

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Chair
Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, 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
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Jeff Dean for Jim Knaut, Area Agency on
Aging
*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
*Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun
United Way
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council
*Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
*Carl Morgan, Town of Gilbert
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

+Jennifer O'Connor, PAG
+Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye
Parrish Spisz, City of Goodyear
Mike Woodard, City of Surprise
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix
Jerlene Malone, City of Phoenix

Rachel Brito, MAG
Rachael Gibb, 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 1:00 p.m. She informed the Committee Amy St. Peter, MAG would join the meeting at a later time. Ms. St. Peter was attending a MAG Management Committee meeting.

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 July 8, 2010 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the July 8, 2010, meeting minutes. Carol Sherer, Arizona Department of Economic Security, made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Sheffield moved ahead to agenda item number five.

4. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendations

This item was taken out of order.

Historically, one of the main functions of HSTC has been to develop allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) through a partnership with DES. Chair Sheffield advised earlier in the year, the funding that supported this planning process was eliminated for all Councils of Governments in Arizona. At that time, MAG thanked the Department of Economic Security (DES) for the 30 years of support and offered assistance in the future. Since then, a letter from DES has been received inviting MAG to continue serving as an “informal conduit for local input” regarding the SSBG allocations.

Chair Sheffield advised the SSBG Coordinator at DES was invited to attend the meeting but had declined. She invited Ms. St. Peter to offer a report and discuss next steps and also introduced Jennifer O’Connor, Pima Association of Governments, to share her perspective and PAG’s plans to address SSBG. Ms. St. Peter advised DES was contacted to further discuss the invitation for MAG to continue developing the SSBG recommendations. She noted MAG would have flexibility in the process and advised other Councils of Government had also been contacted to gain their perspective. Ms. O’Conner was asked to share PAG’s perspective. She acknowledged DES’ request stating PAG sees value in having input in how funding is allocated in the PAG region.

Ms. St. Peter provided a brief summary of the Social Services Block Grant planning process. She advised the Committee develops fact sheets to review the current status in four key areas: Elderly; Persons with Disabilities; Persons with Developmental Disabilities; and Adults, Families, and Children. Committee members complete a ranking of the services funded with locally planned SSBG funds. The allocation recommendations are developed by applying a formula derived from the service ranking results. . The Committee votes to recommend the SSBG allocations to the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee and Management Committee before being presented to Regional Council for approval. She noted some of the other councils of governments (COGs) intend to continue involvement in SSBG recommendations to ensure money continues to be allocated for services. She advised DES has indicated they will continue to fund services identified in the past. Other COGs see value in this process.

Ms. St. Peter thanked DES for the opportunity and has indicated continued involvement to some degree. She clarified MAG is covered by its own liability insurance noting the Committee and its members would not be held liable for making recommendations. Ms. St. Peter asked for input from the Committee on the process to develop the allocation recommendations. She suggested an alternative to developing fact sheets may be to request updates from Committee members. Doing so would allow the process to move forward in a timely fashion. Ms. St. Peter advised DES has requested input be provided by March.

Chair Sheffield clarified the Committee is being asked to recommend approval of the process to develop FY 2012 service allocation recommendations for locally planned SSBG funding. Ms. St. Peter confirmed noting HSTC's recommendation would be presented to the Human Services Coordinating Committee at the October meeting. Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, recommended moving forward with a condensed version of the process. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, Vice Chair, asked how much funding is being allocated. Additionally, he asked if the Committee has the ability to recommend prior administrative costs, which are no longer applicable, be funneled back to agencies. Ms. St. Peter advised SSBG funds in the past have been \$4.1 million for planning. She confirmed MAG will continue to provide allocation recommendations as long as staff is able to do so. She indicated MAG is willing and wants to assist DES any way possible. Currently staff is able to perform this function, however, there may be a point in time when staff is no longer able to do so. Mr. Mathews asked if DES has the ability to reject allocation recommendations. Ms. St. Peter noted DES has asked for feedback and acknowledged they would use recommendations provided, however, it is their prerogative to implement the recommendations offered. Chair Sheffield moved to agenda item number seven.

5. Funding Reduction Impact Study

This item was taken out of order.

Chair Sheffield welcomed Rachael Gibb, MAG intern from ASU's CARE 3 program, to offer an update on the Funding Reduction Impact Study.

Ms. Gibbs said the Funding Reduction Study entailed collecting information from each city and town, including police and fire departments, as well as surveying members of the Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC). Key results of the study show that budget data reflects the hardest hit areas as youth programs, senior services, and transportation. Survey data reflects the hardest hit areas are people with low-incomes, seniors, and youth. Programs that were eliminated include youth programs, Senior Companion Program, and Senior Home Assistance.

Ms. Gibbs reported on programs that have received budget cuts to some degree and those areas that have not experienced cuts. Programs that were reduced include senior transportation, homeless services, and general service budgets. Effects of reductions include staff cuts, program cuts and general cuts. Ms. Gibbs noted 56.25 percent of agencies reported reduced services and/or programs, 37.5 percent of agencies reported reductions in staff, and 56.25 percent of agencies reported serving fewer clients. Local and state funding has been reduced the most. Temporary federal funds are being used to mitigate the effects of these reductions.

With regard to fire and police call data, emergency service calls did not increase. The calls decreased, with the exception of emergency medical service (EMS) calls, which remained relatively the same or increased. Cities and towns that do not provide

human services have comparatively higher percentages of increased fire department calls, and a lower rate of reduced police department calls. Ms. Gibbs noted all police calls decreased

Fire department calls increased and decreased in different areas but did not decrease as much as police department calls. Agencies that experienced a decrease in the number of EMS or miscellaneous calls still did not experience a large decrease in the total number of calls. Agencies that do not fund human services experienced comparatively higher increases in their total number of calls. Smaller agencies faced greater increases in calls than larger agencies. Ms. Gibbs advised, based on survey results, implications for action indicate agencies should apply for more federal funding and/or diversify their funding sources. Staff is overstretched meaning fewer staff sees fewer clients and fewer programs and resources result in staff spending more time trying to find assistance for each client.

Agencies may need to prioritize programs and cut lower priority services. Larger agencies may not yet be experiencing the severity of impacts that smaller agencies are experiencing. Ms. Gibbs recommended fire departments keep record of calls/incidents related to various human services areas (particularly EMS). She noted one limitation of the study is that it only represents a moment in time. Additional research will better illustrate the lagging impacts of funding reductions and the full effects if the temporary federal funding is not available.

Ms. Gibbs noted the recommendation to have police departments keep more detailed records of human services related calls. She suggested, based on survey results, it may be helpful to track EMS records. She said the greatest implication from the study is the need for continued research. Chair Sheffield summarized primary things found from the study and noted the need to continue gathering data. Mr. Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, Vice Chair, inquired about the decreased number of police service calls. Ms. Gibbs confirmed calls reduced significantly from 2009 to 2010 and, in general, departments reported a decrease in crime. Reasons for the decrease are uncertain.

Mr. Ludwick asked if the study made any reference to SB 1070 with regard to the decrease in number of calls for police service. Ms. Gibbs noted the data reflected FY08/09 and FY09/10, noting no reference to SB 1070. She advised a written report is forthcoming. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, acknowledged Ms. Gibbs for her work, noting it is a great tool. Chair Sheffield thanked Ms. Gibbs for the update and moved ahead to agenda item six.

6. Statement about Human Services Funding Reductions

Chair Sheffield advised she represented HSTC at the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee meeting in July. At that meeting, there was discussion about the funding reductions made to human services programs. Several HSCC members expressed concern about the impact these reductions would have on programs, people needing assistance, and the region. The Committee discussed the need to raise awareness about the impact of the funding reductions. They suggested

HSTC take the lead in drafting a statement for HSCC's review in October. The HSCC members would have an opportunity to make any changes before the statement is offered to the MAG Regional Council for approval the following month. The approved statement could then be released publicly and used to raise awareness.

Chair Sheffield asked Committee members to begin identifying the main message to be communicated, points to support the message, and the process to draft a statement. She suggested members volunteer either in person, email, or phone to work on the statement before the next HSTC meeting. The draft statement can then be on the agenda for action in preparation for the HSCC meeting in October. She clarified for Committee Members HSTC's recommendation would be presented to HSCC, then to Management Committee before final approval by Regional Council. Ms. Jonovich asked for clarification on whether the statement will reference state or federal funding and recommended working through the intergovernmental representatives. Chair Sheffield advised reductions addressed are primarily state funding. Mr. Mathews noted the primary audience could be the State Legislature.

Ms. St. Peter addressed the Committee, noting HSCC expressed concern over funding reductions and had made recommendations to address the issue through editorial boards and/or a press conference. MAG Regional Council would need to approve any type of advocacy efforts. HSCC discussed preparing a draft statement to address funding reductions primarily at the local level, but also at the state level. Ms. St. Peter noted the work completed by Rachael Gibb on the Funding Reduction Study could help to inform the process focusing on impact. Ms. St. Peter noted value in showing the impact of how services and people have been affected. The statement could be distributed to the general public, legislature and other audiences.

Mr. Matthews offered to draft a statement for the Committee's review and input in order to move this forward in a possibly more effective and timely manner. Chair Sheffield acknowledged Mr. Matthew's suggestion and accepted his offer to draft a statement for the Committee's review. She asked for further input from Committee members. Ms. Jonovich recommended working with MAG to obtain necessary data. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter noted data from Mr. Schmaltz' prior presentation may also be helpful. Committee members expressed agreement for Mr. Matthews to draft a statement for their review and input at the October meeting. Chair Sheffield moved to agenda item number four.

7. Sustainable Communities Grant

This item was taken out of order.

Chair Sheffield recalled MAG's efforts to coordinate an application to create a regional plan for sustainable development. She invited Ms. St. Peter to offer an update on the final application.

Ms. St. Peter advised the final application was submitted on August 19, 2010. She expressed gratitude to the Committee for their support in this effort. The purpose of the grant is to support the creation of regional plans over a three-year period.

Funding available through the grant is \$9 million. MAG has applied on behalf of the Sun Corridor.

Ms. St. Peter advised MAG was able to submit a strong proposal with the support of 120 different agencies. She expressed gratitude to Central Arizona Association of Governments, Pima Association of Governments, and all MAG member agencies. The support of each agency has allowed for a more competitive application and also brings benefit to the individual partners through preferred sustainability status. Preferred sustainability status allows members to receive benefits when applying for other federal funding sources. The application brought together \$21 million in leverage. Ms. St. Peter provided an overview of the six initiatives outlined in the grant application and applicable leverage.

HUD has indicated awards will be announced in October. MAG is waiting to learn the total number of applicants. Ms. St. Peter noted the Sun Corridor application is one of three mega-regions applying for funding. The impact is huge and will affect the entire State of Arizona. The two other mega-regions are Utah and Florida. Ms. St. Peter said there may be an opportunity to move forward with some of the initiatives regardless of whether or not funding is awarded. Chair Sheffield thanked Ms. St. Peter for her hard work and efforts on this process.

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. Recommendations included and update to the SSBG process and fact sheets.

9. Comments from the Committee

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

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.