

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2009
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>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>Present</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: County Executive, Anthony H. Griffin

Other Attendees: Marijke Hannam, Arsenio de Guzman, Janet Hubbell, Michelle Gregory, Ginny McKernan, Juani Diaz, Kathy Froyd, JoAnne Jorgenson, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Karen Fuentes, Damian Gullo, Allan Phillips, Grace Starbird, George Braunstein, Nannette M. Bowler, and Brenda Gardiner.

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

Donna Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. It was noted that there would be a change of agenda. The Human Services Budget Reduction Analysis agenda item would be addressed at a new meeting scheduled for March 2, 2009 at the Government Center in Conference Room 232. Verdia Haywood will be presenting analysis of the cross-cutting Human Services issues with regards to the FY 2010 Advertised Budget and its impact on the Human Services System.

Approval of Minutes: Acceptance of previous meeting minutes, January 12, 2009. The motion to accept the minutes as drafted without revision was moved and approved.

FY 2010 Advertised Budget Presentation: 7:40-8:45 PM

County Executive, Tony Griffin reviewed the presentation of the proposed budget given to the Board of Supervisors and public in the morning. He shared highlights of his presentation and followed with Q&A.

The FY 2010 focuses on the County's core services and programs. It preserves those services fundamental to the County's mission – the protection and enrichment of the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County. In response to the budget

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situation and to address the projected \$650 million deficit, Mr. Griffin said he focused on three strategies: (1) Eliminate non-contractual or legally obligated growth in the budget that would have provided for inflationary increases, salary adjustments and increasing workloads; (2) Reduce, reengineer, reorganize, redesign and eliminate various County lines of business; and (3) Include revenue enhancements to keep the same relative tax burden on the residential homeowner and increase user fees to recover an equitable return of County costs. Mr. Griffin said he believed these proposed strategies provided a balanced approach to our budget challenges. This approach was validated time and again during our Community Dialogues and Employee Brown-bags on the budget this fall. All areas of the County's budget will be affected. Schools, public safety and human services comprise approximately 75 percent of the budget. All of these areas will be significantly impacted by my FY 2010 Budget recommendation since it would not be possible to balance the budget without adjustments to these areas while maintaining an acceptable and sustainable level of services.

Mr. Griffin said he appreciated all of the work the Human Services Council did on their recommendations and appreciated the use of tiers with the proposed reductions. In light of previous years (1991-1992 and 1996) in which the County faced difficult budgets, the FY 2010 budget is much worse. He proceeded to review highlights from his slide presentation.

Mr. Griffin concluded his presentation by reminding Council Members that the Board of Supervisors will consider these recommendations and the public will have an opportunity to comment on March 30, March 31, and April 1, 2009. Additional dates may be added. The Board will mark up the advertised budget on April 20, with final adoption on April 27, 2009.

Question and Answer:

Carol Ann Hawn: 1) Are you recommending any increase in the commercial industrial tax rate?
2) Your recommendations do not appear to pull anything out of the rainy day fund, correct?
3) And with regards to zoning, it appears that you are recommending fees to be increased?

Response: 1) No, commercial will already be paying more than residential. 2) Yes. 3) Yes.

John Byers: Generally, where are the 184 Public Safety positions coming from? Is it about equally distributed? **Response:** It is roughly equal to department size and is spread around. The proposed distribution is 7 in the Office of Sheriff, 89 in the Police Department, and 90 in the Fire and Rescue Department.

Laura McDowall: What impacts will the proposed reductions in Fire and Rescue have on EMTs? Will this affect the special rescue team sent to other areas in times of emergency? **Response:** No, not specifically. The proposed reductions will result in taking half of special operations (HZMAT unit), plus a reduction in half of the School Resource Officers. The School Resource Officers will be kept in High Schools and will not be kept in Middle Schools. In making my decisions, I tried to maintain the core mission of Public Safety, which is emergency rescue and medical response. I did not want to close fire stations. As far as the Urban Search and Rescue Program, we receive reimbursements, training and equipment for this special response team. The county does not pay for it.

Tom Grodek: Should we anticipate any of these cuts taking place earlier in FY 2009? **Response:** No, it is too late to put into place now; however, we are positioning ourselves for this. We tried to

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avoid the rainy day fund. We are allowed as much as \$25 million and we may only need to tap one-half of that if the budget situation gets worse.

Carol Ann Hawn: What is our rainy day fund now? **Response:** It is at \$300 million. It is the lowest reserves of any other jurisdiction. The Board has always maintained fiscal responsibility through a strong adherence to the county's ten principles of financial accounting.

Stephanie Mensh: Do we have potential stimulus money coming to assist in funding projects? For example, will there be money for community health centers through the community block grant or will the stimulus money have to come through the state's formula? **Response:** Yes, the list the county sent to the state is long, covering items such as storm water, road improvements, and walkways and trails. However, any stimulus money received needs to be used quickly and has high reporting accountability attached. The community block grant funding comes directly to the county and does not go through the state. Typically we have six months to spend those monies. **Verdia Haywood:** There is no change in the criteria for the community health centers. They remain targeted for the medically underserved areas in county, which is a criterion that is hard for us, as a county, to attain.

Laura McDowall: Mr. Griffin, I appreciate being able to be a part of your early deliberations. I feel we have fewer questions because we feel more informed and aware of what you are going through with this proposed budget. **Response:** I truly appreciate the Human Services Council and the counsel you all provide me during this process.

Other Business: 8:45-9:00 PM

Brenda Gardiner reviewed with the council the most recent changes to the "FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan Summary" document; highlighting that the line items in yellow were not taken or an alternative was proposed for it.

Notably, substitutes were made by the Health Dept in relation to the County Executive's decision not to discontinue the Clinic Room Aides program and alternative cross-cutting cuts in long term care and operating expenses are now being offered.

The proposed reduction in the Consolidated Community Funding Pool was not taken by Mr. Griffin. He also restored to Community and Recreation Services \$250 million for the Walk-on Use Prevention Program and transportation associated with Therapeutic Recreation camps.

Laura McDowall: Who will cover cost differential for the positions in DAHS? **Response:** DAHS will absorb it.

Ms. Gardiner expressed that more details would be provided at next week's meeting and more close review of the County Executive's packet and Citizen's Guide to the Budget will be conducted. Mr. Haywood's presentation next week will cover the cross-cutting, infrastructure, and strategic impacts at a Human Services System level.

Carol Ann Hawn: Will we look at impacts of cuts to Fastran? Will we study these in more depth? **Verdia Haywood:** We will discuss that issue.

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Tom Grodek: It appears a grand total of 63% of the proposed reductions put forth were accepted by the County Executive. Is this consistent across other county agencies? It appears that approximately 10% was the level of cuts, so Human Services did not get beat up. **Verdia Haywood:** It is generally consistent by area.

Chip Gertzog: Please refer to pages 88-89 of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for the impacts of the reductions by cost in dollars and positions by agency.

Stephanie Mensh: Are the reductions across the board? Were they reviewed by magisterial district or by Human Service regions? **Verdia Haywood:** Yes, they are not easily reviewed by magisterial districts and the reductions do not differ significantly by Human Service regions.

Henry Wulf: I recommend that we all individually spend time reviewing the budget packets provided by the County Executive and the additional information provided on the web before our next meeting.

Stephanie Mensh: What will be the impact of the Reduction In Force (RIF)? How many of these positions are filled versus vacant? **Response:** Many of the positions are filled and the RIF process is complex. Every effort will be made to avoid significant layoffs.

Update on additional Meetings and the FY2010 HSC Budget Process

Monday, March 2nd will be at 7:30 p.m. in room 232 – Verdia Haywood presentation.

Monday, March 9th will be in GC 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. – Budget Testimony

Wednesday, March 11th will be in GC 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. – Budget Testimony

Monday, March 16th will be in GC 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. – Council discussion of message to the BOS

Wednesday, March 18th will be in GC 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. – Possible HSC meeting if needed to finalize message to the BOS.

Monday, March 23rd at 1:30 p.m. – HSC presentation to the BOS Budget Committee

9:00 PM: Adjournment

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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