

Human Services Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 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>Present</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>Excused</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Excused</i>	John Niemiec	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Excused</i>
Richard Gonzalez	<i>Excused</i>	J. Jay Volkert	<i>Excused</i>
Tom Grodek	<i>Present</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Present</i>

Staff:	
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive	<i>Excused</i>
Ken Disselkoen, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	<i>Excused</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>
Marie Custode, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	<i>Present</i>

Guests: Tina Grodner (Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court), Jim Dedes (Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court), Marlene Blum (Health Care Advisory Board), Conrad Egan (Redevelopment & Housing Authority), Mary Stevens (Department of Housing), Marcus Simon (Advisory Social Services Board), Eileen Dugan (Commission on Aging), Jim Edwards-Hewitt (Community Action Advisory Board), Mariane Floyd (Disability Services Board), Judith Falkenrath (Child Care Advisory Board), Sue Holzer (SACC Parent Advisory), Megan Lebowitz (Head Start Policy Council), Ann Zuvekas (Alliance for Human Services), Roxanne Rice (Food for Others), John & Mhaira Terra (residents utilizing the Teen Services Program), Donna Goldbranson (resident utilizing the Therapeutic Recreation Program), Elizabeth Page (Falls Church McLean Children's Center), Ann Goldstein (Save Our Child Care)

Other Attendees: Dana Paige (Department of Family Services), Marijke Hannam (Department of Administration for Human Services), Pat Frankowitz (Department of Community and Recreation Services), Judith Rosen (Office for Children), Gail Ledford (Department of Administration for Human Services), Jamie McCarron (Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court), Dennis Fee (Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court), Carol Keil (Department of Family Services), Matt Backley (Department of Family Services), Will Williams (Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board), Kathy Froyd (Department of Family Services), Jennifer Branch (Department of Family Services)

Call to order
7:30 - 7:35 PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Approval of the minutes from the meeting on February 25, 2008 was moved and approved.

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Human Services Council Budget Testimony – FY 2009 Budget Review
7:35 - 10:00 PM

Tina Grodner, Chief Judge & Jim Dedes, Director of Court Services
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Ms. Grodner presented the “Report to Human Services Council: The Impact of Proposed Budget Reductions”.

Question and Answer:

Laura McDowall: How are you going to handle reductions in training funds when 40 hours are required by code? How will you provide for the new and less experienced staff? Why is there a large turnover rate?

Response: We will maintain funding for required certifications, but we will have to cut expenses for conferences and out-of-area travel. Training for new employees is completed primarily internally. The turnover rate is due to people moving out of area. The Juvenile Detention Center typically has high turnover due to the shift work.

Carol Hawn: Are there any plans to create additional sites for supervised visitation?

Response: There are no current plans for expansion.

Marlene Blum, Health Care Advisory Board

Ms. Blum presented the “Health Care Advisory Board Presentation to the Human Services Council.” The positions within the document have not yet been officially approved by the HCAB. The “School Health Strategic Plan from the Health Department” was also made available, and will be distributed to the Council at their request at the next meeting. A presentation to the Council is scheduled for the April on this document.

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: Is the eligibility for maternal & child services determined by need?

Response: Yes, it uses an income level for determination.

Laura McDowall: What is the budget impact upon affordable health care? Are Medicaid funds utilized? How will this affect bioterrorism efforts?

Response: There is no current impact to those services. It is entirely funded by the county for those without insurance. Mandated services receive priority for funding. We are managing through reductions in the service levels mentioned.

Conrad Egan, Chairman & Mary Stevens
Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Mr. Egan presented the “Testimony of Conrad Egan, Chairman, Fairfax County Redevelopment & Housing Authority”.

Question and Answer:

Laura McDowall: Cuts in child care subsidies may increase homelessness, so isn't there more to ending homelessness than just increasing housing?

Response: Yes, this is a collaborative effort.

Stephanie Mensh: I am supportive of your efforts to change policy and culture to set aside housing for individuals with disabilities.

Response: Supervisor Hudgins is demonstrating leadership in this area.

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DFS Boards, Authorities and Commissions

Marcus Simon, Advisory Social Services Board

Mr. Simon presented the memorandum to the Human Services Council entitled “FY 2009 Budget Issues”.

Eileen Dugan, Commission on Aging

Ms. Dugan presented the “Testimony Before the Human Services Council” and “Anticipating the Future: Fairfax 50+ Action Plan 2007”.

Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Community Action Advisory Board

Mr. Edwards-Hewitt presented the “Testimony to the Human Services Council on the Fairfax County Proposed Budget for FY 2009”.

Marianne Floyd, Disability Services Board

Ms. Floyd presented the memorandum from Ann Pimley to the Human Services Council entitled “Fairfax County FY 2009 Proposed Budget”.

Question and Answer:

Laura McDowall: APS had a 30% increase in investigations? Did CPS increase as well?

Response: The largest increase was in APS self-neglect cases. CPS had a slight increase.

Carol Hawn: What does the summer internship program cost?

Response: It is a volunteer program with a relatively small cost for staff oversight.

Bob Gaudian: How is reallocation of funds in aging accomplished?

Response: The cluster-care-based model is more efficient than home-based care, which has freed up some resources. Now we need authorization to transfer and use those funds differently.

Laura McDowall requested data on how public assistance caseloads have changed over the last several years.

Judith Falkenrath, Child Care Advisory Board

Ms. Falkenrath presented “Judith Falkenrath: Testimony to Human Services Council” and “Child Care and Assistance and Referral Program Information Sheet (March 9, 2008)”.

Sue Holzer, SACC Parent Advisory

Ms. Holzer presented “School Age Child Care Program FY 2009 Budget Request”.

Megan Lebowitz, Board Chair, Head Start Policy Council

Ms. Lebowitz presented “Human Services Council Megan Lebowitz Testimony”.

Question and Answer:

John Byers: Are placement services feeling an impact in this economy?

Response: There has been increased traffic flow into skill source employment centers.

Laura McDowall: What would be monetary target if an increase was requested for the Community Funding Pool?

Response: A 3% increase was originally requested in the County Executive’s proposed budget.

Laura McDowall requested information indicating the cost to serve all of the children on the SACC waitlist.

Ann Zuvekas, Alliance for Human Services

Ms. Zuvekas presented a statement entitled “Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services”. Formal positions have not been adopted by the Alliance, and therefore the positions presented are preliminary. The Alliance will provide formal positions once approved and available.

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: The specific monetary amount requested is only for the funding pool?

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Response: We are advocating for that.

Roxanne Rice, Food for Others

Ms. Rice presented a letter to the Council dated March 12, 2008.

Question and Answer:

John Byers: Can you convert the percentage data to numbers?

Response: It is about 2 million pounds of food, or about 2 million meals. About 1200 families access our services per month, but some return in future months.

Robert Gaudian: How will you be affected by community funding pool cuts?

Response: We rely on multiple funding sources in order to serve 100% of the people that come to us. Although we are not sure of the exact impact yet, we anticipate having to buy additional food.

Pat Frankowitz, Director of the Department of Community and Recreation Services

The County Executive's supplemental budget memo made cuts to exempt limited term staff funding. About 90% of our programs utilize these types of positions to provide services.

Exempt limited term staff are about 35% of our personnel budget.

John Terra & Mhaira Terra, residents utilizing the Teen Services Program

Mhaira Terra provided testimony about the benefits of the teen center. Her father, John Terra, indicated that he values the services because they are offered in a safe location where teens can stay occupied, meet other students, and learn to demonstrate respect.

Donna Goldbranson, resident utilizing the Therapeutic Recreation Program

Ms. Goldbranson provided testimony indicating that she has utilized the program for her 17-year-old daughter who has a severe disability. She commented that the Explorer summer program is the only activity where she can be with non-disabled peers outside of school. Nearly 70% of the staff in this program are limited term. They have had over 3500 persons in attendance with only 7 full time staff. A cut to staff would equal a program cut, and there is currently a waiting list to access these services.

Question and Answer:

John Byers: How many teen centers are there?

Response: There are over 33 different locations in addition to 26 after-school programs located in middle schools.

Herk Latimer requested additional information about how many centers would likely be closed, as well as other likely impacts of the 10% reduction.

Elizabeth Page, Falls Church McLean Children's Center

Ms. Page presented "Fairfax County Human Services council: Statement by Elizabeth Page".

Ann Goldstein, Save Our Child Care Campaign

Ms. Goldstein presented the "Statement by Individuals/Organizations from the Save Our Child Care Campaign".

Question and Answer:

Carol Hawn: Is there some additional funds from the state being allocated for child care?

Response: There is a TANF transfer for child care which is only 6 million dollars to be divided across the entire state.

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Other Business

10:00 – 10:05 PM

Council members were asked to forward any additional questions for presenters to Ron McDevitt. Ron McDevitt will send responses to questions and additional information requests to Council members prior to the next meeting.

The Council will not meet Monday, March 17, 2008. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 to discuss the content of the Council's position letter. The Council will not meet on Monday, March 24, 2008 or Wednesday, March 26, 2008 if it is determined that the final revisions to the Council's position letter can be handled by email.

Ron McDevitt reviewed additional handouts, including the "Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) Priorities", "The Vital Importance of CrisisLink in Suicide Prevention: Jill's Story", a memo entitled "CSB Limited Term Funding", "Summary of Testimony on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan Before the Human Services Council: Monday, March 10, 2008", and a memo entitled "FY 2009 Budget Hearings".

Adjournment

10:05 PM

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

- 1. Chip Gertzog: 703-324-7959 Fax 703-324-7572 E-mail: Cgertz@fairfaxcounty.gov**
- 2. Judy Greene: 703-324-5640 Fax 703-324-7572 E-mail: Jgreen@fairfaxcounty.gov**
- 3. Marie Custode: 703-324-4540 Fax 703-324-7572 Email: Kcusto@fairfaxcounty.gov**
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