

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, Chair
Janice Simpson for Christina Avila, City of Avondale
*Mary Berumen, City of Mesa
*Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
*Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye
+Patty Russell for Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
*Jessica Fierro, Town of Gilbert
*Janeen Gaskins, City of Surprise
*Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Tim Cole for Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County, Vice Chair
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way

Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council
+Leah Powell, City of Chandler
+Cindy Saverino, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Carol Sherer, Arizona Department of Economic Security/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Stephanie Small, City of Avondale

Rachel Brito, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

Chair Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. She recognized Jayson Matthews' participation on the Committee since 2007. Mr. Matthews will be taking a new position at United Food Bank and will no longer serve on the Committee. 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 October 11, 2012 HSTC Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the October 11, 2012, meeting minutes was requested. Carol Sherer, Department of Economic Security, motioned to approve the minutes. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Social Services Block Grant Target Group Fact Sheets

Chair Jonovich invited Amy St. Peter, MAG, to offer an overview of the updated fact sheets for the older adults; people with disabilities; people with developmental disabilities; and adults, families and children. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged everyone who contributed data to update the fact sheets. She advised the Committee has assisted the Department of Economic Security with developing the Social Services

Block Grant draft allocations for several years. The fact sheets serve as an important tool to inform the process and as well as the community. Ms. St. Peter advised some of the information represents data from last year and in other cases, data are still pending. It was noted that the annual street count was not conducted in 2012. Therefore data presented in the fact sheets is from the previous year's results.

Chair Jonovich requested any questions and/or comments from the Committee. Carol Sherer, DES, recommended once the process has been completed for this year a small work group should convene for the purpose of reviewing the documents' format. She noted the importance of ensuring consistency across the different documents and the importance of reporting the required information in a consistent format.

It was agreed consistent data allows for better comparisons. However, Ms. St. Peter noted that although the format is consistent, the use of different data sources is still required. For example the definition for people with developmental disabilities has been provided by the legislature; therefore, census data cannot be used to report on this target group. Additionally, data for homelessness is also obtained from different sources. She welcomed input on how to make the format more consistent.

Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, stressed the importance of maintaining vigilance and sharing information with each other given the potential for additional funding reductions. Ms. St. Peter advised staff has been notified that revised allocations may need to be developed pending further funding reductions. Chair Jonovich called for a motion. Ms. Sherer made a motion to approve the updated Social Services block Grant target group fact sheets. Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Social Services Block Grant Service Ranking

Chair Jonovich invited Ms. St. Peter to lead the Committee in discussion to set parameters for conducting the SSBG ranking exercise. Ms. St. Peter provided a brief overview of the service ranking exercise conducted to help develop SSBG allocation recommendations. Services are ranked by the Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC), Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC), and the broader community to determine the rank for the various services.

A formula is used to place those services in one of five categories. The highest ranked services receives a 20 percent increase, the next highest would receive a 10 percent increase, the third highest would be held harmless, the fourth would receive a 10 percent decrease and the final group would receive a 20 percent decrease. This process is aimed at ensuring that funding is being allocated to the services most in need.

Ms. St. Peter advised the form has been updated for the current year. Two questions remain. 1) Does the Committee prefer to rank services attached to the target groups, as has been done in the past, or not attached to a target group and 2) How to balance community input. It was noted the number of community rankings completed is

equal to or sometimes surpasses the number of rankings received from HSCC and HSTC combined. Committee members overall represent several different target groups while responses from community members tend to be very specialized. This can unintentionally skew the results thereby resulting in the need to balance community input with committee input.

Mr. MacFarlane noted it is more helpful to rank the services attached to a target group. Other committee members agreed. Ms. Lopez-Powell expressed concern over whether or not target groups will receive the right amount of funding and the ability to move funding across target groups if needed. Ms. St. Peter clarified the funding is allocated to each individual service rather than the target group as a whole. There was interest in obtaining a new perspective on the service ranking exercise. A recommendation was made to incorporating input from social work students or other groups that can provide a different perspective. However, it was noted that few social work students take classes or hear lectures on issues such as developmental disabilities and as such, they may not understand the needs of that group or how they will be affected by funding reductions.

Mr. MacFarlane commented the existing flaw is that Committee rankings are blended in with those of the community and every vote counts equally. He suggested one method to correct this may be to have the priority ranking based on one-third (1/3) vote each for the Committee input, public input, and input from elected officials. Average scores can be calculated for each of the three groups for each service listed. This would also adjust the process to accommodate a limited number of responses from the Committee members and a way to meaningfully integrate feedback from the public. Mr. MacFarlane suggested this appears to be a balanced approach that could easily be implemented.

Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging, expressed his endorsement of the recommendation made. He addressed the issue faced last year when seeking public input and stressed the need to have a balanced approach. He suggested the recommendation would be a good method to achieve balance. Ms. Lopez-Powell advised the service ranking exercise may potentially be included in the Chief Professional Office mailing distributed to more than 100 agencies by the United Way. Ms. Sherer expressed her agreement with the recommendation noting it would be helpful to use this process.

Janice Simpson, City of Avondale, expressed agreement for a weighted concept whether in equal amounts, or if more weight is given to the Committee with appropriate justification. She suggested the other consideration is to prioritizing target groups versus case management and inquired whether there is a mechanism for weighting blocks of target groups. Chair Jonovich addressed the Committee noting the need to rethink the one-third percent applied to each group. She noted the amount of time and effort the Committee puts forth on this process. She recommended the Committee input for both HSTC and HSCC be given two-thirds (2/3) the vote and the

public input receive one-third (1/3) the vote. Ms. St. Peter noted this would accommodate a limited number of responses from HSCC.

Ms. Simpson inquired about the process used in previous years and whether the overall intent has been to rank the services first or to start with the target groups and determine an appropriate amount given the level of need by subpopulation. Ms. St. Peter advised the funding is based on each service rather than by target group generally. Charts are distributed so Committee members can track changes in funding by target group in order to have a comprehensive understanding of changes from one year to the next. Ms. St. Peter advised a trend chart can be developed as this will be the fourth year using this process. She noted as an example that Developmental Disabilities or Disabilities receives more reductions, Adults, Families and Children tends to trend up, and Elderly is often held harmless. She noted results could differ from one year to the next. She emphasized the example was given to illustrate trends and not to advocate for any particular change.

Mr. Knaut inquired whether this process has to be completed every year. Ms. St. Peter noted the agency has been asked by DES to do this every year, however, the agency has the option to decline or recommend a different process from one year to the next. Ms. Sherer noted certain services continue to receive funding, however, the question has not been raised as to whether or not those particular services are actually where the funding is needed. She suggested it is important to take into consideration other services that are being reduced to determine what need exists. Ms. St. Peter advised the Committee will review the results of the service ranking exercise in December. She welcomed input from the Committee on new services that may need to be added to the service list for funding consideration.

Chair Jonovich requested a motion to recommend the following parameters: rank individual services by target group; and weight responses to the ranking exercise with two-thirds for HSTC and HSCC Committee members and one-third for responses received from the public. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, motioned to approve the parameters for the Social Services Block Grant Service Ranking Exercise. Ms. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Knaut inquired how the survey will be distributed. Ms. St. Peter requested input for any new services to be provided to staff by the following morning. The ranking exercise will then be distributed electronically with a deadline of November 30th. Committee members are encouraged to forward the ranking exercise to a wide range of community partners. The Committee briefly discussed concern over high response rates based on the distribution. It was noted the agreed upon assignment of two-thirds weight for the Committee and one-third for the public will resolve any issues. The importance of community input was stressed.

6. Update on Regional Planning Activities

Chair Jonovich invited Ms. St. Peter to provide an update on the City Leaders Institute on Aging in Place and a new grant awarded to the region. Chair Jonovich excused herself from the meeting.

Ms. St. Peter announced the region has received a grant from the Pfizer Foundation and Grantmakers in Aging to participate in the Enhancing Age-Friendly Cities Initiative. This is one of five regions from across the country participating in this opportunity. The grant proposal included support for planning activities and preparing at least three sites to implement aging in place models. The sites under consideration include City of Phoenix, Tempe and the Northwest Valley. The model being considered is the Village Model. The committee is researching this model and what adaptations may be needed. The grant also includes another aging conference such as the Planning for the Next 100 Years event that was held this past February. The next conference is tentatively being planned for spring 2013.

Other activities include designing a website for people aged 55-70 years. These individuals tend to be more tech savvy and do not go to senior centers as often. An outreach video will also be developed. Staff is seeking input and ideas for different people, places, or projects to feature in the outreach video.

The grant itself is for \$150,000 and has a six-month aggressive timeline. Match commitments from CLI partners have raised the total project budget to \$264,000. Ms. St. Peter expressed gratitude to the City of Phoenix, Tempe Community Council, Area Agency on Aging, Chicanos por la Causa, Benevilla, and Duet. Additional matching funds from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust are pending.

The MAG Executive Committee meeting agenda will include an item to accept the funding on November 19th. The work proposed for the grant is closely aligned with the City Leaders Institute on Aging in Place. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged everyone for assisting in these efforts.

7. 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.

8. Comments from the Committee

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

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.