009, meeting
minutes. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice
Chair Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, seconded the motion. The
motion passed unanimously.
4. FY 2011 MAG Regional Human Services Plan
Chair Sheffield advised the draft FY2011 Regional Human Services Plan was sent to
the Committee for review prior to the holidays. The plan contains the allocation
recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). She said the draft
allocation recommendations for SSBG were sent out for public comment. To date, no
comments have been received.

Chair Sheffield said the allocations have been revised to maintain the amendment made to the FY 2010 allocations to move funds from the supportive intervention line item to the home care line item within the Elderly target group. Area Agency on Aging has requested that the change be maintained. Chair Sheffield asked for discussion from the Committee.

Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert, commented that the report was well done but hard to read due to the devastating impact the recession has had on human services. Amy St. Peter, MAG, agreed the report reflects the difficult economic situation. Mr. Morgan made a motion to recommend approval of the MAG FY 2011 Regional Human Services Plan including the FY 2011 Social Services Block Grant allocation recommendations. Vice Chair Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Sheffield advised the plan will be presented to the Human Services Coordinating Committee on January 19, 2010, for action.

5. Livability Act Presentation

Chair Sheffield invited Ms. St. Peter to provide an update on the Livability Act. Ms. St. Peter advised the Livability Act is one of two items that relate to the proposed FY 2011 Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC) goals.

Ms. St. Peter said there has been discussion about the federal Livability initiative and ways to support the effort locally. She said the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Housing, and Energy are collaborating to promote more livable communities. Ms. St. Peter referenced the 2008 MAG conference on regional coordination efforts related to housing and transportation as predating the current initiative. She said the Livable Communities Act would create an Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and would provide incentives to create more livable communities through the Comprehensive Planning Grant Program and funding to implement sustainable development projects through the Challenge Grant Program. MAG supports these efforts and wants to review how activity at the federal level will affect activity at the local level.

Ms. St. Peter said “Support of the Livability Act Initiatives in the Region” is being proposed as a new goal that would fall under the purview of this Committee and the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee. She referred the Committee to the Livable Communities Act handout. She said the bill was introduced in August and has not yet been confirmed. MAG is waiting for the act to be signed into law at the federal level.

6. Title VI Environmental Justice Presentation

Ms. St. Peter introduced Roger Herzog, MAG to provide a presentation on environmental justice. Mr. Herzog shared a PowerPoint presentation titled Environmental Justice Analysis. He said the Title VI effort involves a wide array of areas noting Environmental Justice (EJ) is one aspect. He said it is a key part of the program that involves outreach to various communities of concern. Mr. Herzog highlighted Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), one component of the Title

VI Implementation Program. He said MAG does significant work to ensure DBEs have full access to any contracting done by MAG.

Mr. Herzog discussed the Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis as it relates to the regional transportation plan. He reviewed a series of slides from the presentation that identify communities of concern as minorities, elderly, low income, female head of household, and mobility impaired. He said MAG has expanded efforts beyond what was federally required. By using census information, MAG has identified census tracts where EJ characteristics exceed average percentages. He said there are a number of census tracts in the county that exceed the average for Maricopa County. Those with exceeding averages are primarily in Indian communities, South Phoenix and the West valley. Mr. Herzog noted there are not a whole lot of people living in some of those outlying tracts which can distort the picture.

Mr. Herzog said one of the goals is to evaluate the transportation system and projects in the plan as they relate to the impact on EJ communities and to compare the impacts of the transportation programs on EJ communities and non-EJ communities. He reviewed the benefits and burdens which can be measured by evaluating the transportation system and comparing the impacts of a project or plan on the residents.

Mr. Herzog discussed a series of slides that reviewed the impact of the transportation plan including freeway/highway, transit, and arterials on communities of concern. He said this type of analysis was done when the plan was developed in 2003. The current plan will use upcoming census data which may take up to one year to obtain.

Ms. St. Peter invited Jayson Stephens, MAG, to discuss public involvement as it relates to EJ. Mr. Stephens said scientific telephone surveys were conducted for the Regional Transportation Plan in addition to informal surveys handed out at community events. He said interestingly, the results from the scientific and informal survey were almost identical.

Mr. Stephens said many of the community events include EJ populations and others underserved by the transportation system. MAG has a staff position that works with the community to conduct outreach, solicit input, and report on outcomes. MAG is in the process of hiring for the position. Mr. Stephens said MAG also conducts disability outreach through the efforts of associate Mary Hartle-Smith. Overall, he noted the communications staff is very active in public involvement efforts.

Mr. Herzog commented they are often how this the work affects the transportation planning process. He said transit used to receive two percent of the sales tax revenue dedicated to transportation. When the public and EJ populations strongly supported transit, MAG increased funding and dedicated 33 percent of the sales tax revenue for transit.

Ms. St. Peter summarized the three components of Title VI as assessing the transportation needs of the community, giving communities of concern a voice in the

planning process, and demonstrating an impact on transportation planning and programs. Ms. St. Peter said “Support of Environmental Justice Activities” is being brought forward as a goal under the purview of HSTC and HSCC to determine where opportunities exist to better serve the communities of concern through enhanced community needs assessment.

Chair Sheffield clarified the recommendation to add this topic to the HSTC FY 2011 goals. Ms. St. Peter confirmed the request to support EJ activities. Vice Chair Matthews expressed support for adding this topic to the existing goals. He noted the trend of human services planning starting to move away from silos and specialty models to addressing many issues that overlap and strengthen the community as a whole. He said there is a natural connection between transportation and housing and he supports both goals. He said this is an opportunity for the Committee to stay in the forefront of what is being done. Chair Sheffield thanked Mr. Herzog and Mr. Stephens for their presentations.

7. Committee Goals for FY 2011

Chair Sheffield referred the Committee to the handout on FY 2011 Goals and asked for discussion or input. Mr. Morgan recognized staff for all their past work and asked if staff had any input. Ms. St. Peter said she looks forward to working with the Committee.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to recommend approval of the draft goals to be presented for inclusion in the FY 2011 MAG Unified Planning Work Program. Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Sheffield advised the goals will be heard by HSCC on January 19, 2010.

Mr. Morgan asked for an update regarding Human Services funding. Ms. St. Peter advised DES has absorbed additional funding cuts but has agreed to reduce the Human Services contract by 30 percent as opposed to eliminating funding altogether. She said the MAG Human Services Division is applying for additional funding to support an assessment of the protocols used when arresting domestic violence offenders and to offer training opportunities. Although not final, she said the funding opportunity is promising and would make the division whole again in terms of funding.

Mr. Morgan asked if the work in Title VI would provide additional funding for the Human Services Division. Ms. St. Peter confirmed there is the potential to draw down transportation funding when doing transportation work.

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. Chair Sheffield requested continued information on the new goals be included as part of the agenda. Ms. St. Peter suggested a legislative update.

9. Comments from the Committee

There were no comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.