

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2008
Government Center, Conference Room 2 & 3

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chairman	<i>Excused</i>	Carol Hawn	<i>Present</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Excused</i>	Bill Kogler	<i>Present</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Present</i>	Michael Kwon	<i>Excused</i>
John Byers	<i>Present</i>	Herk Latimer	<i>Present</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Excused</i>	Laura I. McDowall	<i>Present</i>
Donna J. Fleming	<i>Excused</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Present</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Present</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Excused</i>	John Niemiec	<i>Excused</i>
Richard Gonzalez	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Virginia P. Norton	<i>Present</i>
Tom Grodek	<i>Present</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Present</i>
Staff:			
Verdia L. Haywood, Deputy County Executive			<i>Excused</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>
Ken Garnes, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Michelle Gregory, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS)			<i>Present</i>

Other Attendees: George Braunstein, Mary Kudless, Arsenio Deguzman, Dennis Brown, Ginny Mckernan, Marshall Henson, Karen Fuentes, Lynne Crammer, Mary Ann Beall.

Call to order: 7:35 PM

Henry Wulf called the meeting to order at 7:35. Mr. Wulf introduced George Braunstein, Executive Director of the Community Services Board, who presented the CSB lines of business (LOBS) presentation to the council.

Community Services Board Lines of Business Presentation

George Braunstein was the primary presenter with support from Mary Kudless, Dennis Brown, Lynn Cramer and Jennie McKernan.

Question and Answer

Reductions 1-4

Question: Laura McDowall – Where would the money come from to make up the difference?

Response: Aggressive negotiations with the Medicaid broker. Providing transportation is their business. It is a reasonable assumption to think that LogistiCare would ensure that the service is provided in this area.

Question: Baba Freeman - Who is LogistiCare? **Response:** LogistaCare is a transportation broker. They establish and maintain a network of providers to deliver transportation services. We pay a fee for the clients that receive the service and they manage the logistics.

Question: Laura McDowall – If we take the funding out of one pocket how does it affect the other pockets? Who will be impacted? **Response:** LogistiCare will be impacted by a decrease in the number of sales to the county.

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Question: Stephanie Mensh – The first four reductions are the equivalent to almost a quarter of the full 15 percent cut – is that correct? **Response:** The first four proposed reductions are 22% of the total reduction amount. In the process of prioritizing we suggest that CSB provide the case management and that transportation be the first to go as opposed to direct services. These reductions do not eliminate all services available to the county, but it may impact the amount of service available.

Comment: Laura McDowall – The service is not helpful if the people who need it cannot get to it. These reductions also impact various service across the system.

Reductions 5 – 9

Question: Stephanie Mensh – I am a proponent of people with disabilities. Can you explain priority 7? Does this mean that 85 placed people will no longer have support? **Response:** These 85 people receive hourly support. We are proposing to reduce the intensity of that support. Stephanie Mensh – How about new people getting into the program? **Response:** We will continue to accept new clients.

Question: Kathleen Murphy – Is there a cost savings per each hour you decrease? **Response:** The reduction is not based on a specific number of hours. There is a cost per individual and the savings is an estimate based on a reduced level of service.

Reductions 10 – 17

Question: Kathleen Murphy – How many schools are currently being served by the Leadership and Resiliency Program? **Response:** We are currently serving youth in 15 Fairfax County Public Schools. This would reduce it to 11 schools.

Reductions 21-30

Question: John Byers – What is the cost of eliminating these programs? Do we have that kind of data? **Response:** We can put some numbers together for you. John Byers – Certainly there are other programs that are not dealing with people at such risks. **Response:** That would be a policy decision. We have tried to make decisions to maintain some level of services.

Question: Laura McDowall – Can you provide a dollar amount for the categories and the percentage of the total? **Response:** We will provide a spreadsheet with all the numbers and you will be able to run totals in any combination.

Question: Laura McDowall – Are these county dollars? **Response:** Yes, county dollars.

Comment: Laura McDowall – Eliminating a program may be a more significant savings than reductions across programs. **Response:** We have had significant cuts in previous years and there are proposals to eliminate programs in this presentation. We must remember that everyone who seeks our services has to be assessed and most need case management services. We are making an attempt to maintain the continuum. If we do not provide core services we cannot leverage other resources from the state.

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Comment: Tom Grodek – When you discussed number 19 you say there are options; however you already have a waiting list. On an individual basis there is no viable option.

Question/Comment: Henry Wulf – What will be the net impact on non-profit providers and those that have contracts with the county? This is fraying the network.

Question: John Byers – Does reduction 20 include closing the facility or reducing the number of people you take in? **Response:** This reduction means that 468 fewer persons will be served, but this does not impact the facility. The facility is in the DFS budget and will remain.

Question: Kathleen Murphy – What percent are you allowing for administration costs on contracts? Is there a better way to negotiate that contract costs? **Response:** We reviewed the contracts on a regional basis and restricted overhead to 15 percent. None of these vendors charge more than 15 percent to administer the program.

Question: Baba Freeman – Why 15 percent and not lower? **Response:** Some contracts do come in with lower administrative costs. Many well run, efficient organizations run below 15 percent. Baba Freeman – How many contractors do you have in play? Some organizations are relatively small. The overhead costs can catch up faster if you are smaller. Verdia is currently looking at administrative costs and what factors will help contractors run more efficiently.

Question: Stephanie Mensh- Can you explain reduction 18? **Response:** This is the central coordinating team for all housing development and facility development. This group also interacts with organizations regarding fair housing and zoning issues. Without them staff providing direct services would have to do this work as well. Ken Disselkoe – They also are an important component in building and sustaining community relations. Group homes are located in neighborhoods. This Central Coordinating team works with the community to ensure that those facilities can be successfully integrated into neighborhoods. **Question:** Carol Hawn – What if any of this is being taken up by the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness? **Response:** This is not a function that would be transferred to the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. The role of that office is around coordinating services as opposed to absorbing work from other agencies.

Question: Laura McDowall – Can we get a number to see how much the county subsidizes housing? **Response:** That is a very difficult question to answer with any one number. Next week you will see a presentation from DHCD that may begin to answer this question. Staff will attempt to capture some quantifiable amount.

Question: Kathleen Murphy – I need to clarify. This presentation and the list included shows the order in which cuts will be implemented based on the adopted budget? **Response:** Yes. We will hustle to bring in the resources to address the needs and bring back the services as soon as possible. We are still going to serve clients, but this proposal will impact how quickly individuals will be served and how much service can be provided with the least onerous impact. It is not a simple decision and there are system-wide impacts.

Tom Grodek commended George Braunstein on his preparation and ability to respond to questions given his limited time as Executive Director of CSB.

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Other Business: 8:40 – 8:50

Minutes from October 27 and November 12 were moved and approved.

Chip Gertzog – The next meeting will be held in the Government Center, Rooms 2&3. DHCD is scheduled for a 90 minute presentation and the Community Funding Pool will also present.

Question: Henry Wulf – Can you give us the next few dates on the schedule? **Response:** The council meets on December 8 at Kelly Square. Directions to Kelly Square will be forwarded to the Council. On December 10 the council will have input from Boards, Authorities and, Commissions (BAC) and non-profits regarding the budget.

Question: Henry Wulf – Is the goal to have a product from the HSC by December 15? **Response:** Chip Gertzog –The immediate goal is for staff to organize the materials in a format that allows the council to review the information and then determine what the final product will look like. Ken Disselkoe –You have been hearing presentation about agency cuts, but you have not yet received information concerning the affect on specific initiatives such as prevention, homelessness, and domestic violence. It is important for the council to see the impact of the cuts from this perspective as well as cuts by geography.

Question: Laura McDowall – Raising kids of relative can bring federal funds to the area. Can someone get back to us and give us more information about this and what we can do? **Response:** This program is called kinship care. We can look into this.

Comment: Baba Freeman – We should not recommend any cuts, but recommend raising taxes to cover the shortfall.

Comment: Tom Grodek – I am glad that the background work is being done regarding the format. I understand some concern on the impact on initiatives, but there are many programs that are already working well. We are trying to sustain these services. Let’s focus on what is working well first and then look at initiatives.

Question: Kathleen Murphy - How come we can’t work with less than a 15 percent cut? **Response:** Henry Wulf – This may be something to consider for the letter.

8:50 PM: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Staff Support Information (also included on updated roster):

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