

Human Services Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2007

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	Present	Michael Kwon	Excused
Colonel Marion Barnwell	Excused	Herk Latimer	Present
Richard P. Berger	Present	Molly C. Lynch	Excused
Robert L. Faherty	Present	Laura I. McDowall	Present
Donna J. Fleming	Present	Stephanie Mensh	Present
Baba Freeman	Excused	John Niemiec	Excused
Robert Gaudian	Present	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	Excused
Richard Gonzalez	Excused	J. Jay Volkert	Present
Tom Grodek	Present	Marnie Wightman	Excused
Bill Kogler	Present	Henry Wulf	Present

Staff:	
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive	Present
Ken Disselkoen, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Excused
Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present
Ken Garnes, Department of Administration for Human Services	Present
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services	Present
Marie Custode, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present

Guests: Marlene Blum, Kenneth Parker, Karen Hecker, Kerrie Wilson, Pam Michell, Judith Falkenrath

Other Attendees: Marijke Hannam, Jerry Kieffer, Anne Goldstein, Dana Paige, Judith Rosen, JoAnne Jorgenson, Bill Macmillan

Call to order 7:30 - 7:40 PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. He noted that the Council had already received several responses to their requests from presenters on Monday March 12, 2007. See written responses entitled "Child Care Assistance and Referral Program Information Sheet", "SACC Wait List Statistics", "Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court: Court Services", and a letter from Mary Ann Beall of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

FY 2008 Budget Review – Human Services Council Budget Testimony

Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB) – Marlene Blum

7:40 – 7:55 PM

Marlene Blum presented the attached summary entitled “Health Care Advisory Board: Presentation to the Human Services Council”. The document reflects concerns and issues but the actual positions have not yet been voted upon.

Questions

1. Henry Wulf expressed appreciation for the return on investment section.
2. Laura McDowall – What is the scope/magnitude of the increasing demand for bio-preparedness and how is it funded? Response: Since 2002, it has been a major focus for about 1/3 of HD staff. The county funded 4 positions in emergency planning, the federal government funded 2 positions (epidemiology & emergency planning), a grant began the funding for the Medical Reserve Corps (currently 3400 active participants) but the county assumed the cost of 2 staff positions. There are also 4 county-funded limited term pandemic flu positions & Dr. Gloria spends about 60% of her time on this issue.
3. Henry Wulf requested a summary of the personnel costs from JoAnne Jorgenson. She will provide the summary but estimated that there is 110 staff in emergency personnel.
4. Kevin Bell – How intensive is the effort to address the shortage of nurses? Response: There is a national shortage which requires \$\$ to address. A nurse recruiter position has been created and there is regional collaboration to address the issue. Job fairs, hiring bonuses and referral bonuses are being offered. A model program has been implemented which teaches nurses public health in 6 months instead of 1 year.
5. Laura McDowall – What role does the county play in ensuring that raw food (such as spinach) is safe? Response: The role of the county is to disseminate information if there is a recall.
6. Tom Grodek – It does not appear that the HCAB is specifically requesting additional dollars? Response: There have been no cuts, we are pleased with the increases and we wanted to take this opportunity to discuss emerging needs. There may be future requests in these areas for money.

Alliance for Human Services – Marlene Blum

7:55 – 8:05 PM

Marlene Blum presented the attached summary entitled “Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services: Statement to the Human Services Council on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget”.

Questions

1. Jay Volkert – Can the Taxi Access Program only be sued for certain types of trips? Response: It can be used for many types of trips.

2. Tom Grodek – Is the AHS asking for a specific dollar amount? Response: There is not a specific monetary request, but the Alliance has highlighted examples of unmet needs.
3. Robert Gaudian – What are the qualifications for the Taxi Access Program? Response: There are income limits.
4. Stephanie Mensh – Is the Health Department being exempted from the personnel cuts given the challenges hiring nurses? Response: There are no exceptions to the 2% personnel budget cuts.
5. Kevin Bell – The Medical Respite Pilot Program was recommended by 2 groups – Where is this request for the expansion from 1 to 2 positions (from 1 to 2 shelters)? Response: The recommendation went to the HCAB which did not support it. There was a minority report in support of the recommendation. Kevin requested a copy of all the position letters.

Head Start Parent Policy Council – Kenneth Parker

8:05 – 8:25 PM

Kenneth Parker presented the attached letter in support of Head Start and the Child Care Assistance and Referral Program.

Questions

1. Laura McDowall thanked him for his involvement and commented on the success of the program.

Child Care Advisory Council – Karen Hecker

8:25 – 8:35 PM

Karen Hecker presented the attached letter in support of maintaining funding for the child care subsidy program at \$35 million dollars.

Questions

1. no questions

Save Our Child Care – Kerrie Wilson

8:35 – 8:45 PM

Kerrie Wilson presented the attached “Statement to the Human Services Council regarding funding for child care fee system”. She requested that funding be restored to the FY 2007 level of \$42 million. She indicated that a parental campaign will continue advocacy efforts in the state legislature. She provided a packet of supporting information.

Questions

1. Laura McDowall noted that average Education/Nursing salaries are at a level that would require a subsidy for child care.
2. Henry Wulf observed the difference between household and individual incomes.

Community Council on Homelessness – Pam Michell

8:45 – 9:00 PM

Pamela Michell presented a testimony in support of initiatives to end homelessness.

Questions

1. Jay Volkert – What would it take to make SRO's a sustainable approach?
Response: The market cannot do it naturally because the economics are difficult. 36% of an already small income is not much.

ACCA Child Development Center – Judith Falkenrath

9:00 – 9:15 PM

Judith Falkenrath presented a letter in support of subsidized child care.

Questions

1. Herk Latimer – What is the cost to the county for ACCA? Response: The answer is complicated because the subsidy follows the child. Each child's subsidy is based on a sliding scale fee. The money being requested is not specifically for ACCA, but rather for sustaining the funding of the program. Many child care centers rely on community support to leverage tax dollars. The largest portion of ACCA's funding is from the Office for Children, then from family fees, grants, and community groups and churches.

FY2008 HSC Budget Process

9:15 – 9:25 PM

The Council requested that Dana Paige present the "Child Care Assistance and Referral Program Information Sheet" as a follow up to the testimony provided on Monday, March 12, 2007.

Questions

1. Kevin Bell – Is it true that in the past we tried to reduce the waiting list, but when program cuts were made, we were unable to provide any other children with the subsidy? Response: There was no waiting list before the cuts began 18 months ago.
2. Robert Gaudian – Do we have data to demonstrate what happens to these kids and their families? Are there any studies about those parents who leave subsidized child care? Response: Without a subsidy, families will turn to substandard care options or unstable child care situations. Families are most likely to leave subsidized child care when a single parent gets married and household income rises. In other cases, the family fees rise over time as family income rises.
3. Kevin Bell – How many households in Fairfax County are living in poverty? Response: Chip Gertzog offered to obtain that data. Kevin suggested speaking to

the Board in terms of a half penny of the tax rate to return this program to status quo.

4. Tom Grodek – Even if \$13 million is restored, the waiting list will not be eliminated? Was the waitlist created by both cuts and an increasing need trend?
Response: No, it would restore the previous levels of service to 2000 children. There is an increased need for the subsidy, but the more money that is invested in childcare, the less that is spent on education later.

Ron McDevitt will draft HSC Budget Testimony likely by Monday 3/19/07. On Wednesday 3/21/07 the Council will discuss the draft and the writing committee will make revisions. The meeting scheduled for 3/28/07 may not be necessary if the document can be commented on, revised, and approved by email.

Other Business

9:25 – 9:30 PM

Approval of minutes from last two meetings was moved and approved.

Adjournment 9:30 PM