

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, November 24, 2008
Government Center, Conference Room 2 & 3

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Present</i>	Carol Hawn	<i>Present</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>Excused</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>Excused</i>	Kathaleen Murphy	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Present</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	<i>Present</i>
Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	<i>Present</i>
Ken Garnes, Department of Administration for Human Services	<i>Present</i>
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services	<i>Present</i>
Deborah H. Gutierrez, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	<i>Present</i>

Guests: Paula Sampson & Mary Stevens (HCD) and Becky Offutt (Community Consolidated Funding Pool).

Other Attendees: Jean McNeal (Fairfax-Falls Church CSB), Karen Fuentes (Public Private Partnerships), and Telly Whitfield (DSMHS).

Call to order: 7:35 PM

Kevin Bell called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Paula Sampson, Executive Director of Housing & Community Development (HCD) was the primary presenter of the HCD lines of business (LOBS) to the council, with the support of Mary Stevens, Deputy Director.

Housing and Community Development (HCD) Lines of Business Presentation

LOBS presentation – 1-10 reductions

Question and Answer:

Question: Kevin Bell – The county’s portion (\$32.2 M / 31%) of HCD Funding includes the “penny tax”.

Response: Yes

Question: Kevin Bell – What is the source of the PH Capital Grant (\$1.7M)?

Response: Federal Government

Question: Henry Wulf – Is this included in the \$4.6M Federal funding?

Response: No, it is separate.

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LOBS highlighted on pages 33-46; 1-10 reductions

Reductions 1-6

Question: Laura McDowall – With the elimination of technical positions, you said for technical support you would rely on DIT?

Response: Yes, the Helpdesk of the Department of Information Technology (DIT).

Question: Stephanie Mensh – With this elimination of positions, it represents 20% of your cuts. Are you sure you can handle this?

Response: Yes, the positions originally supported old HCD systems and since the implementation of a new system four years ago, they have been in limited technical support roles. Technical support for the new system can be handled by DIT's Helpdesk.

Question: Laura McDowall – With the transfer of 2 General Fund supported positions to an FCRHA supported fund, you are not reducing the program?

Response: No, the services will continue to be done. The positions currently are vacant.

Comment: Henry Wulf – You are transferring the General Fund supported positions to an FCRHA supported fund, which is one position; therefore you are short one position in the end.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Will people served by these be effected with a greater wait time or get less service?

Response: There may be some impact; however, minimal.

Question: Robert Faherty– With regards to reductions 2 & 4, what is the downside of transferring?

Response: Fewer persons doing the work.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – With regards to reductions 5 & 6, you will renegotiate contracts to share collection costs between properties?

Response: Yes the costs will be shared between properties and there will be fewer reserves. Private firm handlers of waste for 3rd party properties are much less expensive than the county.

Comment: Henry Wulf – Perhaps the county will then raise collection rates.

Question: Carol Hawn – Why West Glade?

Response: West Glade used to have funding for custodians and this service has been privatized some years ago, so these dollars represent the remainder of the funding.

Reductions 7-10

Question: Kevin Bell & Laura McDowall – What is happening with the exempt limited term (ELT) HCDII position elimination?

Response: This position is an 11 month contract employee whose job focused on blight abatement and the duties will be absorbed by the strike team.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Need clarification on the ELT; if one person was used to coordinate, then who will respond to calls? Is this the person?

Response: No, calls regarding inquiries will be handled by existing staff.

Comment: Stephanie Mensh – This is a substantial reduction for language translation services which is a big issue in our communities. **Response:** We will continue to have translation services; however, this reduction relates more to print materials, like general information brochures not forms. We have a diverse staff and will continue to utilize them in language translation services with citizens.

Question: Robert Gaudian – With regards to the translation services costs, what % is this total reduction of the LOB total?

Response: We will look for that figure and get back with staff.

Question: Robert Gaudian – What other resources will be tapped?

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Response: We will look to HCD staff to assist. Contractual agreements will need to be reviewed and we will get back with you. Kevin Bell – Once have the answers regarding translation services, please get them to staff and they will route to council members.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Doesn't the elimination of the contract funding for training go against the pledge to support non-profits?

Response: Verdia Haywood & Ken Disselkoe – Some carryover money in DSMHS' budget (about \$70k) for basic training (i.e. setting up boards, fund raising, and grant writing) will continue to be used in the contract with GMU to provide this training support.

Question: Tom Grodek – Hasn't this already been cut?

Response: No, we have been offering the non-profits group financial training and this is what will be cut.

Comment: Kevin Bell – You will be able to delay at least a year. **Response:** Yes, at least one year. We will continue with existing contracts.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – With closing Lincolnia Assisted Living facility, how many residents are affected?

Response: 52 people.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – So 52 people become homeless?

Response: No. Lincolnia facility needs major renovations and residents would need to be relocated anyway. They will be moved to the Birmingham Greene District Home in Prince William County. The approximated \$1.8M costs for renovation will be delayed and allow the county to determine the best use of the facility going forward. Over time additional savings may be recognized with this reduction. Verdia Haywood – This is a major reduction. We need to look long-term at this issue. The county along with other neighboring jurisdictions already pay for bed slots in Birmingham Greene under an agreement for a % of beds based on population. The property on which Birmingham Greene resides is owned by Fairfax County along with other neighboring entities in a consortium. With the amount of undeveloped land around it, there is a great potential for more long-term capacity. The facility is run by a non-profit and is a good facility and well managed.

Question: Laura McDowall & Stephanie Mensh – Aren't these patients mainly Medicaid recipients? Won't they be adversely affected by moving them out of their community and away from their community support systems (family, doctors and nurses)?

Response: Kevin Bell – given their conditions, doctors come to them. Verdia Haywood – yes, their medical care would still be covered; however, we should keep in mind the potential affects on their community support systems and try to mitigate adverse impacts.

Question: Robert Gaudian – What is the relationship of this reduction to the total budget in percentage? What is the overall impact against the LOB total?

Response: 15%. It is about 20% of total costs.

Comment: Laura McDowall – Your agency's cost to the county is relatively small with a lot of dollars coming from other funding sources and not the county's General Fund. **Response:** Yes, we have fixed costs, like contracts to manage a property.

Comment: Kevin Bell – Discretionary cuts show limited leeway.

Consolidated Community Funding Pool Lines of Business Presentation - 8:50 PM

Verdia Haywood was the primary presenter with support from Becky Offutt. Option 1 represents reductions to entire programs within the 4 CCFP priority areas and Option 2 represents reductions spread across (%) the board to all programs within all 4 priority areas.

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Reductions 1 – 4 – Option 1

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Are the “priorities” rank ordered?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – No, they are not. This was just a way of numbering the CCFP priorities.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – What does this do to related items in county agency budgets?

Comment: Henry Wulf – These are cross-cutting issues throughout agencies’ LOBs, yet each agency presents individually.

Response: Verdiana Haywood – For example, DFS has self-sufficiency programs that are similar but not duplicative. The programs in the CCFP are in addition to not in place of other programs provided by county agencies. The CCFP funding augments or supports the non-profits providing services; however, they are not the sole source of program funding.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – How does the CCFP self-sufficiency funding compare with other self-sufficiency programs in the county?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – The CCFP is in addition to other county agency programs.

Question: Robert Guadian – How does cutting the CCFP prevention funding impact the efforts to address the gang issue in the county? Since gang prevention is a county focus, which of these programs specifically address gang prevention?

Response: Verdiana Haywood & Becky Offutt – They could long-term, but not necessarily. To our knowledge, none of the contracts with the organizations providing services are specific to gang prevention. We would need to look at the source documents, the contracts.

Comment: Stephanie Mensh – The only way teenagers often get help for themselves and their family members are through the Prevention programs. This becomes the point-of-contact to reach the family.

Question: Donna Fleming – Are not some of these prevention programs targeting youth relatively new; put in place within last few years?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – Yes, the oldest is the Culmore Youth Outreach.

Question: Laura McDowall – Are there other programs that support outreach to the same population?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – Yes.

Comment: Carol Hawn – Just county funding is being cut for programs, so other funding may continue.

Question: Robert Faherty – Won’t these cuts also adversely impact the non-profits?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – Yes and that is noted.

Reductions 1-4 – Option 2

Question: Laura McDowall – It is better to remove all the funding of a whole priority (and programs) versus a little of all priorities?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – That seemed to be the preferred option to the Board of Supervisors.

Question: Tom Grodek – Why are there two options?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – We wanted to provide a second option for the Board of Supervisors to consider.

Question: Kevin Bell – Won’t there be a domino effect? How many non-profits will be pushed over the brink without this funding?

Response: Verdiana Haywood – Our goal is to establish Fairfax Cares. The county will help raise community awareness of the non-profits needs and raise funding support for the non-profit and faith-based communities.

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Other Business: 9:50

Minutes from November 17 were moved and approved.

Henry Wulf – I will work with Ron McDevitt to present a coordinated list of (L) - significant, (M) - serious, (H) - severe impacts from the LOB presentations. We will hand this document out at the 12/8 meeting, discuss it at the 12/15 meeting and add a meeting for 12/17 to finalize the council's recommendations with a cover letter to send to the county executive.

Comment: Laura McDowall – What happens if we are not provided with 15% cuts? This is not a time to cut these services.

Question: Kevin Bell – To what is the tax rate talked about being raised without impact?

Response: Ken Disselkoen, Chip Gertzog, Ron McDevitt - 11.5 cents is the amount to be raised to not raise taxes and given the school stays at 0% increase in their budget. Over 10% cuts but less than 15% cuts will bring it to \$170 M shortfall.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – What if this amount is not enough cuts?

Response: Chip Gertzog – This remains a volatile situation. Most likely there will be a raise in taxes and cuts at 15%. Ken Disselkoen – And additional furlough days.

Comment: Laura McDowall – And 2013 will bring more suffering.

Comment: Carol Hawn – At one of community dialogues, the statements made by citizens was cut anything but Human Services.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Will we have to coordinate with State cuts, since they are never good at keeping track of Federal matching dollars?

Response: Kevin Bell – We are not able to provide that information.

9:55 PM: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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