

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2008
Pennino Building, Conference Room 206 A& B

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

Staff:	
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive	<i>Present</i>
Ken Disselkoen, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)	<i>Present</i>
Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)	<i>Present</i>
Ken Garnes, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)	<i>Present</i>
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)	<i>Present</i>
Michelle Gregory, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)	<i>Present</i>

Other Attendees: Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, JoAnne Jorgensen, Rosalyn Foroobar, Tom Crow, Marleen Blum, Jim Dedes, Judge Kimberly Daniel, and John Harold.

Call to order: 7:35 PM

Donna Fleming called the meeting to order. Deputy County Executive Verdia Haywood updated the Council about the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee meeting. The Human Services Committee agenda included three presentations; the Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Redesign, a presentation from Verdia Haywood regarding social reinvestment, and the Josiah H. Beeman Commission recommendations.

Juvenile Domestic Relations District Court Lines of Business Presentation

Chief Judge Kimberly Daniel and JDRDC Director Jim Dedes provided a general overview of the services and programs provided by JDRDC and then proceeded with a formal presentation.

Question and Answer

Priority 5 - Supervised Visitation/Supervised Exchange

Question: Tom Grodek – Can they call the police in advance if they suspect a potential altercation? **Response:** Generally there is no specific forewarning to give to the police. These are the severe cases when any interaction presents some risks. The client comes before a judge to say they do not trust the spouse and a Judge can then order supervised visitation.

Priority 6 – Eliminate Family Counseling Unit

Question: Laura McDowall – Will the code mandated assessments be done by someone else? **Response:** We will have to do the court mandated portion. That cost would be absorbed by JDRDC.

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Priority 7 - Eliminate Girls Probation House

Question: Henry Wulf – What would happen to the new building on Lee Highway?

Response: It would be reconverted and given back to the county.

Priority 8 – Eliminate Boys Probation House

Question: John Byers – There is a significant difference between the impacts for boys and girls.

Why is that? **Response:** Boys in this population present more public safety threats. Girls in this

population are more likely to be the victims of crime. The number of youth in each category is

also directly linked to the impact statements. Boys represent the lion's share of the population and

boys are more likely to be remanded to state facilities when other interventions are not accessible.

Summation

Question: Laura McDowall – At least 4 items reference using more resources somewhere else.

Do you have any way to quantify those potential effects? **Response:** Trying to make that

comparison is like comparing apples and oranges, but the cost between the two services is relative.

Verdia Haywood – The Board wants to look at the programs and services that we are directly providing with county staff and assess whether these pieces should be contracted out. The idea is to continue to provide the services at lower costs and ultimately save dollars. We will have to weigh in on that conversation. **Response:** Yes, we have explored contracting out services and you get what you pay for. You have to pay well to eliminate the turn over. The savings are not substantial and do not outweigh the cost of providing a quality program. If you put this in the private sector the accountability and system of checks and balances are lost. The family counseling unit will not be underbid. County costs were cheaper when compared to the private sector.

Question: Tom Grodek – Your first four priorities eliminate the contract. This is the first agency to present to the council and talk about the elimination of programs.

Response: We would rather get out of the business as opposed to doing a poor job.

Question: Tom Grodek – Did you collaborate with other programs to consider the impact on other agencies? **Response:** Yes, Verdia had all the Human Services agencies consider the impacts across the system.

Question: Laura McDowall – What would the elimination of the programs do to court schedules?

Response: The elimination of programs will slow down court schedules.

Question: Kevin Bell – What's the consequence of recidivism? How will it impact court

schedules, judges, staff, etc.? **Response:** More public safety risks. The demand on police and the

court will probably double. Recidivism is not the measure. Early intervention is the answer. We

see much younger kids today. Twelve years ago these kids were not coming to the court.

Getting to them early can prevent them from becoming adult offenders. We can stop it and save money in the long run.

Question: Kevin Bell – Can this information be given to Ron and Chip in writing?

Response: Yes, we can get that to you.

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Question: Henry Wulf – Are there some priorities that we should take off the table? If we lose our residential programs (priorities 7 and 8) they are gone for a long time. Would we be better off trying to maintain them at some level and make cuts elsewhere? **Response:** We have to do 24/7 supervision. We cannot cut pieces of this program and still run it responsibly. The supervised visitation program only has 2 people. There is no where to cut that program.

Health Department Lines of Business Presentation

The presentation was lead by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu with support from JoAnne Jorgensen, Rosalyn Foroobar, Tom Crow, and Marleen Blum.

Question and Answer

Restructuring/Service Redesign

Question: Laura McDowall – Have you seen an increase in compliance? **Response:** Yes, you don't have to travel to find people all over town. It is easier for people to receive the services.

Summary of Agency Funding

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Is any of this Medicaid? **Response:** No, none of these are Medicaid.

Reduction 1: Closure of ADHC Center

Question: Tom Grodek – Why is the county in this business? **Response:** When it began, there wasn't anyone else in the county doing this work. Currently there is one non-profit program. It is important to point out that there is a sliding scale fee for these services and everyone pays something.

Reduction 2: Elimination of Environmental Hazards Program

Question: Tom Grodek – Before this program was added what was going on? **Response:** Fire and Rescue had some capacity to go in and check things out and do some of the clean up. But they needed additional expertise to do the follow up and ensure the site was safe. They would have to find contractors. If this program doesn't exist the Fire Department will absorb some of the costs.

Question: Laura McDowall – How much has the Fire Department budgeted for this if the Health Department is no longer providing this service? **Response:** The Fire Department has not budgeted for this and does not handle individual residential situations. The county would do the assessment, but clean up would be handled by a contractor. **Question:** What has been the impact since 9/11? **Response:** Requests have mushroomed since 9/11 with an estimated 400-500 per year.

Question: Laura McDowall – What has been the financial impact on the county for this program since 9/11? **Response:** The county is only supporting 3 positions. The remaining amount comes from federal grants. We can get those cost estimates for you.

Reduction 3: Elimination of Clinic Room Aids from School Health Program

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Didn't we recently have a presentation about the dedication and value of these aids? **Response:** Yes, but we cannot think about small cuts with a 5 million dollar budget reduction before us. We also have to be careful about cutting bits and pieces and how that may impact the quality of services.

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Question: Laura McDowall – What’s the criticalness of the service when you compare Clinic Room Aides to primary care? **Response:** There is no alternative to primary care except the emergency room and the affordable health care system.

Question: Laura McDowall – How does the elimination of Clinic Room Aides impact the mainstreaming of children with special needs? **Response:** A child with an IEP is in a classroom with a student/teacher ratio to handle such emergencies. Every school has two or three trained teachers. The Clinic Room Aide is there to support ongoing care.

Question: Chip Gertzog – How many other Health Department run Clinic Room Aide programs? **Response:** We know that 124 programs are run outside of the schools. We do not know how many have a system similar to this model. We know where the money is budgeted, but not how the program operates. Arlington County is one that we could research.

Laura McDowall – We do not have to concur with the leadership on this proposal. We could propose a smaller percentage cut for specific agencies.

Question: Tom Grodek: Overall, this is not about the provision of care. There could just be a different way to provide the services. These are not medical professionals, they are trained staff.

Kevin Bell – Are we simply shifting 192 positions? If so, then this becomes a shell game.

Laura McDowall – If it is a health function it belongs in the Health Department. The question may be who takes the cut rather than who runs the Clinic Room Aide program. Maybe we share the costs with the school system.

Question: Henry Wulf – Do any of the mandated programs on slide 28 receive grant funding? **Response:** We will provide that detail for the council.

Other Business: 9:40 – 9:45

Minutes from October 20, 2008 were moved and approved.

Next meeting will be held at 10777 Main Street, Suite 310, Rowland Conference Center. Staff will provide directions for council.

9:45 PM: Adjournment

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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