

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise
Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
*Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
Patti Evans, City of Goodyear
*Stefanie Garcia, City of Chandler
*Paige Garrett, Quality of Life
Community Services, Inc
Laura Guild, DES/CPIP
*Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of
Phoenix
CJ O'Connor for Jim Knaut, Area Agency
on Aging
*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
*Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun
United Way
Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
*Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community
Council
+Joy McClain, City of Tolleson

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice
Chair
+Carol Sherer, DES/DDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Eva Celaya, San Lucy District
Donna Crews, Advocates for the Disabled
+Dan Lundberg,
Bill O'Brien Maricopa Workforce
Barb Rorwick, Maricopa Workforce
Development
Diane Toussaint, DES/DAAS
Marilyn Zepeda, UCP of AZ

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

Vice Chair Sylvia Sheffield called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Committee.

Mr. Bill O'Brien, Maricopa Workforce Connections, addressed the Committee regarding funding opportunities for youth programs. He clarified Maricopa Workforce Connections differs from Phoenix Workforce. He said Maricopa Workforce Connections receives three funding streams from the Department of Labor to carry out youth programs. In anticipation of receiving one-time funds from the stimulus package, Maricopa Workforce Connections is reaching out to cities and

towns, excluding Phoenix, to see what youth programs have been cut due to funding. He noted that Phoenix will be receiving stimulus funds directly. Mr. O'Brien said they want to provide assistance to fund some of the youth programs that otherwise would be cut or to hire youth to fill positions that otherwise would not be filled. He said this would offer teens a great learning opportunity.

Mr. O'Brien said there are parameters and restrictions placed on use of the funds such as requiring that eligible youth have access to programs through Workforce Connections and programs be made available to youth facing barriers. Mr. O'Brien said most youth in their programs come from modest incomes and would qualify under the State's poverty guidelines. For further information, please contact Mr. Bill O'Brien, Contract Administrative Supervisor, at Maricopa Workforce Connections, 234 N Central Ave, Ste 3201, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Tel: 602-506-4206 E-Mail: obrienw@mail.maricopa.gov

3. Approval of January 8, 2009 HSTC Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the January 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Carol Sherer, Arizona Department of Economic Security, made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Nathan Pryor, MAG Senior Policy Planner, to provide an update on legislative activity at the State and Federal levels.

Mr. Pryor provided a brief update on the following handouts:

- MAG Related Bills, Human Services, Bill Summary
- FY 2009 Budget Revisions Plan as Enacted
- FY 2009 Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Supplemental

He said the \$1.6 billion dollar budget fix for SFY09 was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Brewer. Revisions to the budget are available in the handouts provided. He added the FY 2010 deficit is estimated to be up to \$3 billion which will require reductions to double. Mr. Pryor said the Senate is withholding moving bills forward until discussions on the FY 2010 budget are underway.

Mr. Pryor said the House passed their version of the American Economic Recovery Reinvestment Act within the last two weeks and the Senate passed their version earlier this week. The bill has yet to be filed as the final vote is pending. Mr. Pryor added the numbers provided on the handout have changed and are not the most current.

Mr. Pryor gave a brief snapshot of bills that have been enacted including updates on tax proposals for individuals and couples, first-time homebuyer tax credits, and car buying tax credits. He said he will continue to monitor legislation. In response to

questions about who to contact in regard to funding, Mr. Pryor said agencies should continue to contact the agency they normally receive funding from.

Paul Ludwick, City of Scottsdale, asked for an update on the economic stimulus requests and fund availability in response to specific agencies' requests. Mr. Pryor said MAG has been compiling a list of projects submitted by member agencies in preparation for this legislation. He said MAG is focused on the transportation portion of the package, however, a number of cities and towns have submitted project lists for water, waste water and other projects. In every case the list of projects will go back to the respective State and Federal agencies that normally administer the funds to be processed as part of the stimulus package.

5. 2009 MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, to present the draft 2009 MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan. He reminded Committee members that HSTC is responsible for reviewing activities not covered by the Continuum of Care on Homelessness or the Regional Domestic Violence Council.

Ms. Gaisthea said MAG updates the plan yearly although they are not required to do so. She thanked the City of Phoenix for their continued financial support and all those involved and who provided input and feedback for the plan update. She said human services transportation stakeholders reviewed the draft plan and had no major changes.

Ms. Gaisthea gave a brief summary of the plan. She said the Transportation Ambassador Program (TAP) targeting older adults, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes has been very successful. She acknowledged the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for their support of the program.

Ms. Gaisthea said the plan highlights coordination efforts in the Town of Wickenburg. The plan also presents new strategies developed with input from stakeholders to address gaps. She said the new goals are consistent with the following United We Ride goals.

- Providing more rides for the targeted population(s) for the same or fewer resources
- Simplify customer access to transportation
- Increase customer satisfaction

Ms. Gaisthea said the goal of the new strategy is to maximize capacity of the current system. She noted the item is on the agenda for action.

Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix, Human Services Department, said she found the plan to be comprehensive and the City of Phoenix is proud to be a cosponsor of the plan. She said the Transportation Ambassador Program is very important to teach older adults how to use public transportation. This program is a valuable tool that

enhances the quality of life and offers flexibility. Ms. Marshall expressed her support for the plan. CJ O'Connor, Area Agency on Aging, expressed her compliments. She said the plan was very well written and put together. Ms. O'Connor had minor editorial suggestions on formatting which she offered to discuss with Ms. Gaisthea after the meeting.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked for a motion to recommend approval of the MAG 2009 Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update. Ms. Marshall motioned to recommend approval of the plan. Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Harris-Morgan echoed the prior comments saying the plan is well written. He congratulated Ms. Gaisthea for a job well done.

Ms. Gaisthea provided a brief update on the 2009 Section 5310 application process which is now in progress. She said resource materials are available on the MAG Web site. A handout of the application schedule was also provided in the meeting materials. Section 5310 applications are due to MAG on February 23, 2009 by noon; late applications will not be accepted. Ms. Gaisthea noted her availability to provide technical assistance or to review application materials if needed. Ms. Gaisthea can be reached at (602) 254-6300 or (602) 452-5062.

6. Committee Membership

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked Committee members for their attendance and acknowledged this has been a busy time for everyone. He brought attention to the handout on membership attendance and said the goal is to ensure quorum at future meetings and to solicit suggestions or ideas regarding Committee membership.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, said the Committee manual, which were revised two years ago, states: *Members are expected to attend regularly. Members not attending three consecutive meetings without prior notification to the Chair of the HSTC may be asked to reconsider their ability to fulfill the responsibility of membership on the HSTC.*

Ms. St. Peter said a review of current membership is done on an annual basis. She said, for example, the Town of Buckeye no longer has a representative on the Committee. Another city has a standing conflict with the Committee's meeting time. Ms. St. Peter said the manual allows for all MAG member agencies to have a representative. She asked if the Committee would like any communities to be approached for representatives to serve on the Committee. The Committee did not note any.

Chair Harris-Morgan said he will follow-up with Committee members who have not attended on a regular basis. Patti Evans, City of Goodyear, offered to provide transportation to the Committee meetings for representatives from Buckeye. She said traveling to the meetings will become harder, resulting in increased audio conferences. Ms. St. Peter encouraged Committee members to inform MAG of

anything that can be done to make it easier for members to attend the meetings. She said at some point, the Committee may want to consider meeting every other month.

7. Development of the MAG Human Services Summit Progress Report

In June 2007, MAG facilitated a Human Services Summit to explore projects that would maximize current resources to address relevant issues. Program participants identified eight different projects to help improve the activities in the area of human services. Ms. St. Peter said HSTC requested that a progress report of the projects be developed for the FY09 MAG Unified Planning Work Program.

Ms. St. Peter gave a brief update on the progress of each project. She also invited Committee members to provide input on progress made in each area, the need for the project, and next steps. Ms. St. Peter said the contact name and agency listed in the plan with each project does not indicate they are necessarily responsible for completing the project. It does indicate the listed agencies were willing to serve as a point of contact for the project. The projects include:

- *Judges Making a Difference*: Ms. St. Peter reported a lot of progress was made on this project including domestic violence training for Judges prior to printing of the plan. She thanked the Arizona Supreme Court for their leadership in this area.
- *Juvenile Crime Reduction Campaign*: Progress of this project is unknown.
- *Developmental Disabilities and Aging Integration Project*: Ms. Sherer reported DES has worked with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to integrate some of the existing programs. She has delivered a number of trainings and presentations to AAA staff. She noted that funding will be an issue for more intensive activities in the future. Ms. Sherer said there is still a need to provide resources and to better integrate people with developmental disabilities into programs serving older adults.
- *Human Services Unification Project*: Ms. St. Peter reported Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO) is very well positioned to undertake this action and they are pursuing an agenda. Ms. St. Peter will request further information from PAFCO.
- *Housing and Aging Summit and Development of a Blue Ribbon Committee*: MAG held a housing and transportation conference in April 2008. The conference brought in national and local leaders to talk about transportation and housing and was attended by over 300 people. In addition, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust has launched an initiative to identify different ways to engage older adults in employment and volunteer opportunities. The initiative is called Experience Matters and a leadership team serves as the blue ribbon committee proposed by summit participants.

- *Home Safe Campaign:* Ms. St. Peter said the goal of this project was to deliver training to domestic violence staff about housing rights and financial stability. Status of the project is unknown.
- *Affordable Housing and Transportation Civic Education Campaign:* Ms. St. Peter said three different agencies have taken on facets of this project. The Arizona Department of Housing featured a presentation at their conference last year. The Arizona Community Foundation recently completed a housing and transportation survey of employers. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) has developed a campaign as well.
- *Maintaining Housing and Self-Sufficiency:* Ms. St. Peter reported Magellan Health Services of Arizona has taken on this project. The user guide to services is anticipated in March 2009.

Ms. St. Peter asked anyone having more information on these goals to provide her with an update for the progress report. A draft of the progress report will be prepared for the March HSTC meeting. Revisions will be made after the Committee's review. The second draft will be presented for action at the April HSTC and HSCC meetings and the report will be offered to Regional Council for approval in May. Any Committee members wanting to assist may contact Ms. St. Peter. Ms. Evan recommended Ms. St. Peter contact the Maricopa County Community Development Department regarding funds for housing issues being directly funneled to persons with variable abilities as it may be applicable to the list of projects.

8. Update on the FY 2010 MAG Regional Human Services Plan

Ms. St. Peter presented a copy of the MAG Regional Human Services Plan for FY 2010. She thanked Committee members and all those involved for their assistance and feedback. Ms. St. Peter reported no major changes were recommended by the six Committee member readers and noted that minor grammatical changes were made. She said the plan was recommended for approval by the Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) and most recently by the Management Committee. It will now be submitted to the Regional Council at the end of the month for final approval.

Ms. Evans expressed her appreciation for the amount of work put into the document in light of all the other work being done at MAG. She said it was beneficial to go through the plan as she has not been a Committee member very long.

Ms. St. Peter said MAG would like to continue preparing a plan each year by starting research during the summer months and having a draft by fall. The goal would be to submit the plan and Social Service Block Grand recommendations for approval by the Regional Council at the same time in upcoming years.

9. Comments from the Committee

Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, reported the Community Action Programs are receiving stimulus utility assistance funds from the County. Funds are expected to be available by the end of the month. Additional information will be provided on various pre-screening days that are scheduled throughout the East and West valley. She noted utility assistance will not be available for shut off notices or deposits. Income requirements have been expanded to 200 percent of poverty level to help a broader range of families. Funds will need to be spent by mid-June. Ms. McClain stressed the need to spend all the funds within this timeframe to show the federal government that assistance is needed in this region.

Ms. Sheffield said the Carefirst Avondale Resource Center is moving along quickly. A grand opening event will be planned for April. She announced that four agencies will begin co-locating at the center beginning in March. The City of Avondale has recently hired a Social Services Coordinator. By the end of the year, they hope to have three full time staff.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.