

MAG HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2006

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
ATTENDING

Councilmember Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear  
\*Dave Crozier, Town of Gilbert  
Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage  
Charlene Moran Flaherty, DES/CSA  
\*Councilmember Joe Johnson, City of Surprise  
Councilmember Kyle Jones, City of Mesa  
Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale  
\*Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging  
Judy Bowden for Carol McCormack, Mesa United Way  
Councilmember Kevin Osterman, City of Scottsdale  
Janet Regner, Representative for Tempe Community Council  
\*Vice Mayor Phillip Westbrooks, City of Chandler

\*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

Teresa Franquiz, MAG  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Stephanie Knox, Value Options  
Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County  
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Leon Smyres, Advocates for the Disabled  
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.  
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Call to Order  
Vice Chair Lopez Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience  
No comments were made.
3. Approval of October 14, 2005 Human Services Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes and review of August 25, 2005 meeting minutes.  
Vice Chair Lopez Rogers called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2005 meeting minutes. Councilmember Manny Martinez moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Kevin Osterman seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Social Service Block Grant Recommendations

Amy St. Peter, MAG, offered the Social Service Block Grant funding allocations to be recommended for approval by the MAG Regional Council. Ms. St. Peter said a small work group of HSTC members reviewed the funding allocations from the previous year. With no anticipated changes in funding and no communication that the previous allocations needed revisions, the work group recommended keeping the funding allocations the same this year. HSTC accepted this recommendation at their last meeting and have forwarded the same to HSCC. The MAG Regional Council will review the recommendations at their February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting for approval.

In addition to the funding allocations, Ms. St. Peter offered other activities HSTC has pursued in this area. The committee has forwarded a list of questions to John Hoag with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). In the future, staff will work directly with Mr. Hoag to have all questions answered to inform the allocation recommendation process. The committee believes this central line of communication will streamline this effort and produce better information in a more timely manner. The committee also plans to hear presentations from each of the four departments funded throughout the year. Agencies receiving funds will be asked to present in each of the four main areas. This will offer more information about the impact of the dollars allocated. Extending the process year round will help ensure enough detail is given so the committee will make truly informed decisions. Ms. St. Peter reported HSTC felt comfortable making the recommendations this year based on the information already available.

Committee members discussed the content of the recommendations as well as the process by which they were made. Councilmember Martinez commented on the recommendations remaining the same from year to year. Ms. St. Peter replied that all four departments within DES spent their money completely. Additionally, the committee received no compelling feedback that changes needed to be made at this time to the funding levels. Information collected during the focus groups and community hearings last summer seemed to indicate the funding was being allocated appropriately. Given the increased information planned for the upcoming year, HSTC would be in a better position to recommend funding changes to respond to emerging needs.

Councilmember Delgado commented that the unfunded issue statements listed in the document are important as well. Ms. St. Peter agreed and said unfortunately there is not enough funding to support every activity identified. The committee members expressed support for the recommendations as written.

Councilmember Martinez offered a motion to recommend the funding allocations to the MAG Regional Council for approval. Councilmember Osterman seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. HSCC Subcommittee on Youth Policy

Vice Chair Lopez Rogers offered an update on the subcommittee's activities and requested input on future directions. She said in October 2004, the MAG Regional Council formed the HSCC Subcommittee on Youth Policy. This subcommittee had been active as the Youth Policy Advisory Committee and had taken on projects such as graffiti abatement and a countywide curfew. The subcommittee has a diverse membership that includes representatives from the cities and towns, non-profit agencies and juvenile probation. Raul Daniels, City of Glendale, and Chris Reams, City of Avondale, are the new chair and vice chair respectively. Since beginning to meet again, the subcommittee has conducted three focus groups with youth. This feedback was used to develop the youth chapter in the Regional Human Services Plan. At the January meeting, the subcommittee proposed the following goals:

- Research juvenile justice round tables or crime enforcement coalitions.
- Partner with the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council on a project focused on youth and domestic violence.
- Do an inventory on resources if one is not already available.
- Develop a sharing/mentoring program between the cities.
- Coordinate more focus groups with youth.
- Train youth to engage elected officials.
- Advocate for a percentage of sports franchise money to be allocated for youth programs.
- Train staff that work with youth.
- Develop public service announcements to assist in advocacy

Mayor Lopez Rogers reported that at the next meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m., the subcommittee will prioritize these goals and develop action steps. She said feedback is welcome in helping to define the future direction of this subcommittee.

Group discussion ensued about the focus groups conducted with youth in the summer of 2005. Mayor Lopez Rogers said she appreciated the time from staff to put together the focus groups. Ms. St. Peter reported the focus groups were held in the East Valley, West Valley, and in central Phoenix. Agencies helped to coordinate the groups and volunteers facilitated them. The subcommittee and youth put together the questions that were addressed in each focus group. The participants expressed concern about their safety and reported they do not always feel safe in their neighborhoods due to crime in the community. Some youth reported not feeling like they could approach the police for assistance due to perceived discrimination. Youth in Tolleson said their town needed a homeless shelter. The feedback collected throughout the process provided the foundation for the youth chapter in the 2006 Regional Human Services Plan being drafted.

6. Human Services Committees Report

Vice Chair Lopez Rogers asked staff to deliver reports for the following committees:

- Human Services Technical Committee: Amy St. Peter referred the committee to the draft proposal for a new MAG Human Services Division project. The

Regional Human Services Retreat will engage MAG committee members as well as MAG member agencies and community stakeholders in an event in February 2007. Participants will have the opportunity to work with non-traditional partners in identifying strategies to improve service integration. The event will consist of both plenary sessions and smaller workshops in a half to full day setting. The goal of the project will be to produce three to five ways that services can be streamlined in order to maximize available resources. Charlene Moran Flaherty shared that DES is implementing a similar model and that she supports this new project. Councilmember Osterman suggested having the event at the civic center. Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for their comments and said she looked forward to their help in shaping the event.

Ms. St. Peter continued her report by offering an update on the Regional Human Services Plan. The initial data for the plan was collected during the 23 focus group and three community hearings conducted last summer. Staff built on this information by consulting national research and local experts. Ms. St. Peter reviewed the chapters as including the four SSBG categories of adults, families and children; elderly, persons with disabilities; and persons with developmental disabilities as well as chapters on homelessness, domestic violence, an environmental scan and funding.

HSTC has reviewed and commented extensively on all but the homeless chapter, which was reviewed by the MAG Continuum of Care Committee on Homelessness, and the chapter on domestic violence, which was reviewed by the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. Ms. St. Peter said the plan will be sent to HSCC members within the next few weeks. It will be on the April agenda for their recommendation for approval by the MAG Regional Council. Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone for their help in developing the plan. After the committees have all reviewed and/or approved the plan in April, it will be ready for distribution in May.

- Regional Domestic Violence Council: Teresa Franquiz, MAG, offered a presentation on the Regional Domestic Violence Council. Ms. Franquiz said Vice Mayor Westbrook of Chandler has stepped down as Chair of the Council. Mayor Manross has been appointed to this position. Ms. Franquiz said the Council is in good hands as they pursue future projects.

She then distributed a report developed by the Victim Services Subcommittee on the needs of the region for increased shelter beds. The subcommittee worked with ASU West's Partnership for Community Development to develop the report. Ms. Franquiz said domestic violence shelters are turning away victims of domestic violence due to lack of space. In the past, it has been very difficult to quantify the number of people needing shelter because victims very often have to call repeatedly before they are accepted into a shelter. The high number of repeat callers makes it very difficult for one agency to determine an unduplicated count.

In order to provide statistically reliable data showing how many shelter beds would be needed to meet the current demand, the subcommittee conducted two surveys with all nine local domestic violence shelters. The first survey was conducted on the phone with people seeking shelter. The second survey was conducted with all clients of the nine shelters. Data from Community Information and Referral, police reports and DV STOP were also analyzed. Between these sources, the subcommittee was able to determine that at least 325 more beds would be needed. This represents a combination of beds for families and individuals.

Ms. Franquiz said the Regional Domestic Violence Council is very excited to make this information available to the public. The Governor's proposed budget reflects the largest increase on record for domestic violence shelter beds. Ms. Franquiz announced there would be a presentation on this report at the next MAG Regional Council on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Flaherty asked if the Regional Domestic Violence Council had considered the need for permanent housing by victims of domestic violence. She referred the committee to the "Voices of the Victims" section of the report indicating this is a need. Many victims reported returning to their abuser due to the lack of housing. Ms. Franquiz agreed this is a missing piece of the puzzle. She said the subcommittee is focused on addressing the emergency level of need but will address the need for permanent housing in the future. There is overlap in this area between the plans to end domestic violence and homelessness. Janet Regner asked if the council was looking into affordable housing as well. Ms. Franquiz said they are along with the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

- MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness: Amy St. Peter offered an update on homeless planning activities. She reported that the region was awarded over \$20 million from last year's application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Stuart B. McKinney dollars. The application for this year's process is anticipated within the next few months. New applications will likely be restricted by HUD to permanent supportive housing. The MAG Continuum of Care Committee on Homelessness needs to bring in more operations dollars and fewer dollars for supportive services to improve its application to HUD.

Group discussion ensued about the strategies to increase funding through this process. When asked how supportive services could be funded if not with HUD money, Ms. St. Peter offered that DES has included \$1.5 million in their budget request to assist 600 households statewide with supportive services. Councilmember Delgado asked if Community Action Program (CAP) agencies could receive funding through this source. Ms. St. Peter said they potentially could if they submitted an application to provide permanent supportive housing. Ms. Flaherty said that while local CAP agencies generally don't provide housing,

CAP agencies in other parts of the country do so successfully. Ms. St. Peter said the committee would be very interested in receiving applications for programs outside the City of Phoenix to ensure geographic diversity. Ms. St. Peter thanked Valley of the Sun United Way for making the “E-C Fund” online system available for the local applications to be submitted electronically.

7. Announcements

Vice Chair Lopez Rogers opened the meeting for announcements. She said the West Valley Human Services Alliance Summit was held earlier that day and was well attended. She explained this group is looking at human services needs and would present at the HSCC meeting in April. She cited funding as always being a factor when confronted with human service issues.

Ms. Regner referred back to the minutes from the last meeting about the Arizona Healthcare Group. She said there is a bill in the legislature to allow for small private nonprofits with less than 25 employees to enter into the group without a “go dark” period. Ms. Regner explained this is a six-month period when employees have to go without insurance in order to qualify for the new plan. She said the bill is SB 1089 and is sponsored by Senator Arsberger. Ms. Regner said the insurance companies are fighting the bill and it is stuck right now.

Ms. Flaherty said there are only \$4 million available through the DES budget to support homeless programs. She continued that many of these programs serve as overflow for domestic violence shelters without the supports that domestic violence shelters receive. The additional \$1.5 million discussed earlier in the meeting would add money to the base, meaning the increase would continue from one year to the next.

8. Adjourn

Vice Chair Lopez Rogers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stressed how important participation is to the success of the committee’s endeavors. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Service Coordinating Committee will be on **Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 p.m.**