

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, October 15, 2007
Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 & 3

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

Staff:	
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive	Present
Ken Disselkoen, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present
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: Tony Griffin, County Executive

Other Attendees: JoAnne Jorgenson, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Marlene Blum, Juani Diaz, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Kieffer

Call to order 7:30 - 7:45 PM

Kevin Bell called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. He announced the death of Clara Cotner, who was the spouse of a former HSC member, Melvin Cotner.

Presentation and Discussion Items

Update of FY 2009 Budget and FY 2010 Outlook – Tony Griffin, County Executive
7:45 – 8:40 PM

Mr. Griffin shared information about the revenue forecast for FY 2009 and the preliminary budget outlook for FY 2010. Key points included the following:

- Calling for zero growth level for FY 2009 budget.
- Fairfax County School Board will not receive an increase for FY 2009 over the FY 2008 budget.
- Residential real estate assessments are forecast to be 2.5% below prior year assessment on average, with the largest decrease in town home and condominium values.
- Recordation tax revenue is down significantly because it is in direct relation to the downturn in the housing market.
- Projections for tax revenues for commercial real estate are 6% or less into FY 2009 as compared to 13% FY 2008, due to lower occupancy rates.

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- County agencies will reduce personnel services by another 2% in FY 2009.
- Conducting a county-wide review of Lines of Business (LOB) to assist the Board of Supervisors in its transition in January. The second phase of LOBS will be for FY 2010 to help prioritize programs.
- There is likely to be a deficit in FY 2009, and FY 2010 will likely require either major reductions and/or a tax rate increase.
- The forecast is that the budget shortfall will bottom out in FY 2010 and begin to bounce back.

Questions and Answers:

Laura McDowall: What will be the impact of state budget reductions on local schools?

Response: Most other Virginia counties have raised their real estate tax rates. Prince William County and Loudoun County are taking a greater hit on real estate (14% and 10% respectively).

Kevin Bell: How this affect penny for affordable housing?

Response: Do not expect this to be impacted.

Henry Wulf: What will be the impact of loss of federal dollars?

Response: There will not be a significant impact, since less than 1% of county budget is federal funds. Verdia indicated that Medicaid and CSA funding for providers will be a big concern.

Henry Wulf: How will the retirement of baby boomers affect the schools and the county? Is there a budgetary impact?

Response: I cannot respond for the schools, but 30% of county employees are eligible to retire in the next 5 years. There are workforce planning and succession planning efforts in place to identify the next generation of employees and supervisors. There have been some changes in the retirement rules to allow retired staff to continue in different capacities. Early retirement has been explored, but seems to cost additional money as is not expected to be recommended.

Kevin Bell: Are you required to be transparent about retirement costs?

Response: Yes, GASB 45 requires that we quantify liability in regards to pensions.

Kevin Bell: What is the likely impact on senior services?

Response: Verdia indicated that much of the money spent on senior services is not from local budgets, but long term care federally funded programs.

Kevin Bell: Will you suggest to the school board that they look at LOBS?

Response: I'd be happy to suggest it.

John Byers: What is the plan to educate the general public about the FY 2010 budget?

Response: Each year we publish budget guidelines. I will be meeting with all the Boards Authorities and Commissions. We are surprised we haven't heard more from PTA. More may be done once we get the new Board.

Anticipating the Future - Fairfax 50+ - Action Plan 2007

8:40 – 8:45 PM

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The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Aging Committee has completed a planning document. A copy was passed around for viewing. Additional copies are available from the Commission on Aging by emailing www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Update on Lines of Business – Verdia Haywood, Deputy County Executive
8:45 – 9:15 PM

Verdia Haywood discussed that the LOBS exercise in FY 2009 will be an educational process for the new Board of Supervisors, and that major reductions in service levels are not anticipated. The LOBS will be officially released to the Board and the public in January. It is not recommended that the LOBS be used in the FY 2009 budget review process, but could inform the HSC. Unless there is an economic turnaround or tax rate increase, we will be looking at cuts in FY 2010. The following documents were referenced: Mr. Griffin's memorandum to the Senior Management Team entitled "Lines of Business Review", Agency kickoff power point presentation dated September 27, 2007 entitled "Lines of Business Review" and an excel spreadsheet containing the human services FY 2008 LOBS titles.

Kevin Bell requested that relevant links to LOBS information be posted on the web.

Henry Wulf: So the budget process this year will be no different?

Response: Right, the LOBS will just be additional information to help us to inform the public better.

Robert Gaudian pointed out that the presentations will be different because the council will not be hearing about increases, but rather maintaining existing investments. This could be a valuable opportunity to evaluate programs. Marlene Blum pointed out that unmet needs should still be indicated. Laura McDowall seconded this idea. In the past, the HSC has made recommendations regarding funding priorities to the Board of Supervisors.

It was requested that the LOBS be forwarded to the HSC as soon as they are available. Rather than having a broad review, Verdia will direct a selected review of certain LOBS that will help to inform HSC early of issues in a targeted presentation. Child care and CSA are already identified issues.

Other Business

9:15 – 9:20 PM

Approval of the minutes from September 17, 2007 meeting was motioned and approved.

Adjournment 9:20 PM

Staff Support Information:

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