

Human Services Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 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>Excused</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>Present</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Excused</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Excused</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Excused</i>	Herbert James Smith	<i>Excused</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>
Sophia Dutton, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)			<i>Present</i>

Guests and Other Attendees: Nannette Bowler, Marijke Hannam, Ina Fernandez, Dean Klein, Michael O'Reilly, Marcus Simon, Tapan Banerjee, Kathy Froyd, Grace Starbird, Barbara Antlee, Gerry Williams, Anne-Marie Twohie, Judith Falkenrath, Eileen Duggan, Samantha Clark, Rachel Anthony, Jacquie Woodruff

7:30 PM

Call to order

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

7:30-8:15 PM

Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH)

Presenters: Dean Klein and Michael O'Reilly

Dean Klein provided an update on the HOST system. HOST is now operational at four sites. The HOST system has prevented 339 people from becoming homeless within a 65-day period. Dean Klein noted that OPEH has a 4-year action plan to move towards the 10-year goal. Homelessness touches the four human services priority areas that Pat Harrison has presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). OPEH has a \$20,000 reduction in FY2011 Advertised Budget. In the current year, OPEH has been able to secure federal funds to support community-based organizations for case management, financial assistance, etc., but has not been able to secure additional local allocation to support the HOST system. This makes the \$20K cut difficult.

Michael O'Reilly provided an overview of the history of OPEH. The Ten-Year Plan was adopted in March 2008. Dean Klein was hired in March 2009. The Governing Board had its first full meeting in June 2009. Members of the Governing Board include members of the BOS, the mayor of Fairfax City, and CEOs of corporations. This week, the Vice-President of Northrup Grumman

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has agreed to serve on the Governing Board. The role of the Governing Board is to set vision and policy and hold OPEH accountable for implementation of the 10-year plan. The Governing Board is an active board and is encouraged by results of HOST and uniform reporting. The OPEH website has done a good job to say what individuals can do to help. The tremendous momentum of OPEH's work is at risk from budget cuts.

Donna Fleming: How is the number of individuals prevented from becoming homeless tracked?

Response: Individuals supported by stimulus dollars are tracked in HMIS. The tracking mechanism aligns with HOST system. Dollars are allocated to individuals on the edge of homelessness. CBOs validate the numbers. These individuals may be kept in their own home. These individuals are not in homeless shelters.

Donna Fleming: Since OPEH is to raise funding separate from and inclusive of federal and County, how is fundraising going?

Response: A Foundation that will ensure OPEH can accept variety of resources (philanthropic, State, Corporate, etc.) will be established this year. OPEH will receive \$2.4 million over a 3-year period in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funding. 60% of funding must be spent in first two years, and OPEH could run out of HPRP funding in a year.

Laura McDowall: How many homeless people in Fairfax County? **Response:** 1,710 individuals as of 2009. Results of 2010 Point in Time survey will be available soon.

Laura McDowall: What is the cost of housing a homeless person or to prevent homelessness for a person?

Response: \$1,200-1,500 for one month of rent, but there could be debt of two to three months as well as basic needs to consider in addition to that. It is more cost-effective to pursue Housing First model as opposed to the traditional homeless services cycle.

Stephanie Mensh: Clarification on \$20,000 cut. **Response:** OPEH plans to: work around the cut and ensure things run as smoothly as possible; continue running HOST; have more effective data management and resource utilization; and re-direct resources.

Carol Ann Hawn: Will a change of who is mayor affect membership on the Governing Board?

Response: The board will reach out to elected officials for representation.

8:15-9:30 PM

Department of Family Services (and Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs))

Presenters: Nannette Bowler, Marijke Hannam, and members of BACs

Nannette acknowledged that DFS boards and commissions are all represented at the HSC meeting. She presented "Fairfax County Department of Family Services: Presentation to the Human Services Council, March 10, 2010" (Powerpoint attached). The numbered items in slide 16 align with Ron McDevitt's handout from the previous HSC meeting.

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Tom Grodek: Of the \$6.4M proposed cut, how much should we fight for? **Response**: \$400,000, made up of home-based care, translation services, and administrative support for domestic violence.

Laura McDowall: How will service be provided if the state has eliminated the hospitalization program? **Response**: Burden will be placed on hospitals' indigent care program. The proposed cut equates to \$800,000 worth of services eliminated locally.

Laura McDowall: With CSA picking up child care expenses that used to be covered by local funding, will CSA funding still be available for this? **Response**: We are drawing down State funds. CSA expenditures have gone down in recent years. Children served within the community have better outcomes.

Donna Fleming: What is the impact of the home-based care cut? Would a person have to choose between getting meals, laundry, bathing, housekeeping, etc.? **Response**: A vendor provides tasks. Tasks are in packages (eg. Light housekeeping, meals, and bathing 8 times a month, laundry 4 times a month, and housekeeping once a month). The cut would cap how often a person receives services. Will provide additional clarification in the future.

Donna Fleming: What is the cost of Documentum? Is it already implemented? **Response**: Documentum is already paid for, so no risk of not being implemented. It is already implemented for Self-Sufficiency.

Stephanie Mensh: Why ask to restore only \$375K for Home-Based Care when the cut is \$500K? **Response**: \$121,000 flexibility due to increased Medicaid-funded Community Based Care Services that lowered caseload paid for by County; however, in light of State cuts, that number could shrink.

Henry Wulf: Is it time to re-examine SACC fees? **Response**: DFS will assess sliding fee next year for 2012. DFS currently doesn't know income levels necessary to determine sliding fee scale. A thorough process to determine graduated fee scale is needed, to include an anonymous survey of all SACC households to see what income they have. Some investigation into other localities' SACC fees is also needed.

Carol Hawn: Pilot programs for SACC? **Response**: There is currently an RFP process for the extended-day program.

Henry Wulf: Commented to look at increasing revenue instead of cutting snacks.

Laura McDowall: An 18% reduction for Artemis House equates to how much? **Response**: \$25,000

Laura McDowall: What information do we have about Medicaid providers at current rates? **Response**: The CSB would have a better sense of this, though there is concern that reduction in reimbursement rate will decrease number of providers.

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Stephanie Mensh: Will the person in the Commission for Women position being cut be reassigned? **Response**: Yes, because we did lose one person (vacancy).

Marcus Simon, Advisory Social Services Board, presented advocacy points from testimony (see ASSB Human Services Council Testimony, attached). Highlights:

- Hold DFS harmless after cuts in 2009 and 2010.
- Ask for \$0.4M back out of the \$6.4M to avoid cut to home-based services.
- Domestic violence issues are also important.

Tom Grodek: We are officially NOT asking for restorations, but should we have the opportunity, would like to know what we should ask for.

Eileen Duggan, Vice Chair of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging, presented testimony (attached). The Commission on Aging asks that HSC “recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the proposed cut in Home Based care services not be implemented.”

Tom Grodek: Asked if Home-Based Services also serves the disabled. **Response**: Yes.

Carol Hawn: Requested update on data for services related to 222 number. **Response**: DSMHS will provide at next HSC meeting.

Tapan Banerjee, Dranesville District, Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB), provided testimony (attached memo from Michele Hymer Blitz). Testimony was related to Home-Based Care, Transportation Services (Fairfax Connector Services and TaxiAccess), Blueprint for Affordable Housing, 303 Funding for Countywide ADA Compliance, and Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs positions. The FA-DSB supports Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin’s recommended 5-cent increase to the tax rate and reinstatement of the car registration fee to prevent service and program cuts that will impact people with disabilities.

Stephanie Mensh: Bus stops are not accessible. Can stimulus funding be used to make bus stops accessible? **Response**: Will look into this to get answer.

Carol Hawn: Are the two Human Rights positions [referenced in FA-DSB’s testimony] part of the HSC budget cut matrix? **Response**: Not yet, but will be added.

Judith Falkenrath, Chair, Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC), provided testimony on the “Proposed FY 2011 Fairfax County Budget” (attached).

Samantha Clark, Vice-Chairperson, Head Start Policy Council, provided testimony (attached) on personal success attained through receiving assistance through Head Start services.

Laura McDowall: Noted that 1,200 children each year (on the waiting list) are missing out on the Head Start program.

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Rachel Anthony, Chair, SACC Parent Advisory Council (PAC), provided testimony (attached). Testimony included support of SACC portion of the proposed FY 2011 budget which includes a SACC fee rate increase to generate additional revenue and the recommendation that a new SACC center be opened at Mount Eagle Elementary. The testimony mentioned the RFP to outsource child care at White Oaks Elementary School (extended day program) and concerns this will turn into a FY2012 or FY2013 budget issue. SACC families do not want the current SACC program to change and strongly oppose any efforts to do so. In addition, Rachel Anthony mentioned that the cut related to snacks has not been an issue among parents she asked.

CAAB testimony (attached). CAAB commends the County Executive for developing a budget that conforms to the four guiding principles he laid out last year. Highlights from testimony:

- Supports increasing real estate tax to restore 1% reduction to the School transfer.
- Believes the community would support a tax increase.
- CAAB also supports vehicle decal fee.
- Pleased about \$1M emergency fund for contractors, level funding for CCFP, \$2.2M adjustment for contractual adjustments, ½ penny for Affordable Housing, support for CCAR.

Carol Hawn: Would CAAB support \$496K for Home-Based Care? **Response**: Yes, but need to be caution about negative effect on those residents who come to us with their most pressing need.

9:30 PM

Other Business

Ron McDevitt distributed “Fairfax-Falls Church CSB Local Budget Cuts: Evaluating Alternatives” and “Prevention Services FY2009 Report”, which is the CSB’s response to questions from the previous HSC meeting on March 8th.

March 15th is next meeting date. Other scheduled meeting dates are March 17th, 19th, and 24th.

9:41 PM

Adjournment

Staff Support Information:

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