

Human Services Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Present</i>	Carol Hawn	<i>Excused</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Excused</i>	Bill Kogler	<i>Present</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Excused</i>	Michael Kwon	<i>Excused</i>
John Byers	<i>Excused</i>	Herk Latimer	<i>Present</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Excused</i>	Laura I. McDowall	<i>Excused</i>
Donna J. Fleming	<i>Present</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Excused</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Present</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Excused</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 (DSMHS)			<i>Present</i>
Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)			<i>Excused</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>
K. Marie Custode, Department of Systems Management for Human Services			<i>Present</i>
Maggie Scott, Department of Systems Management for Human Services			<i>Present</i>

Guests: Marlene Blum (Health Care Advisory Board), Marcus Simon (Advisory Social Services Board), Catherine Ridenour (Head Start Policy Council), Judith Falkenrath (Child Care Advisory Council), Gerry Williams (Communities of Faith United for Housing) Pam Michell (New Hope Housing), Steven Bloom (Community Action Advisory Board) Ann Pimley (Disability Services Board), Frank Blechman (CCFAC), Donna Goldbranson (Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council), Jack Kaufman (Senior Services Advisory Council), Mike Fox (CrisisLink), Ann Zuvekas (Alliance for Human Services), Heather Davies (Fairfax County Adult Day Health Care Associates) and Bill Casey (Northern Virginia Mediation Service).

Other Attendees: Barbara Antley, (Department of Family Services), Karen Fuentes (Office of Public Private Partnerships), Jennifer Topscxher (CrisisLink), Beverly Moses (Housing and Community Development), Carol Loftur-Thun (CrisisLink), Matthew Barkey (Disability Services Board), and Kevin Filbey (Department of Family Services).

Call to order

7:30 - 7:35 PM

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

Human Services Council Budget Testimony – FY 2010 Budget Review

7:35 - 10:20 PM

Marlene Blum, Health Care Advisory Board

Ms. Blum presented the “Health Care Advisory Board Presentation to the Human Services Council,” “A Typical Day in the Life of a Clinic Room Aide” and “Fairfax County Health Department FY’08 Statistics”

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Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: I understand that you would fight for any EMS cuts, but wouldn't those be under the Fire & Rescue budget?

Response: Yes, those would be under their budget

Donna Fleming: Will the reliance on FASTRAN to serve participants be impacted by their proposed budget cuts. We understand there will be drastic budget cuts in that area

Response: We have met with Rosalyn Foroobar and a transition plan has been developed to deal with Annandale Center participants having access to another center. However, the proposed reduction will increase waiting period time and will depend on the availability of FASTRAN transportation.

Marcus Simon, Advisory Social Services Board

Mr. Simon presented chairman of board presented "ASSB Presentation to the Human Services on FY 2010 Budget Issues"

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: Are there specific line items that your board is particularly concerned about?

Response: I did not come prepared with specific line items. However, we are most concerned about front line service delivery staff. We have had successes with prevention and it would be a shame to say we didn't have enough funding to continue prevention efforts.

Henry Wulf: Please go back to your Board and provide us with specific issues that you would like to see addressed and communicate those items to Ron McDevitt.

Catherine Ridenour, Board Chair, Head Start Policy Council

Ms. Ridenour presented "Human Services Council Review of FY2010 Advertised Budget, Catherine Ridenour Testimony."

Question and Answer:

No questions.

Judith Falkenrath, Child Care Advisory Board

Ms. Falkenrath presented "Child Care Advisory Council Testimony to the Human Services Council Proposed FY 2010 Fairfax County Budget."

Question and Answer:

No questions.

Gerry Williams, Communities of Faith United for Housing

Ms. Williams presented "Communities of Faith United for Housing - Human Services Council, March 11, 2009 – FY 2010 Advertised Budget Response."

Question and Answer:

No questions.

Pam Michell, New Hope Housing

Ms. Michell presented "Testimony to the Human Services Council, Wednesday, March 11, 2009, Pam Michell, Executive Director, New Hope Housing, Inc."

Question and Answer:

Stephanie Mensch: Asked for clarification regarding CSB staffing concerns noted regarding eliminating CSB staff currently assigned to the shelters.

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Response: There are currently too many CSB staff assigned to the shelters, but rather than eliminate the positions, these CSB positions need to be reassigned to the new HOST Teams to support the 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness. Eliminating the positions will make it impossible to implement the developed plan.

Steven Bloom, Community Action Advisory Board

Mr. Bloom presented the "Presentation to the Human Services Council on the County Executive's FY 2010 Budget Proposal – March 11, 2009." Mr. Bloom noted that he had "found" a 12 million dollar savings in the planned budget reductions due to overstating the gasoline cost for County vehicles.

Question and Answer:

No questions. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Bloom for identifying the twelve million dollars in possible savings. "

Ann Pimley, Disability Services Board

Ms. Pimley presented "Fairfax County FY 2010 Proposed Budget Reductions" on behalf of the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board.

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodner: Are the three programs/contracts that you referred to the Brain Injury Services, Northern Virginia Resource Center and Legal Services of Northern Virginia, totaling approximately \$86,000, representing 15% of the budget?

Response: Yes, those are the programs. There may be other ways to accomplish cost savings rather than the proposed cuts, such as a sliding fee scale for "Seniors on the Go" and perhaps a sliding fee scale at community recreation centers rather than a discount for all seniors regardless of income levels.

Frank Blechman, Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee

Mr. Blechman presented "Comments: CCFAC Chair to the Fairfax County Human Services Council."

Question and Answer:

Stephanie Mensh: Can you talk about impact if the one penny for affordable housing was designated to go somewhere else?

Response: There would be very long term consequences if you let affordable housing get away. The cost of trying to recreate it would be very high. We might need to use the funds more creatively, but there is a real need to maintain the current level of funding.

Stephanie Mensh: Asked if Mr. Haywood had shared his presentation re crosscutting issues with the Board.

Response: The presentation will be shared in the future. One-half penny would be needed just to meet current obligations for successful acquisitions in the past few years. We would have to pass up opportunities for other acquisitions if funding was cut. It should be noted that the new Office to End Homelessness is being funded with existing funds.

Kevin Bell: Requested that information on the impact of any reduction in the penny for housing funds be provide to the Council from Mr. Haywood's office prior to Monday's upcoming meeting.

Henry Wulf: Requested that specific examples of what some of these consequences are be provided to the Council.

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Donna Goldbranson, Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council

Ms. Goldbranson presented testimony on behalf of the Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council. Ms. Goldbranson noted that she gets very choked up sharing the story of daughter and her friends, but that she is here to be a voice for about 1500 participants in the program. The Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council is specifically focused on LOB 00150/Revenue - Transportation to Therapeutic Rec Programs. Long term care is an issue with my daughter and many who are part of the program. There is a need to step back and look at how these cuts affect our community. The work you are doing is tremendous. The task is daunting. Choices do not exist for this population compared to their typical counterparts in the community. When we cut even a little, we are taking away a lot of possibilities for these participants. Ninety percent of the participants rely on transportation to get to these programs. These programs are done lean and mean and do not have a lot of extra staff. While transportation is very costly, it is probably the biggest issue for disabled participants. Carpooling isn't a possibility for these families. Working parents can't shuffle back and forth and don't have money to provide transportation. Think about what is like to be a caregiver for someone with disabilities and what the tragedy of not being able to get these people to the programs would be like for the participants and their families.

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: Questioned reference for LOB 00150 revenue.

Response: It is noted under revenue, because the County Executive did not cut the transportation services, but proposed imposing fees. The high end of the sliding scale could be \$170/week for a six week program, which would be cost prohibitive for most participants.

Jack Kaufman, Senior Services Advisory Council

Mr. Kaufman presented testimony on behalf of "Senior Services Advisory Council."

Question and Answer:

No questions.

Mike Fox, Crisis Link

Mike Fox, Board of Directors, presented "CrisisLink " " The Link Newsletter,"

Question and Answer:

Tom Grodek: There isn't an item in the proposed budget to cut CrisisLink funding, so can we presume that it is level funded.

Response: Yes, it is level funded now

Ann Zuvekas, Alliance for Human Services

Ms. Zuvekas presented "Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services, FY2010 Statement to the Human Services Council, March 11, 2009".

Question and Answer:

Kevin Bell: Requested that any specific concerns be communicated to the Council prior to the March 16 Council meeting.

Response: Ms. Zuekas noted that she will provide specific information if her board is comfortable in doing so.

Heather Davies, Fairfax County Adult Day Health Care Associates

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Ms. Davies presented “Testimony before the Human Services Commission on Behalf of Adult Day Health Care Programs – March 11, 2009.”

Question and Answer:

Stephanie Mensh: Requested that suggestions regarding outsourcing or developing models for public/private partnerships be investigated identifying organizations that could take this up if it needs to be taken out of our budget.

Response: Mr. Haywood noted that we will work to see what can be put together.

Bill Casey, Northern Virginia Mediation Service

Mr. Casey presented testimony on behalf of Northern Virginia Mediation Service. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to appear before them. He noted that the NVMS was a community nonprofit that had been in Fairfax County for over 20 years offering mediation services to courts, community and neighborhood. He noted that he is here tonight because it appears that there are significant budget cuts planned in CCFAC. The Council noted that there were no such cuts proposed. The speaker then ended his comments and thanked the Council for their time.

Questions and Answer:

No questions.

Kevin Bell: Noted that the plan was to have something written to work with for the March 16 meeting for the Council’s message to the Board. Council members were asked for themes they had noted in tonight’s testimony.

Donna Fleming: We have heard concerns regarding transportation budget cuts and the impact of those cuts on multiple levels. Also concerns regarding affordable housing and one cent tax and need to continue to have the one penny contribution remain in place in order to move forward with the ten year plan. There was also repeated concern of addressing the needs of our elderly and physically challenged residents in our community. Those most in need are faced with the greatest potential for cuts in services

Herk Latimer: Noted concern re Therapeutic Recreation program.

Verdia Haywood: It is obvious that fees will be challenging for people to pay. There is some concern that while the program has been spared, that the imposition of fees may kill the program because many of the participants will not be able to pay the fees. Mr. Haywood will check with Pat Frankowitz regarding her thoughts and share that information with the Council.

Tom Grodek: Repeated areas of concern noted were elderly, children, homeless and disabled. This makes sense because that is a lot of what human services does. Maybe our job is to point out cascading effects.

Stephanie Mensh: Should pursue concept of outsourcing infrastructure that is there such as senior centers where it is already in place - find some way to transition to nonprofit. We will only need more of these types of services in the future. If there is a way to impose more sliding fees to have a better basis for the entity, that should be investigated.

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Verdia Haywood: There may still be time to consider implementing a sliding scale fee. Outsourcing is on agenda for 2011 budget. The lead time required for outsourcing is substantial and can't be started in time to impact the 2010 budget. We would need to start right now to help with the 2011 budget.

Other Business

10:00 PM

It was noted that Council members had received an invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Horizons Treatment Center at 11 a.m. on March 25, 2009, at 8247 Gregory Drive in Alexandria, Virginia.

It was also noted that written testimony was also provided for Council members from Judi Hyde regarding the proposed closing of the Lorton Senior Center and from Ronald Christian, Chairman of the Fairfax County Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Copies were provided to council members.

Adjournment

10:05 PM

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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