

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Excused</i>	Carol Hawn	<i>Present</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Present</i>	Bill Kogler <i>*send notes following</i>	<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>Excused</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>Present</i>	John Niemiec	<i>Present</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>
Deborah H. Gutierrez, Department of Systems Management for Human Services			<i>Present</i>

Guests and Other Attendees: Tom Meacher, Grace Starbird, Brenda Gardiner, Barbara Antley, Lathan Dennis, and Matthew Barkley.

Call to order: 7:40 PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order. Council members were given copies of Human Services Council's Impact Ranking of Proposed LOB Reductions (detailed and summary) by Department and list of eight HSC criteria / questions for ordering LOBS.

Discussion of Impact Rankings Changes (Proposed LOBS Reductions): 7:45 – 9:10 PM

Discussion by Council members followed regarding revisions to / clarification of the impact rankings of proposed LOB reductions. Henry Wulf asked Council members to state the LOB reductions they desired to discuss further by the number identified on the detailed list.

Tom Grodek – Noted he had sent an email to council members outlining his comments regarding numbers 62, 63, 74, 145, and 156.

Herk Latimer – Requested review of all Fastran-related reductions: numbers 80, 138, 139, 140, and 145.

Donna Fleming – Requested time to review and an opportunity to comment later.

John Byers – Requested review of those LOBS effecting children and SAAC; noted that council should recommend retaining programs for youth - especially the Probation Houses for Girls and Boys.

Marion Barnwell – Requested review of numbers 63, 74, 138, 145, and 156.

Robert Faherty – Concurred with all noted thus far.

Carol Hawn – Concurred with all others noted and added number 68 (supervised visitation exchange program).

John Niemiec – Yielded his time.

Richard Berger – Requested review of numbers 70, 71, and any reductions relating to SAAC and Clinic Room Aides. He noted people being served by SAAC are paying less than 50% than private care costs.

Robert Gaudian – requested review of any reductions relating to SAAC and Fastran and noted numbers 5, 36, 80, and relating to prevention numbers 65, and 66.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Stephanie Mensh – noted she was amazed that there are proposed reductions exceeding \$70M to services provided to persons with disabilities; requested council look further at the reductions regarding CRS – youth programs; especially those provided at the Annandale Neighborhood Center, which is number 81.

Baba Freeman – noted that none are found acceptable.

Further Discussion of Identified LOB Reductions Rankings:

Henry Wulf – let us look first at number 5. Response: Verdia Haywood – commented the current SAAC program is pretty well equipped, we can hold on temporarily, but not forever, the proposed reduction is for refurbishing equipment. Robert Gaudian stated the ranking is okay considering Verdia's response. All council members concurred. Henry Wulf stated the ranking for number 5 stays the same.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 36. Response: Robert Gaudian – Fastran is a major asset. Donna Fleming – Fastran is such a critical service provided in the county; it should be a category 3.

Question: Robert Faherty – There are quite a few reductions to Fastran, so what would be a replacement to Fastran services? Response: Verdia Haywood - Logisticare covers only Medicaid customers. Stephanie Mensh proposed changing ranking from 2 to 3. Baba Freeman abstained – all remaining council members were in favor of ranking change.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 63. Response: Verdia Haywood stated it provides the only low income assisted care living facility in the county; closing down the only low-income assisted care living facility in Fairfax County and moving residents to Birmingham Greene facility in Prince William County would not be good. It will increase the distance for family to travel to the Birmingham Greene facility, which is a 100 year old facility. The County needs to take a strategic look at recommended reduction; Lincolnia needs to be upgraded and refurbished in order to provide more accommodation.

Question: Donna Fleming – will funds from 1cent tax cover this? Response: Verdia Haywood – No, it would not qualify. Minimally this ranking should be a 2 perhaps it should be a 3. Tom Grodek – questioned whether or not it should be moved down from 2 to 1. Stephanie Mensh – Because they are in an assisted-living facility and not a nursing home of full care, residents still need family and transportation to doctors; therefore I recommend moving it from 2 to 3. Marion Barnwell – I agree; it should be moved from 2 to 3.

Question: Carol Hawn – Would they use bond referendum / a capital funds program to upgrade? Response: Verdia Haywood – No, it is not a CIP nor can it be a bond referendum. The county needs to work with this like it does with community centers; it was built by the Housing Authority and the county temporarily loaned funds to the Housing Authority, which was then long-term funded by their own bonds. The Lincolnia facility needs to be refurbished and the question is do we have alternative means of financing? We have bonds, but the ability to repay bonds must exist and the county assists with paying funds back. Carol Hawn – This is not nor should it be a political issue. Verdia Haywood sees it as a fairness and equity issue.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Is this a candidate for stimulus money? Response: Verdia Haywood reiterated that this needs to be looked at strategically especially since it has been built in the county and needs for this type of care are increasing.

According to a show of hands, the majority wanted to keep ranking at a 2.

Henry Wulf – let us look at numbers 65 and 66. Response: Robert Gaudian – proposed changing there rankings from a 2 to a 3. John Byers – Agreed to keep programs that take care of kids. John Niemiec – Added that this is a hard exercise, as a county employee and citizen, all of these effected programs and services are important and yet we are looking at a more than a \$650M budget deficit; no one wants cuts, some employees will lose there jobs, we all want to minimize injury to services and employees. Baba Freeman – We are only dealing with half the problem; there is a need for more revenue and added that she would like to hear more from

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Verdia Haywood. Verdia Haywood – Stated he was comfortable with the ranking on the JDRDC proposed reductions. A Council majority agreed to keep ranking at a 2.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 68. Response: Carol Hawn – Recommended the ranking change from 2 to a 3. This is a great deal of money for 57 families

Question: Carol Hawn – Does this represent visits over several different times? How many visits per family does this represent? Response: Henry Wulf – We need more information to change it, so let us leave the ranking as a 2.

Henry Wulf – let us look at numbers 70 and 71. Response: Council members agreed they both stay same ranking.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 72. Response: Donna Fleming – Requested more information from Verdia Haywood on this item. Verdia Haywood felt that it can be done. County could relocate program participants to Little River Glen or to Braddock Glen at Lincolnia; there would be more travel required by participants, but would not pose a big impact. Council members agreed the ranking stays the same.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 74. Response: Henry Wulf – Requested Verdia Haywood to comment since this is the single largest proposed reduction. Verdia Haywood – Alternatives are worse, that is why this proposed reduction is here. If the Health Department were to cut all adult provided long-term care out of Health Department's budget and ½ to ⅔ of funding would be cut from affordable health care services.

Question: Verdia Haywood - How it is taken care of in other school systems? – Someone should be available and FCPS said they don't have any alternative to providing the program and would need to take money out of their budget and reduce the educational (instruction) budget. Tom Grodek – Commented that FCPS should look at restructuring administratively and would need to take it and therefore the ranking should be lowered to a 1.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Why is the ranking a 2? Response: Verdia Haywood – We should not consider taking money from instruction lightly because it does pose a direct service impact. Systemically, the impact makes the ranking a 2 and not a 1. The ranking should be more than a one because of the dollar cost.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Is there a way to split cost with FCPS? Response: Verdia Haywood – A ranking of 2 gets policy attention. Carol Hawn – Respectively disagreed and agreed with Tom Grodek that the ranking should be a 1, which gives it more attention. If it is a 2, it slides through and the schools don't pay attention to the issue. Henry Wulf requested something regarding this proposed reduction be put in the Council's letter to the County Executive relating it to a policy decision and the ranking will be left at a 2. Council members agreed.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number Response: Question: Response: Carol Hawn – We need more discussion regarding Fastran services overall. Verdia Haywood – This is a policy issue. Robert Gaudian – It take money to pay for school buses. Richard Berger – We should look at how reductions to Fastran overlap with Fairfax Connector cuts. Baba Freeman – And at an overlap with reductions to taxi cab vouchers. Verdia Haywood – The Office of Transportation wants to cut the taxi cab vouchers for the “Seniors-On-the-Go” program. Robert Gaudian – I recommend moving the ranking to a 2 because of the total number of LOBS impacts. Tom Grodek – For some of the proposed reductions, Fastran does have an alternative with Logisticare, which is like comparing a Cadillac with a minivan.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – What is the cross cutting impact on Fastran's budget? Is it 15% or 50% of a total \$3.9M? Verdia Haywood – It appears to be close to 60%. Brenda Gardiner – Replied that the total funding is \$6.8M for the contract for Fastran. Henry Wulf requested something regarding the overall proposed reductions to Fastran be put in the Council's letter to the County Executive to cover the issue's severity. Council members agreed.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 81. Response: Stephanie Mensh – I couldn't remember the particulars on this one. Verdia Haywood – The Annandale Neighborhood Center was started to provide support not only to the youth, but also to their families; there was the beginning of some criminal and gang activity in the area and the feeling was to engage the entire community in support of providing preventative support for kids and strengthening parents to support kids. The program has been customized to what is going on in the community to avoid at-risk behaviors. Alternative House runs this program, which is a private non-profit. It is a reduction of services and not elimination. Council members agreed to leave the ranking at a 1.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 78 since we bypassed it earlier. Response: Stephanie Mensh – What is this? Ron McDevitt – This relates to Community Recreation and Services' LOB 50-03 and represented their number 2 priority out of 25 reductions.

Henry Wulf – let us look at numbers 138, 139, 140, and 141. Response: Council members agreed the ranking stays the same.

Henry Wulf – let us look at numbers 145 and 156. Response: Tom Grodek – This is about eliminating the people served rather than eliminating the need for Fastran. I would like to note that the populations served by these services were both ranked in the highest impact on the Mental Retardation/(Intellectual Disabilities) division's ranking within the CSB agency before it got changed at the level of the CSB overall list. I would recommend the ranking be changed from a 2 to a 3. Verdia Haywood – I believe it is properly ranked. A majority of Council members agreed to change the ranking to 3.

Henry Wulf – let us look at number 98 since we bypassed it earlier. Response: Richard Berger – Does this mean that elementary students are in more need of services than middle school students? Are not some of the same families impacted? Do different agencies other than CRS have reductions that impact number 98 and the middle school program? Verdia Haywood – It is a reduction and not elimination that should result without an impact on service delivery.

Question: Richard Berger - Can people pay for this service on a sliding fee scale? Verdia Haywood – this is a prevention program versus DFS SAAC program. A majority of Council members agreed the ranking stays the same.

Question: Carol Hawn – Are Ken Garnes and Ken Disselkoen okay with each of your cuts and category rankings? Response: Ken Garnes and Ken Disselkoen – yes.

Approval of Impact Rankings – It was moved and seconded as a package.

FY2010 Budget Reduction Trends: 9:10 – 9:30 PM

Ken Garnes introduced Brenda Gardiner to present the FY2010 Budget Reduction Trends presentation for crosscutting issues.

Brenda Gardiner reviewed the presentation and highlighted the following trends:

- Increase in needs;
- Increase in the financial crisis; because of deficits in state and federal budgets, we will see some significant cuts in funding to local entities;
- Growing aging population with greater needs; and
- Increased need for new strategies – i.e. health care reform, infrastructure reform which equates to a transformational change in dealing with these issues.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Comment: Verdia Haywood – Plus we need to add to the picture the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness and the Beeman Commission findings.

Brenda Gardiner highlighted the numbers of low income populations needing assistance and how proposed reductions would impact them in dollars.

Comment: Tom Grodek, this should also distinguish those in same populations with disabilities.

Brenda Gardiner highlighted the cross cutting service impact of reductions based on what primary services are provided. Based on the agencies' LOBS, these are the top 12 and not all.

Question: Tom Grodek – what is the purpose of this information? Response: Verdia Haywood – We will use this as an additional resource. Chip Gertzog – It is intended to provide the council information tonight and is not targeted to go anywhere any where else. For example, impacted domestic violence services are not on this list. The \$3.9M is related to all of the Fastran reductions. Verdia Haywood – Basically, equipment will be downsized and people will be also.

Question: Stephanie Mensh – Does the contractor for Fastran services only provide them in Fairfax County?

Response: Brenda Gardiner – The contractor is NVConnector and they provide both Fastran and Connector services.

Additionally Brenda Gardiner highlighted the proposed reduction impacts on Human Services' strategic initiatives and Fairfax County neighborhoods. Additionally, regional impacts on the Human Services Regions from proposed facility closures were identified, as well as the impacts on the service capacity of the county's service providers (CBOs, FBOs, non-profits and for-profit providers). The financial, service-level quality and infrastructure adverse impacts were reviewed and examples provided of potential needs that would go unmet without funding. Lastly, the overarching considerations regarding the proposed reductions were identified.

Comment: Baba Freeman – It is estimated that 1/3 of non-profits will be lost in this deficit budget climate. I am also concerned about the significant loss of history.

Comment: Robert Gaudian – I am bothered by the loss of intellectual and human capital represented by these proposed cuts. There should be a way of preserving it for reinstatement at a later date.

Question: Herk Latimer – Didn't you just pull all of this together? Response: Brenda Gardiner – About 2 weeks.

Comment: Stephanie Mensh – I would like additional clarification on the regional impacts of facility closures.

Comment: Henry Wulf – On behalf of the Council, I want to thank staff for all of their hard work in pulling all of this together.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Discussion of Themes for Letter to County Executive: 9:30 – 10:00 PM

Ron McDevitt presented the possible themes of reduction effects/ impacts to be addressed in the Council's letter to the County Executive and Council members commented and suggested additional themes to round out the list:

- On county's "Para-transit" system.
- On the safety net, the impact of reductions on maintaining or destroying the safety net and the risk of losing it. Comment: Richard Berger – If we lose the safety net, then what may happen if the budget situation gets worse (i.e. housing bubble burst again in 2-3years).
- On Prevention programs: diminished capacity; losing ground on successful program outcomes.
- Of the loss of ability to meet future increases in needs: long-term needs increase and lose ground to assist non-profit providers. Comment: Donna Fleming – Stress the degree of non-profit partnership damage; ultimately a domino effect and minimizes leverage. Comment: Carol Hawn - Cutting the Community Funding Pool monies will definitely have an impact. Comment: Verdia Haywood – the results of an underinvested community of non-profits as a whole.
- Of horizontal cutting as it results to the trends presented. Comment: Tom Grodek – Horizontal cutting is 15% across board versus vertical cutting which is looking at entirely getting rid of funding on the premise to cut all rather than doing everything poorly because programs are so decimated by cuts.
- Of vulnerable and at-risk populations; who will speak for the voiceless. Comment: Tom Grodek – Vulnerable is not well defined – do we mean everything?
- On children (youth and families).
- On elderly / seniors; on the very community residents who have paid taxes all these years – recommended by Donna Fleming.
- Regarding themes – recommend by Tom Grodek (emailed).
- Of tossing people out to fend for themselves; if services are cut then who will take care of these people – recommended by Stephanie Mensh.
- On overall quality of life – recommended by Robert Gaudian.
- On the loss of a historical perspective – recommended by Robert Gaudian and supported by Tom Grodek
- On losing training for non-profits and county staff – recommended by Robert Faherty.
- On a county that has been recognized as and should continue to be a leader; the county should be identifying tax base increases – recommended by John Byers.
- On the county's tax base; since the county can not raise it more than the advertised rate, then raise the advertised rate leaving enough room at top to fund the services – recommended by Baba Freeman. Comment: Henry Wulf – A number of the Boards, Authorities, and Commissions and non-profits commented on raising taxes; is it really appropriate for the Human Services Council to put in their letter? Comment: Verdia Haywood - Adjusting the tax rate will not cover the amount of the deficit; there is not enough to compensate for this deficit. Comment: Tom Grodek – It appears that most everyone's perspective is to raise taxes to cover costs on human services only. Comment: Baba Freeman – Human Services agencies have done the structural redesigns and there is little evidence of others doing this. Comment: Carol Hawn – I don't want to go through this and say it is only 3 cents; we need to look at the inefficiencies and cost savings as many agencies feel they are under funded. Comment: Henry Wulf – We were appointed to this council because of our expertise in human services and this is a much larger issue than human services alone; the effects are countywide. As private citizens, we can go to our Supervisor and say raise taxes. This is a complicated issue and I am not sure as the Human Services Council we should address raising taxes. There are many other options. Comment:

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Verdia Haywood – As a Council you should give information for the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors to shape the policy; the Council should inform so they can make an informed decision making policy and the Council should not recommend policy. Question: Robert Gaudian – Is investing below par with human services in the county? Response: Verdia Haywood – Only in the area of non-profits as a community; the county is better than most others in the state in investing in human services. Comment: Robert Faherty – I agree with Henry Wulf and feel we should say in the letter that we heard the comment about raising taxes as a possible solution. Comment: Tom Grodek – I concur; we are not recommending, just reporting what we heard on the raising of taxes. Comment: Robert Faherty – Recommended noting efficiencies have been found and the amount of growth has been negative over all human services. Comment: Henry Wulf – We may not have been given accurate numbers regarding this so we will need to recalculate to ensure relative growth in respect to FCPS and Public Safety. Question: Herk Latimer – Didn't we have same discussion last year? Response: Henry Wulf – Yes.

Comment: Verdia Haywood – The Council should document more regarding the “investment” of human services; consider this as an investment in people and the community in a broader sense.

Comment: Stephanie Mensh – The letter should note that these cuts are making things stretched more and more.

Approval of Council's Letter – “Next steps” regarding the Council's letter was discussed. Ron McDevitt and Henry Wulf will finalize the draft letter based on this discussion. The deadline is Thursday for letter submission. Henry Wulf suggested for the Council to allow he and Ron to write the letter and accepting editorial comments from Council members. Ron McDevitt will send a “PDF” version of the letter and attachments to all Council members for review and comment prior to submission on Thursday. Chip Gertzog clarified that the council's motion was for Henry and Ron to act on the Council's behalf; so the Council is publicly cancelling the December 17th meeting. The next meeting is in January; not on the Martin Luther King holiday? All Council members accepted the motion.

Other Business: 10:00 – 10:05 PM

Approval of Minutes – There were no minutes presented from December 10th to approve.

Next scheduled meeting on December 17th at the Government Center, Conference Rooms 232 was cancelled.

10:05 PM: Adjournment

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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