

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2008
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	Excused
Richard P. Berger	Present	Michael Kwon	Excused
John Byers	Present	Herk Latimer	Present
Robert L. Faherty	Present	Laura I. McDowall	Present
Donna J. Fleming	Excused	Stephanie Mensh	Present
Baba Freeman	Excused	John Niemiec	Excused
Robert Gaudian	Excused	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	Excused
Richard Gonzalez	Excused	J. Jay Volkert	Excused
Tom Grodek	Present	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
Michelle Gregory, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present

Other Attendees: Glenn Kamber, Dr. Arnold Meyrow, Cynthia Hull, Carrie Wilson, Mary Agee, Judith Dittman, Mary Anne Beall, Lynne Crammer Jim Thur, Mary Cutlass, Peyton Whiteley, John Neumann, Mike Fox, Tom Donegan, Carol Loftur-Thun, Ginny McKernan, Marijke Hannam, Chris Cohen, Jennifer Topscher, Carrie Milinski, Jennifer Heffran, Robert Volpe, Tina Romero, Jamie Carter, Barb Ballow, Gurin Jeffrey, Paul Divito, Sethe Eckstein, Gary Eckstein, Serife Turkol, Catherine Wemette, Scott Briscoe, Kathleen Olden Barnes, Christina Perry.

Call to order: 7:30 - 7:40PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:30.

CCFAC

Glenn Kamber representing the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) was first on the schedule to present budget testimony. The proposed budget cuts include the removal of a 3 percent increase, which translates to a \$300,000 decrease in funding that supports the Community Funding Pool. The number of applications for the block grant has grown to 178. The total request for funding is 22 million and currently CCFAC has 11 million dollars to address the vast number of needs. In addition to the removal of the 3 percent increase in the proposed budget, DHCD is also decreasing their contribution to the Community Services Block Grant by \$335,000. Without the 3 percent increase projects will not be funding or there will be cuts across many programs.

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In closing Mr. Kamber thanked Stephanie Mensh for her support of CCFAC.

Mr. Wulf asked Mr. Kamber to provide written materials to the HSC no later than Thursday, March 13, 2008 to Ron McDevitt.

United Community Ministries

Cynthia Hull, Executive Director of UCM, Carrie Wilson, Executive Director of Reston Interfaith and Mary Agee, Executive Director of Northern Virginia Family Service participated in a joint presentation focused on the status of Healthy Families as well as child abuse and neglect. Healthy Families Fairfax is a voluntary home visitation program that has helped families address a variety of different stressors in life and build stronger relationships between parents and children. The program has met or exceeded their goals indicating that 96 percent of the children are on time with immunizations and 95 percent of babies are born at good birth weights.

Ms. Hull also talked about childcare subsidies and the importance they play in supporting the economic wellbeing of families. The \$100,000 proposed budget cut means that 2,000 fewer children will be covered. Carrie Wilson noted that childcare subsidies are further impacted by states cuts. Ms. Hull asked the HSC to support putting the money back into the budget for this program.

Ms. Wilson acknowledged the impact of advocacy efforts and how helpful they can be in addressing critical issues and specifically thanked BaBa Freeman for her advocacy and support of local issues.

Henry Wulf: What will the cuts mean? The HSC will have to deal with facts when we approach the BOS. Response: Waitlists will increase and there will be significant setbacks. The Childcare Council will discuss specifics on Wednesday.

Laura: Commended the childcare program for their advances and the data they were able to provide. What happens when childcare is not available? Response: Children may be left at home with older siblings or unattended. Often the circumstances promote an unsafe environment for the child.

Henry Latimer: What about families that are now transitional housing participants? Would childcare subsidies have helped? Response: If they were eligible for the services that they are now eligible for, childcare subsidies would have helped.

Kevin: The HSC should have written information on the Healthy Families program. You should document the benefits of these services to Fairfax County to demonstrate program success.

Cynthia Hull clarified that while the program is successful it is still only reaching 10 percent of the need.

Senior Employment Resources Board

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Dr. Arnold Meyrow, Senior Employment Resources Board Member, presented budget testimony to seek support for continued funding. Dr. Meyrow noted how the program has been helping families for 25 years with job placement and supportive employment services. He sees more seniors looking for jobs because they need to work. In the past nine months he has seen a 5.8 percent increase in the number of people looking for employment and a 32 percent decrease in the number of job orders. Job placements are down 28 percent and 75 percent of the jobs they are currently receiving are for part-time and temporary work.

Tom Grodek: Is there a relationship with this program and county funding? Response: Twenty-eight percent of the funding comes from the Community Funding Pool.

Richard Berger: What is the age range for those seeking employment? Response: It depends on the climate? Typically the age range is between 50 and 65. Most are not eligible for social security. The oldest currently seeking employment is 82.

Community Services Board

Mary Anne Beall, Chair of the Community Services Board and Vice Chair, Lynne Crammer distributed a multi-year plan to address the proposed budget cuts. The presentation accounts for reductions totaling \$3,159,363 and identifies the impact on service and staffing. The CSB will also be impacted by significant cuts at the federal and State levels.

Jim Thur and Mary Cutlass joined the Chair and Vice Chair to support the presentation and respond to questions from the HSC. Jim presented a chart to further emphasize the impact of the budget cuts on CSB service delivery.

Tom Grodek asked for clarification on the statement that the CSB is looking for guidance from HSC. Response: Mr. Thur explained that critical service positions are at stake and the demand and severity of mental health illnesses are rising. Limited term positions in CSB are used for core staffing. He asked the HSC to advocate for a pass on this particular cut.

Kevin Bell: What is the proposal? That a cut not be proposed on CSB? Response: That the cut would only apply to seasonal positions.

John Beyers: What do you propose? Everyone who is here to testify would like a pass. What would you propose we cut instead? Are these professional positions? What are the implications of the eliminating these positions?

Laura: Are all seasonal positions equal? We need a better definition of the problem.

The CSB was asked to come back with clarification regarding the exact dollar figure for this budget cut. The council agreed that they needed a better definition of the problem. The Council noted that the proposal would be better understood if the CSB could articulate in writing the dollars and positions based on Mr. Griffin's proposal.

Richard Berger: The ITC screening is for which age range? Response: ITC is for children ranging from birth to 3 years of age.

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Alternative House

Judith Dittman, Executive Director of Alternative House along with a member from the Board of Directors, Kathy Barnes presented to the HSC. Ms. Dittman discussed how the proposed CSB budget cuts impact Alternative House programming. As a result of the CSB budget cuts, Alternative House funding would be reduced by more than 50 percent. This reduction amounts to 75,000 and would serve 75 youth who could otherwise be turned over to the juvenile justice system, end up hospitalized for mental health issues or left on the streets with no safe place to stay.

Henry Wulf: You clearly articulated the cost and the need.

Laura McDowall: What about foster care for teens? Is CSB required to serve children in foster care? Response: Staff will provide services for youth in foster care. It is not a CSB mandate.

Council on Homelessness

Peyton Whiteley, member of the Council on Homelessness (COH), presented a letter on behalf of Linda Wimpy, COH Chair. The COH encouraged support of the one penny tax to be used for affordable and workforce housing and the creation of the Office on Homelessness. The Council's concerns included proposed cuts that would impact mental health services and eliminating the 3 percent increase in CCFP funding.

Laura McDowall appreciated being reminded of the issues that revolve around homelessness.

Crisis Link

Crisis Link Board Members John Neumann, Mike Fox, and Tom Donegan along with Executive Director, Carol Loftur-Thun participated in the budget testimony requesting \$170,000 to continue funding the crisis hotline in FY09. Fairfax County is currently funding 25 percent of the costs for the hotline. The call volume has soared over the past five years and last year the crisis hotline answered 7,615 calls from Fairfax County residents. Additional statistics were shared to acknowledge the impact of Crisis Link in Fairfax County.

Kevin Bell thanked all who came out in support of the issue. Kevin also asked about Crisis Link's current budget. Response: The total budget is \$559,000. Crisis Link also receives funding from Alexandria and Arlington as well as private contributions.

Stephanie Mensh acknowledged the number of attendees with Crisis Link badges. She asked that the number of Crisis Link supporters be noted in the minutes. It was noted that 64 Crisis Link supporters attended the HSC meeting.

John Beyer: Why is the suicide telephone number so complicated? Response: There is a national hotline number that is easier to remember. Crisis Link distributes wallet cards and displays posters to keep the community informed, but Crisis Link could look at alternate numbers.

John Beyers: Does 911 forward calls? Response: Yes, the police can forward a call when the location is unknown.

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John Beyers: Who operates 211? Crisis Link is currently working with the county and other local agencies to get 211 in Fairfax County. Once implemented, 80 percent of the county will be covered by 211.

Henry Wulf asked staff to collect materials regarding Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court to be redistributed on Wednesday in coordination with their budget testimony.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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