

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2010
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Excused</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>Present</i>	Laura I. McDowall	<i>Present</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Present</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Donna J. Fleming	<i>Excused</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Excused</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Excused</i>	Herbert James Smith	<i>Present</i>
Richard Gonzalez	<i>Excused</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>
Deborah H. Gutierrez, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)			<i>Present</i>

Guests and Other Attendees: Rosalyn Foroobar, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Marlene Blum, Sarah Allen, Chris Leonard, Michelle Wilhelm, Michael Artson, and Kerrie Wilson, Patti Donnelly, Mary Agee, and Amanda Andere.

7:30 PM

Call to order

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Chip Gertzog reviewed the documents for council members' review, as well as this evening's presenter handouts:

Documents

- ◆ Letter from Linda Eatmon-Jones, Executive Director, Crisis Link
- ◆ Letter from Paul J. Wexler, Executive Director, Central Fairfax Services, Inc.
- ◆ Trends in Community Needs Illustrated by Demand for CSP Services
- ◆ March 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ March 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Presenter Presentations

- ◆ Health Care Advisory Board – Health Department Presentation to the Human Services Council
- ◆ Creation of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
- ◆ Department of Neighborhood and Community Services Advertised Budget Plan
- ◆ Department of Administration for Human Services Presentation to the Fairfax County Human Services Council – Agency Overview & FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan

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- ◆ Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services Statement to the Fairfax County Human Services Council on the FY 2011 Advertised Budget
- ◆ Nonprofit NoVA Statement before the Human Services Council

7:35-7:50 PM

Health Department

Presenters: Marlene Blum, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu and Rosalyn Foroobar

Marlene Blum, with the Health Care Advisory Board, shared from the **Health Care Advisory Board – Health Department Presentation to the Human Services Council**, highlighting the board’s position on and the overall impact of proposed Health Department’s FY 2011 budget reductions. Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu explained the rationale for the addition of nine (9) SYE positions for Emergency Preparedness. She stressed the criticality of these positions for sustaining the “new normal” for the Health Department as first responders to public health emergencies. Initially these services came into being as a response to the terrorist threats in 2001; however, now these services have become core services in need of dedicated positions and funding.

Laura McDowall: I want to applaud the work of the Health Department. The establishment and sustaining of the Medical Reserve Corps is incredible considering the limited resources you have had and considering that we reside within the Washington, DC Region where there is a greater threat and a great deal more coordination between responders. This effort definitely needs administrative support and I am pleased with the proposal.

Stephanie Mensh: With the State and Local Hospitals cut, which the DFS budget reflected, will the Health Department pick up the services and the related impact on indigents? Additionally, what impact will the Medicare cuts have on the Health Department? **Response:** The number of charity care patients at the hospitals will definitely increase and as far as the impact of the Medicare cuts, it is too soon to tell. They will not affect the county’s budget; however, they will affect county citizens and providers.

7:50-8:45 PM

Establishment of Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

Presenter: Pat Harrison

Pat Harrison reviewed the **Creation of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services** presentation and highlighted the “why” and “how” of the proposed agency reorganization. The reorganization is still a work in progress and many of the details are still being developed. Additionally, the long-term affect of the proposed reorganization is not solely economic, but rather it will be an agency better positioned to meet the increasing needs of the county’s citizens. Pat stressed no program, service or centers are proposed for elimination or closure with this reorganization.

John Byers: What do you view the relationship as being - between the new agency, the Human Services Leadership Committee and the Human Services Council? **Response:** We will still support the Human Services Council and the Human Services Leadership Committee will be internal and still work to support Human Services Council.

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Tom Grodek: Can the Board of Supervisors say no to this proposal realizing it is a County Executive's recommendation? **Response**: The Board and the County Executive requested reorganization efforts with this budget climate. They will approve or disapprove this particular reorganization.

Carol Hawn: I had heard from a citizen leader of an effort for the reorganization of the Park Authority and Community Recreation Services (CRS)? **Response**: The Board was notified by Tony Griffin that no savings were associated with a reorganization of CRS and the Park Authority back in September and November.

Stephanie Mensh: How do all of the boxes connect with regards to your support and the impact on the Human Services System? For example, how will DFS be affected? **Response**: There is no adverse impact. For example, this agency will coordinate community response initiatives within the Human Services System.

CRS/DSMHS Budget Reductions

Presenters: Ken Disselkoe and Chris Leonard

Chris Leonard addressed the transportation support efforts and highlighted efforts with regards to:

- ◆ **FASTRAN** - There will be no service reductions this year. The dollars associated with the FASTRAN related item noted in the CSB proposed reductions are actually savings from cuts incurred last year. With regards to Medicaid riders, most have been able to transfer to Logisticare's coverage of Medicaid eligible riders. We are still in the process of transitioning from one provider to a seven (7) to eight (8) provider network overseen by Logisticare. Proposed cuts of two positions related to Fastran are not service delivery related.
- ◆ **MetroAccess** – MetroAccess is in the process of aligning services to their current metro bus and rail services stops. Approximately 600 citizens will be supposedly impacted when they reduce service to a ¾ mile corridor radius to current metro bus and rail services stops. Additionally, they may charge \$5 or double fares, which will restrict access to their free ride service. METRO is looking at ways to adhere to what is just required under the law. These same issues came up last year as well.
- ◆ **Connector** – Presently there are no reductions regarding the Connector services; however, there are some reductions proposed by the Department of Transportation with regards to Seniors-on-the-Go! and Taxi Access services. With special attention to Taxi Access Services, there is a potential impact on disabled riders in that they propose capping ridership at the current level and will not be able to accept new riders. Presently the Department of Transportation is not ready to release all of the numbers. Last year they considered their cuts to be low impact risk cuts; however, this year they will be taking cuts that are medium to high impact risk cuts.

Henry Wulf: Due to the time constraints, please submit related questions to Ron McDevitt and the Council can bring Chris back later to answer these questions.

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8:45-9:05 PM

Department of Administration for Human Services

Presenter: Gail Ledford

Gail Ledford presented from the *Department of Administration for Human Services Presentation to the Fairfax County Human Services Council – Agency Overview & FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan*. Gail stressed that DAHS provides cross-system infrastructure support for colleagues within the county's Human Services agencies. The level of support provided depends on level of need by the respective agency. A new need has emerged for consultative services, for example around the TANF program. Proposed DAHS budget reductions focus on reductions in personnel services and will require close maintenance of vacancies.

Henry Wulf: Due to the time constraints, please submit related questions to Ron McDevitt and Ron and Gail will answer these questions later.

9:05-9:15 PM

Testimony:

Alliance for Human Services

Marlene Blum shared from a prepared statement, *Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services Statement to the Fairfax County Human Services Council on the FY 2011 Advertised Budget*.

Tom Grodek: You are matching the three CSB listed budget reduction items? **Response:** Yes

Stephanie Mensh: Is there a reason you are not advocating for home health aides? **Response:** This proposed reduction is not ideal, but the Alliance feels it is reasonable approach. It does not appear to be affecting those currently in the program, but it will impact future enrollees. We definitely need to monitor to determine what the ultimate result will be. It is further explained in the Budget Advocacy "package" the Alliance for Human Services disseminates. We were focused on the most harmful proposed reductions.

Nonprofit NoVA

Patti Donnelly, Amanda Andere, Mary Agee, and Kerrie Wilson shared from a prepared statement, *Nonprofit NoVA Statement before the Human Services Council*.

Henry Wulf: There is definite synergy between your organizations and I am proud of the nonprofit community and what you add to Human Services' delivery of services.

9:15-9:30 PM

Other Business

Approval of Minutes: The March 8 and March 10, 2010 meeting minutes were approved, with Carol Hawn's request for minor correction to the March 8, 2010 minutes.

March 17th is the next meeting date.

Henry Wulf: Please identify one issue each of you as a Council Member thinks is really important:

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Richard Berger – look at the CSB cuts further;

Tom Grodek – specifically noting the awesome internal redesign and restructuring done by DFS and CSB;

Herk Latimer – Medicaid funding for group homes and other services plus the Medicaid waivers issue;

Herbert Smith – homeless children & disadvantages they face plus youth services cuts and the impact to their parents;

John Byers – reductions in children’s’ programs and raising the property tax;

Col. Barnwell - home base care and children’s’ programs;

Wendy Breseman - cuts in mental health issues, especially, the CSB’s proposed Northwest and Mt. Vernon emergency services elimination;

Bill Kogler – nothing additional to what has already been mentioned;

Stephanie Mensh – home based health care, DFS issues, CSB Northwest and Mt. Vernon redirection of emergency services to Woodburn plus children’s’ programs;

Robert Faherty – support CSB and DFS and commend their efforts to internally reorganize and restructure, but be aware do more with less help and avoid unintended consequences of things being lost plus transportation issues;

Carol Hawn – nothing specifically, commitment to the Housing Blueprint;

Baba Freeman – need for clarification on mentoring older children in Foster Care; and

Response: The funds for the mentoring program for children in Foster Care are being redirected. They are not cutting, but are rather redirecting a staff person to work with a different population. They are finding a large number of teens age out of Foster Care without permanency and a smaller number in the younger age groups; approximately 160 within Foster Care are 14 and older.

Henry Wulf – look for the proverbial “canary in the mine”; our criteria for us should be to look at reductions that are so toxic and so detrimental that will severely affect what we recommend.

9:40 PM

Adjournment

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. *Deborah Gutierrez:* 703-324-7132 Fax 703-324-7572 E-mail: Dgutie@fairfaxcounty.gov