

Human Services Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Present</i>	Tom Grodek	<i>Present</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Present</i>	Carol Hawn	<i>Present</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Present</i>	Bill Kogler	<i>Present</i>
Wendy Breseman	<i>Present</i>	Herk Latimer	<i>Present</i>
John Byers	<i>Excused</i>	Laura I. McDowall	<i>Present</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Present</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Donna J. Fleming	<i>Present</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Excused</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Present</i>	Herbert James Smith	<i>Present</i>
Richard Gonzalez	<i>Present</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Present</i>
Staff:			
Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive			<i>Present</i>
Gail Ledford, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<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>
Marie Custode, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)			<i>Present</i>

Guests and Other Attendees: Mary Agee, Dean Klein, Kerrie Wilson, Linda Nsiah, Simon Wiredu, Barbara Antley, Nannette Bowler, Michelle Wilhelm, Terry Goplerul, Matt Barkley, George Braunstein, Jacquie Woodruff, Heather West, Juani Diaz, Rosalyn Foroobar, Cynthia Hull, Marlene Blum, Karen Fuentes, Gail Ledford, Chris Leonard, Marijke Hannam

Call to order: 7:40 PM

Kevin Bell called the meeting to order. The Council recognized a new member from the Mason District, Herbert James Smith, special education teacher. Gail Ledford introduced Heather West, her mentee from the Emerging Leaders Institute. Pat Harrison made opening remarks about the challenges of the budget for FY 2011.

7:45 PM – 9:00 PM

Presentation of FY2011 Advertised Budget

Anthony Griffin, County Executive

Tony Griffin, County Executive, distributed the PowerPoint presentation entitled “County Executive Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2011 Advertised Budget Plan”. He acknowledged the difficulty of the decisions and commended the work of staff in developing this budget. He highlighted the following points from his presentation:

- Expenditure reductions total \$103.3.
- \$257 million budget gap was less than anticipated (\$315 million) because residential property values did not decrease as much as had been estimated. However, commercial value losses were slightly greater than estimated at 18.5%.
- Recommendation for 5 cent increase on the real estate tax rate from \$1.04 to \$1.09.

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- Recommendation for 1% decrease in transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools, which distributes some of the reductions and maintains the percentage of general fund transfer to the schools.
- Libraries and parks took a more significant reduction because they are not mandated services, nor are they part of the core function of county government.
- Additional detail on the impact of the reductions upon Human Services can be found near the end of his budget message to the board.

Tony discussed his concept of the “new normal”, that these reductions will be permanent. He indicated that the economic recovery from this current recession will not be as robust as previous recessionary recoveries, and the county will not be able to afford restoring budget cuts. Even maintaining the work force is challenging. Employees have not received compensation increases, and to do so would cost \$110 million.

Question and Answer:

Kevin Bell: Are CCFAC and HSC going to be merged? Are other Boards, Authorities and Commissions (BACs) being eliminated?

Response: The County is in the process of examining all the BACs that staff is supporting, and looking at alternatives to reduce the level of staff support, through consolidation or working together differently. CCFAC and HSC have similar missions and there may be an alignment opportunity. No specific cuts have been identified at this time, other than the Commission for Women’s administrative support position.

The Council requested a copy of the list of all county BACs.

Carol Hawn: The Community Action Advisory Board and Social Services Board have similar missions, however they were unable to be aligned in the past because they are both state mandated.

Response: The State might welcome ideas about how they could be consolidated at this point in time.

Laura McDowall: What are the possible state reductions and what is the impact of the increasing need for services?

Response: The House and Senate have made budget recommendations, however they still need to be reconciled into a single budget. They are not too divergent, although the Senate version is more favorable for human services. Gains in the local composite index increase will be off set by reductions. The recommendation is to keep a million in reserve for holes in safety net, and \$21 million in reserve funds to deal with potential state cuts. However, the Board of Supervisors may not be willing to make up for every cut that state makes. State governors are saying that the worst is yet to come. Government is the last to come out of recession, so it may be 2 more years before we hit bottom. Homelessness numbers haven’t increased as we are working hard to avoid that. There are major redesign efforts underway to figure out how to deal with increased demand in DFS.

Stephanie Mensh: What impact has the snow had on the state budget and the county budget and what does that mean for next year?

Response: The County will have to spend reserve money to pay for overtime related to snow removal. The county does not have the equipment to handle 40 inches of snow over 5 days, and because of the rarity of the event I would not recommend that we should invest in it.

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Henry Wulf: The contractual rate increases and the half a penny for affordable housing were positive inclusions that this Council has recommended in the past. Can you explain the consolidation of the Department of Systems Management with Community and Recreation Services?

Response: In regards to the half penny, 6 million of the 10 million is needed for debt service for acquired properties. The other 4 million is to be used towards the recently approved Blueprint for Housing, as well as some capital improvements, and planning efforts. In regards to the consolidation, there will be a presentation with more specific details in March to explain the benefit to the community. The intent is to preserve the support and products of Systems, while enhancing the community engagement component. There are other minor reorganizations such as DFS process redesigns, and the consolidation of code enforcement into a single agency.

Tom Grodek: Referencing slide 25, “efficiencies”, “redesigns” and “reduced placements” are all reductions, correct? What is the percentage of reductions for each agency?

Response: Several reductions are in direct correlation with reductions in workload. For example, there are fewer juveniles going through the court system, and there are fewer plans for review due to less new construction. Each human services agency will brief the Council and discuss their cuts specifically. Last year with LOBS, more information was available in advance. The website link to the budget plan documents is included on the budget schedule titled “Highlights: FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan”. Ron McDevitt is working on a summary of human services reductions for the next meeting.

Baba Freeman: The state is cutting its volunteer management positions. Is the county doing the same? Please don’t cut volunteer managers.

Response: No.

Stephanie Mensh: Is there a Board for organizing senior services?

Response: There are several boards. The examination of impacts upon older adults is an effort that started over the summer based on what happened during the last budget cycle. It was noted that there are cuts in other places in the budget outside of human services that also impact older adults. For example, the library is cutting the service that allows disabled individuals to get books through the mail.

9:00 PM – 9:10 PM

Budget Review Schedule

Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services

Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services, reviewed the document entitled “Human Services Council – FY 2011 Advertised Budget Review Schedule”. He noted that there will be some modifications of which agencies will be presenting on which days. The CRS/DSMHS presentation will be on the 15th instead of the 10th.

Henry Wulf requested that transportation be examined as a cross-cutting issue. Stephanie Mensh mentioned that individuals with disabilities and impact upon nonprofits were other areas previously identified by the Council.

Tony Griffin requested that if the Council identifies any reductions as unacceptable in its statement, that acceptable alternative cuts within human services be included. He added that additional reductions of 5% are anticipated for FY 2012. His recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is that they advertise an 8 cent increase to the tax rate to allow themselves additional latitude for budget adjustments.

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Other Business: 9:15 PM – 9:20 PM

Approval of Minutes: The January 11, 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

Updated HSC rosters were distributed.

Adjournment: 9:20 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
Deborah Gutierrez: 703-324-7132 Fax 703-324-7572 E-mail: Dgutie@fairfaxcounty.gov
Elisa Lueck: 703-324-7135 Fax 703-324-7572 Email: Elisa.Lueck@fairfaxcounty.gov