

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2008
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	Present	Carol Ann Hawn	Present
Colonel Marion Barnwell	Present	Bill Kogler	Present
Richard P. Berger	Present	Michael Kwon	Excused
John Byers	Present	Herk Latimer	Present
Robert L. Faherty	Present	Laura I. McDowall	Present
Donna J. Fleming	Excused	Stephanie Mensh	Excused
Baba Freeman	Present	John Niemiec	Excused
Robert Gaudian	Excused	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	Excused
Richard Gonzalez	Excused	J. Jay Volkert	Present
Tom Grodek	Excused	Henry Wulf	Present

Staff:	
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive	Present
Ken Disselkoen, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present
Chip Gertzog, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present
Ken Garnes, Department of Administration for Human Services	Present
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services	Present
Marie Custode, Department of Systems Management for Human Services	Present

Other Attendees: Michelle Gregory, Department of Systems Management for Human Services

Call to order

7:30 - 7:40 PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. A memorandum from Tony Griffin entitled “Annual Memorandum regarding State and Federal Lobbying by County Agencies, Boards, Authorities and Commissions – 2008 General Assembly, 110th Congress” and the “Human Services Council 2008 Draft Meeting Schedule” was distributed.

Domestic Violence Initiatives

7:40 - 8:45 PM

Seema Zeya, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Department of Systems Management for Human Services

Seema Zeya provided an overview of the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) and its mission to strengthen the community-wide response to domestic violence in Fairfax County. The Council meets bimonthly and its focus is shifting from the civil and criminal justice system to the social services side of domestic violence. She reviewed the information contained in the handout “Fairfax County Domestic Violence Initiatives (2007-2008)”.

Question and Answer:

John Byers: Is the visitation exchange program only being held in one place? Could the police detectives help in the supervision of exchange?

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Response: The program is starting in the neutral safe setting of the basement of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with the hope of being able to expand in future.

Laura McDowall: How do domestic violence personnel coordinate with the Community Services Board, Child Protective Services and the school system? Are children included in domestic violence services?

Response: There are regular meetings to facilitate inter-agency coordination, collaboration, communication, and case consultation. Adult children are included, but cases involving minors are mostly taken by Child Protective Services. The Department of Family Services has a specific unit to coordinate cases where both domestic violence and child abuse/neglect are present.

Kevin Bell: How does prevention fit in with the domestic violence initiatives?

Response: Domestic violence is one of the priorities in the prevention system, emphasizing healthy relationships and respect.

Henry Wulf: What is the scope of this as an issue? Is it a growing problem? What resources are going towards this issue?

Response: Data is a challenge because the definition of domestic violence varies. The Police Department responds to about 10,000 domestic violence calls per year countywide. However, there is a low reporting rate and those with resources may seek other help. The Victim Assistance Network for domestic violence and sexual assault takes 2500 calls per year. 400 batterers per year are court referred to Adapt. Last year, 8 of 25 homicides in Fairfax County were DV related. The exact amount of resources being allocated towards this issue is currently not available.

Ina Fernandez, Director, Office for Women

Ina Fernandez explained that domestic violence services are being redesigned and transferred from the Community Services Board to the Office for Women in effort to raise awareness of the issue and to be able to better integrate and coordinate services. There is an administrative process workgroup handling the organizational shift and a programmatic workgroup to improve service provision and processes, beginning with VAN and the Women's Shelter. Handouts included the "Fairfax County Domestic Violence Service Operations Transition and Redesign Project: Charter and General Work Plan" and a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Fairfax County Domestic Violence Services Operations Transition and Redesign Project: Executive Sponsorship Interim Report". It was noted that the redesign recommendations once completed will go to Human Services Leadership Team, but because of the budget outlook there will be no additional staff for this effort.

Kevin Bell: How is the shelter funded and are there multiple locations? How are we making services culturally appropriate?

Response: They are rented apartments that are subject to market increases in rent. Currently under consideration is whether it is best practice for the shelter to be directly operated, or contracted out. We are looking at cultural competency in regards to best practices.

John Byers: Is Mondloch Shelter a part of domestic violence services? Are you conducting outreach to the Korean population?

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Response: No, but domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness, and the shelter does accept women who have been abused. Yes - Not all communities are seeking help from the outside, so we fund non-profit organizations to provide culturally appropriate outreach and education about services.

Henry Wulf: How will you know if you are making progress?

Response: One of the goals listed in the charter is to develop performance and outcome measures.

Jay Volkert: What has been the outcome of the pilot project of 12 forensic nurses at Inova?

Response: They have provided services to 25 women since the program's initiation in July. There was a health care summit, and health care providers are being trained to screen for DV and sexual assault.

Kevin Bell requested to hear from the presenters again in the future.

Human Services Council FY2009 Budget Process

8:45 - 9:10 PM

The following items were distributed: "Draft HSC FY 2008 Budget Meeting Schedule", "Recommendations Regarding the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan" Memo to the Board of Supervisors, and the "Lines of Business: County of Fairfax, Virginia: Human Services". It was noted that there is more information in the budget now than during the recession of the 1990's. While FY 2009 is bleak, FY 2010 is worse. It will be important to be informed about the impact of the lack of additional resources. The meeting schedule was approved with a suggestion from Baba Freeman to request that the Boards, Authorities and Commissions submit bulleted lists rather than reading from text. The Lines of Business (LOBs) were based upon the FY 2008 budget prior to the second 2% reduction. The Board of Supervisors will review them at their retreat at the end of January for educational purposes and they will subsequently be available to the general public. Henry Wulf requested a themed list of the Lines of Business.

Other Business

9:10 – 9:15 PM

Minutes from the December 10, 2007 meeting were approved without revision.

Adjournment

9:15 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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