

Human Services Council Budget Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, February 27, 2013
 MEETING NOTES

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chair	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Gerald V. Poje	<i>Present</i>
Henry Wulf, Chair, Budget Committee	<i>Present</i>		
Steven Bloom	<i>Present</i>		
<i>Staff:</i>			
M. Gail Ledford, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Brenda Gardiner, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Ronald McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>

County staff: Nannette Bowler

7: 40 p.m. Welcome and Overview

Henry Wulf, Chair of the Human Services Council Budget Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The Budget Committee reviewed the FY 2014 and FY 2015 budget information presented by staff at the full Human Services Council meeting on February 26, 2013. Additional information will be received and reviewed by the Human Services Council’s Executive Committee on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Group Discussion

The group engaged in a discussion of the current budget situation, as well as trends that may impact the system in the future.

- What community needs should the Human Services system address in FY 14 and longer term for the FY 15 budget?
- How can the Human Services Council frame the recommendations/priorities to address community needs?
- What are the systems implications for the 2014 budget?

As a general outline for the Council’s transmittal memo to the Board of Supervisors on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan, the following structure for the memorandum will be used:

- **A General Introduction:**
 - Appreciation for the opportunity to provide comment and guidance
 - Understanding of the difficulty encountered in preparing this budget
 - Appreciation of the County Executive’s commitment to maintain a safety net of services
 - Thankfulness for the Board of Supervisors’ investment and wisdom
 - Explanation about the Human Services Council’s new budget review format this year
 - Comments about the value and usefulness of Trends information
 - Introductory comments about the Council’s decision to not recommend restoration of proposed reductions while at the same time protecting the investment funding level included in the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan.
- **Four Major Points to be Included in the Council’s Letter:**
 - Support for Prevention and Early Intervention
 - Use of trends in decision making/Excellent management of human services resources
 - “Recalibrated”
 - “Doing more with less”

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- Acknowledgement that years of budget reductions have continuously eroded the human services resource environment
- Consideration of including a funding reserve for human services/building a firewall to protect the county's investment from further erosion
 - While the Council is not asking for restoration of any proposed reductions, it is wise public policy to maintain the level of investment included in the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan
 - This additional revenue for the human services system is vital; the Council defers to the wisdom of the Board of Supervisors as to how to provide the funding for this recommended reserve
- Highlight the significant impact to the system from federal/state influences, decisions, and mandates
 - Need to prepare for the impact of "Outside forces beyond the County's control"
 - Threats to the stability of the human services system (e.g., Sequestration, etc.)
- **General Thoughts to Include Where Appropriate in the Transmittal Letter:**
 - Highlight the Human Services Council's expertise with and breadth of knowledge about the human services system
 - The Council has a lot of experience navigating the "rough shoals" that arise from time to time
 - Invite the Board of Supervisors to the Community Engagement meeting on Saturday, May 18th
 - Highlight that the Human Services Council will be celebrating its 25-years of service to the Board of Supervisors and the entire Fairfax County community
 - Talk about future trends:
 - Graying of the community
 - Aging facilities requiring maintenance and upkeep
 - Concern about "Intelligence Management" (i.e., the large number of employees will be able to retire from the County in the near future)
 - And finally: "We, too, have *Turned Over all the Rocks*" as a concurrent reference to the County Executive's theme for the FY 2014 proposed budget

Adjournment: The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.