

MINUTES OF THE
MAG HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
October 12, 2017
MAG Office Building, Chaparral Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

#Melanie Dykstra, Town of Gilbert

#Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe

#Jessica Gonzalez, City of Phoenix

Autumn Grooms, City of El Mirage

Laura Guild, Arizona Department of
Economic Security

#Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix

*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging

#Valerie Kime Trujillo, Tempe Community
Council

#Jacqueline Edwards for Bruce Liggett,
Maricopa County Human Services
Department

Debbie Pearson, City of Peoria

Christina Plante, City of Goodyear, Vice
Chair

*Leah Powell, City of Chandler, Chair

#Cindy Saverino, Arizona Department of
Economic Security

Cynthia Segovia, City of Phoenix

*Neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

+Attended by videoconference.

MAG STAFF

Brande Mead

Maria Piña

1. Call to Order

Christina Plante, City of Goodyear, Vice Chair of the Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC), called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. 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 the August 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A motion was requested to approve the August 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Debbie Pearson, City of Peoria, motioned to approve the minutes. Autumn Grooms, City of El Mirage, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation of the State of Disabilities in the Nation, State, and County

Sarah Ruf, Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC), noted that Erica McFadden, Executive Director, joined ADDPC in December, 2016. Ms. McFadden was

previously employed at the Morrison Institute at Arizona State University. She is passionate about disability issues in Arizona, and is considered an expert in that arena. She was unable to attend today's meeting.

The Council is federally funded, and focuses on Developmental Disabilities (DD), which are lifelong, and are acquired before the age of 22. Such conditions include Epilepsy, autism, cerebral palsy, some lifelong mental illnesses, and Down Syndrome, amongst others broader definitions of disabilities. Disabilities are defined as a mental or physical condition that limits a major life activity. Most people will be part of this group, if even temporarily, in their lifetime, especially with age.

The Council is technically part of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES); however, it functions like a board and commission. The Council does not fall under the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). A staff of six assists the 23 member Council, which is comprised of volunteers who are individuals with disabilities, agency representatives, providers, and statewide agency representatives.

ADDPC's three goal areas include employment, community inclusion, and self-advocacy. It funds grants in 3 goal areas:

- Research and gather policy data for law makers and government entities;
- Educate governments and citizens on community disability gaps; and
- Build bridges between advocacy groups to break down silos and open up communication.

Recent successes include being invited by Ms. Pearson to conduct a citizen workshop on disability services, which included topics such as service animals, assistive technology, and social activities. The Council also partnered with the City of Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues to host a crisis response panel in April with Police Chief Jeri Williams, and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Health (MMIC). The panel discussed ways for fire fighters and law enforcement to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing mental crisis. The Council also works with DDD to train law enforcement and self-advocates on how to better coordinate crisis response and mental health treatment.

Some of the projects that the Council has worked on this year include leadership training for middle school students and adults with Spina Bifida Association of Arizona & Diverse Ability Incorporated; webinars that serve as a follow-up to crisis forum and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) for businesses; and voting day, and helping people retain right to vote. Full guardianship often removes individuals' right to vote. Other projects are youth mental health conference at Grand Canyon University (GCU); caregiver trainings with University of Arizona (UA); and school culture grants at Cartwright, Phoenix and Madison school districts. The program encourages children with and without disabilities to have a safer environment, and to work better together.

Marcella Crane, ADDPC, provided a state overview, as well as the purpose for the Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA), which is a federal mandate. The Council is required to complete the CRA every five years to provide data and feedback that will inform the state plan. The analysis helps determine gaps in special education, healthcare,

transportation, assistive technology, state financial resources, and housing. The Council decides on its objectives, which is based on the needs of underserved areas in Maricopa County, and in the state, using a variety of research methods, literature review, focus groups, and best practices, amongst others.

After reviewing all the areas, the Council decided that the goal for the next five years should be inclusion, which allows individuals with disabilities to be included in all facets of the community. Education is the ongoing goal.

Ms. Crane encouraged cities and towns to allow persons with developmental disabilities to have an impact by serving on board and commissions.

Statewide demographics include:

- Hispanic or Latino: 30.3 percent
- People with disabilities (PWD): 12.2 percent – a significant minority group in its own right
- Some other race alone: 6.5 percent
- American Indian and Alaskan Native alone: 4.4 percent
- Black or African American: 4.1 percent

Of 800,210 PWDs, an estimated 117,600 have DD – about 15 percent. At least 30 percent of Arizonans either have a disability (16 percent), or care for someone with disability (14 percent). Maricopa County has the largest number of PWDs in the state (384,725) – 10 percent of the population. Tribal communities have the highest rate of disability of all minority groups in Arizona (13.4 percent) and the most barriers to access, such as lack of transportation, discrimination, lack of access to health care, and cultural barriers.

The Latino community also experiences barriers. However, while complaints are consistent across the board regarding lack of providers, it is worse for families and individuals who speak Spanish, especially the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) providers who speak Spanish, and even fewer and fewer physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists. For example, in Nogales, there are 26 Spanish-speaking Primary Care Physicians (PCPs). There are no Spanish-speaking physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists in Nogales.

The Council is leading efforts to be more responsive to culturally and linguistically diverse communities, such as Hispanics and Latinos, tribal communities, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and refugees. The Council was selected to work with Georgetown University and leaders from DDD, Arizona State University (ASU) and Northern Arizona University (NAU) to start a community of best practices targeting these efforts in organizations and agencies across the state.

Besides medical treatment, employment is a big concern for PWD and their families. The number fear is losing Supplemental Security Income (SSI), followed by employers' bias about their disabilities; fearing being unable to handle the pressure of working, and lastly, being afraid to get fired from their job. While the disability rights movement has come a long

way since the declaration of the ADA in 1990, job placement is still the focus. There are not many services as children transition into adulthood, as is evident in the autism community.

According to 2016 Census numbers in Arizona, only one in three working-age adults with disabilities are employed, and about one in five live in poverty. There's a nearly 43 percent difference in "not in labor force" numbers. The Fall, 2015 Morrison Institute poll demonstrates that expectations are generally less for people with disabilities among all Arizonans.

The employment rate for individuals ages 18-64 without a disability is 60.4 percent; for those with disabilities, it drops to 34.8 percent. The median earnings for individuals over the age of 16 without disabilities is \$31,111; for those with a disability, it is \$21,917. About 13 percent of people without disabilities live below 100 percent of the poverty level; for those with a disability, it jumps to just over 19 percent.

Ms. Ruf noted that the Council wants to fund pilot programs on training to hire PWD, as well as funding coding academics and robotics skills for those who can't afford it, and gathering data on local refugees with disabilities. Arizona is seventh in the nation to receive the highest number of refugees. About 35 percent need medical attention within first 4-6 weeks. For many of these populations, speaking up about disabilities is taboo, as they may have spent years seeking asylum in the U.S. The Council also wants to understand how well disability and refugee services work together, and where there are gaps in service. Not even the Department of Homeland Security, with all its vetting process, is tracking this information.

Behavioral health falls under inclusion, an important topic, since Arizona ranks last in Mental Health (MH). Some populations are impacted more, such as kids in the foster system; first responders; MH provider network, and individuals with autism. It's worth noting that physical disabilities often mask mental health disorders. While many people fall through the cracks, many others are diagnosed with disability and mental health issues while in the prison system. In August 2017, Arizona's adult state correction inmate report indicates that more than one in four (27.9 percent) inmates requires on-going mental health treatment. Among juveniles incarcerated in August 2017, 29.4 percent received mental health visits, and 30.6 percent were enrolled in special education. The Council plans on boosting relationships with agencies that work with the homeless populations who have mental health issues.

Among those arrested in a MH crisis, 71 percent of those who were jailed reported that they were not asked about their MH, or that no MH assistance was provided. Officers reported that they were almost three times more likely to release someone in crisis, or almost twice as likely take them to a mental health agency than to go to jail.

Arizona has the highest rate of PWD living at home, which saves cities a lot of money, but the concern is where the individuals goes when parents age. Many options, such as group homes, Individually Designed Living Arrangements (IDLA), and host homes are available.

Ms. Crane expressed that the Council publishes material and educates on housing options; Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) Accounts, which provide tax-advantaged

contributions up to \$14,000 per year for PWD and their families; guardianships; and how to plan ahead. The Council is funding the Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (UCEDD) on workshops for parents. A manual in Spanish will also be available early next year.

Ms. Ruf emphasized that while self-advocacy is important, the Council also seeks to partner with nonprofit boards, city councils, parks and recreation commissions, businesses and other groups that could use help, or who have great ideas on working with PWD, and how to serve them better. The Council could fund innovative ideas, which can change communities. She cited the example of the Show Low councilmember who was influenced city officials to create a Disability Advisory Council around transportation. The first meeting just took place, with coordination with other towns in the vicinity. The Council is working to establish an ADA coordinator with 91 cities statewide, and help to set up a Disability Commission. The best change happens at the local level, and the more organic the movement is, the better.

HSTC members can help by ensuring that programs, staff, and leadership positions are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities. They can also sign up for the Council's mailing list for grant solicitation alerts, and identify ways to collaborate with Council.

Ms. Crane indicated that the Council wants to focus and collaborate on funding needs for the PWD community, such as employment, identifying training programs for employment, first responder training, behavioral health training, and advocacy skills for high schoolers. The program will expand to include the Latino and Native American communities. The Council funds about \$1.3 million dollars in yearly projects through competitive solicitations, and inter-service between state, city agencies, and universities.

5. SSBG SFY 2019 Update

Brandee Mead, MAG, indicated that Rodney Huenemann, DES, confirmed that funding amounts will be received by MAG staff for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) allocation recommendations by early November, at the latest. Flat funding is expected, with a possible increase in funding. Information will be shared with members once received.

Draft recommendations are expected by mid-January, which is similar to last year's process. Presenters will be invited to the next HSTC meeting to discuss the various areas with funding needs.

6. 2017 Human Services Conference

Ms. Mead noted that the date for the Human Services Conference is slated for November 30, and that more information would be emailed to members soon. Suzanne Pfister, Vitalyst Foundation, will provide opening remarks on the Year Of Healthy Communities (YOHC), and the progress that has been accomplished. Great presenters for other great workshops have been confirmed.

7. 2017 Heat Relief Network Summary

Ms. Mead thanked partners for their participation in the Heat Relief Network (HRN) by setting up hydration and collection stations, and refuge sites. The network has grown from 30

partners when efforts began in 2005. There are currently 116 collection points, and 160 hydration and refuge stations across the region. MAG staff has collaborated on the mapping efforts.

A survey will be sent to partners to gather information from partners on the number of people served, the number of bottled water handed out, and other resources that were distributed. This will be the first year that the effort will be quantified, and the information will help improve collaboration efforts. While regional efforts begin May 1, and end September 30, dates may differ from city to city. Efforts may be expanded, since it is still hot in October.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Plante noted the request for Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) to speak.

Ms. Mead will follow up on suggestion from the previous HSTC meeting, and expressed that a big increase in the number of homeless persons on the street has been observed. She invited members to participate in conversations on innovative solutions for reducing the number of homeless persons in the community. Continuum of Care (CoC) staff presented at yesterday's MAG Management Committee (MC), who are on board with solutions. Staff will present at the MAG Regional Council (RC) meeting on October 20 to generate ideas.

Ms. Pearson expressed it would be good for staff to be part of the conversation, so they can in turn provide talking points to their respective city manager's offices. Peoria has a presentation on crisis intervention in conjunction with the homeless outreach that they would be willing share with other police departments. The strategy has helped reduce numbers in the city.

Ms. Mead noted that a survey on reducing homelessness would be sent to cities and towns, which will culminate in a best practices report that would be sent by next week to those interested in receiving technical assistance in implementing that project.

9. Comments from the Committee

Committee members were given the opportunity to share comments or information related to community events. No comments were made.

Adjourn

There being no further business, vice Chair Plante adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017.