

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

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

Guests and Other Attendees: Michael McClanahan, Kimberly Daniels, Lynne Crammer, Mary Kudless, George Braunstein, Anne-Marie Twohie, Mary Anne Lecos, Barbara Antley, Juani Diaz, Tom Meagher, Grace Starbird, Dennis Fee, James McCarron, Patti Stevens, Chris Scales, Beth Leggat, Kevin Filbey, and Pat Franckewitz.

Call to order: 7: 40 PM

Kevin Bell called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Mr. Bell stressed time would allow for a few questions and that any additional questions of council to be forwarded in writing to staff once time allocation has been reached.

Testimony from Boards, Authorities, Commissions and Nonprofits - 7:40 – 9:10

Juvenile Court Citizens Advisory Board

Michael McClanahan, with support from Chief Judge Kimberly Daniels and James McCarron, presented the position of the Juvenile Court Citizens Advisory Board on the proposed FY 2010 budget reductions and their impacts on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court’s programs. *Referenced handout: “FY 2010 Budget Hearing Briefing – Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services Unit.”*

Mr. McClanahan and Judge Daniels spoke regarding the following reductions:

- ♦ The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (Drug Court) is basically an all volunteer program. However there is a great need for the ½ of a position being cut because that individual does full service coordination for the 10-14 members who meet to hold Drug Court. This coordinator position is desperately needed. The Federal and State governments are seeing the benefits of Drug Courts and are increasing dollars in their budgets to support drug court. Without Drug Court, the youth will probably wind up in the State’s facility. With this program, we have a low recidivism and high graduation rate for participants in the program. Drug Court presently is in the second tier of priorities.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

- ♦ Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) is in the first tier of priorities and is code mandated.
- ♦ The Family Counseling Unit (FCU), which includes the Family Counseling Program, IDT and Drug Court, should be kept. It is in the third tier of priorities.
- ♦ Supervised Visitation and Supervised Exchange (SVSE) Program requires the two staff positions now proposed to be cut. The program can not be safely operated without them. Most everyone probably remembers the example of the supervised visitation gone awry in the parking lot of Supervisor Hudgins office. With the cut of these two positions, most likely there will not be supervised visitation and presently, there is no private provider who can offer these services.

Question and Answer

Henry Wulf: To clarify, you are talking about the proposed reductions to the Family Counseling Unit?

Response: Yes

Kevin Bell: The total of the proposed reduction is \$614,865? Response: Yes, that is the cumulative - total amount.

Tom Grodek – Where is ½ position noted? Response: James McCarron – It is noted in the second priority.

Kevin Bell: Is there any chance you can get more dollars from state to support the Drug Court coordinator position? Response: Judge Kimberly Daniels – No, we are not among the 14 jurisdictions that will get funding dollars because in the past, the Commonwealth’s Attorney office had not supported this program. It is our hope to have support in future. Kevin Bell: Recommended gathering more support from the Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Fairfax Futures

Mary Anne Lecos and Tania Hindert presented the position of the Fairfax Futures on the proposed reductions for the Department of Family Services’ programs. Ms. Lecos stated this is basically the same presentation given to the Council last year. These programs are so close to the Council’s guiding principles. There appears to be many questions regarding the impacts of these proposed reductions and no answers. There are questions regarding how much of the Stimulus Bill monies will support the County’s programs for Head start and Early Head start. Hopefully the Council can help us get answers. We do not think that expecting State monies and Federal monies for the next two years will cover these programs is wise. *Referenced handout: “Fairfax Futures Testimony for the Human Services Council – Presented by Tania Hindert, Cox Communications and Member, Fairfax Futures Board of Directors.”*

Question and Answer

Laura McDowall: Your presentation is a persuasive argument for the return of investment of dollars in child care and the research you did regarding early childhood development is very strong.

Response: Thank you.

Tom Grodek: Question for staff – with regards to the summary document, is this in relationship to numbers 31, 35 combined and number 25 concerning Head Start? Response: Mary Anne Lecos – these recommended cuts will increase and exacerbate numbers of families on the Head start waiting list.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

SAAC Parent Advisory Council

Sue Holzer, Co-Chair presented and thanked the Council for its help in keeping the SAAC program. Ms. Holzer focused on the County Executives' recommendation for a pilot school age child care program at Coppermine and Laurel Hill elementary schools and the impact these two pilot programs would have on the rest of the SAAC program, since these two sites would be run by private providers and not the Department of Family Services. *Referenced handout: "Sue Holzer, Chair, SAAC Parent Advisory Council – Human Services Council Testimony."*

Question and Answer

Baba Freeman: This is in relationship to the privatizing this program? Response: Verdiana Haywood – yes, the county was piloting these two new sites using a private contract vendor.

Baba Freeman: I recommend no.

Kevin Bell: Will it be overseen by DFS? Response: Verdiana Haywood – yes, there is a potential for lower costs; the thought behind the pilot is that if we didn't go this way then there may be unutilized sites. This pilot is outside of LOBs and is the only way these sites will provide SAAC. There currently are no SAAC expansions planned with new schools opened.

Laura McDowall: There is no money in county's budget to fund the SAAC sites in this pilot? Response: Ann Marie Twohie – DFS currently pays 25% for the cost of SAAC (county budget) and participating parents pay on a sliding scale, which equates to 75% of the cost.

Laura McDowall: Will subsidized services be offered if privatized? Will the contractor pay the county to use the county facility? Response: Verdiana Haywood – No, there has not been a decision made yet to contract out. This is a pilot and not all of the details have been worked out. There could be a rental fee coming in; however, these are policy decisions that have yet to be made and would need to be made around the RFP process. Ron McDevitt and Ann Marie Twohie will work to get additional clarification.

Baba Freeman: What will be the training level of personnel? Response: Verdiana Haywood – They will be in line with state regulatory standards.

Carol Hawn: - What will this do to the SAAC program as listed in number 49 on the summary document? Response: Number 49 is not affected. There is a proposed 5% fee increase in the parental fees, which is approximately \$1M in revenue.

Commission on Aging

Tina Bluhm, Chair, presented with regards to the congregate meal program reduction. Ms. Bluhm stressed that this is the only meal many seniors receive and added that most senior participants in this program have an annual income of under \$20K. Ms. Bluhm also addressed the reduction of 3 of 7 Senior Centers, as well as the impact of the transportation reductions. *Referenced handouts: "Fairfax Area Commission on Aging Letter to the Council and the Proposed County Executive's Budget FY 10 Cuts Impacting Older Adults in Fairfax County."*

Question and Answer

Stephanie Mensh: Is there a potential for a sliding scale fee or increasing the fee? Response: It will need to come from the county.

Laura McDowall: Is there capacity in the other programs to cover Annandale? Response: Verdiana Haywood – Yes, space will be available in Lincolnia and Little River Glen based on the average attendance numbers provided by the Health Department.

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Laura McDowall: Why is the average age 85 at Annandale higher than the average age of all adults using centers, which range from 65 – 75 years? Response: This is the age average over all centers. Most of the attendees at this center are older and have greater needs.

Henry Wulf: What impact does the Fairfax Connector reductions have? What is all were restored?

Response: This is an example of the confluence of the big picture of cuts. Multiple cuts result in systemic transportation impacts.

Community Services Board

Lynn Cramer, Chair of Fairfax – Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), supported by the CSB Director, George Braunstein, presented the position of the CSB on the proposed reductions. Ms. Cramer recommended restoring eight reductions totaling \$2.8M. She also noted that the first two cuts on the list were taken out of the agency’s recommended order and this greatly impacts whether or not these programs could ever be restored. These reductions are more disruptive to the overall service needs of the community. Therapeutic programs are critical. *Referenced handouts: “FY 2010 CSB Response to the County Executive’s Proposed Reduction Plan and Testimony to the Human Services Council – Regarding Restoration of Proposed Cuts to CSB Services.”*

Question and Answer

Kevin Bell: If two items are taken, which two would you take subsequently in dollar for dollar in place of the proposed reductions? Response: Presently, we do not have an answer. George is working on substitutes and will have that information for the Council shortly.

Tom Grodek: Which amounts on your presentation is less or lower than the original cuts? i.e. ADS Adult Outpatient Services at Falls Church.

Response: George Braunstein – One position could be left open. The referral center needs one position restored. Staff identified the minimum to restore services, therefore partial amounts are represented that will keep services viable.

Northern Virginia Family Services

Mary Agee presented that the magnitude in CSB reductions is immense; especially reductions to the homeless shelter services. If shelter services are removed, she is not sure how the Rapid Rehousing Initiative will be carried forward. These cuts impact family subsidies. The amount of reductions is simply overwhelming. Ms. Agee highlighted the Healthy Families Program and stated that child abuse and neglect by parents would most likely increase under these difficult economic times. The current program does not have a capacity to handle over 1,000 families. Additionally, Health Care Access Assistance Team (HAAT) reductions will adversely impact families as their needs continue to grow. The linkage to preventative health care is not what most families make, therefore it requires follow-up and coaching from staff to families to ensure preventative health care is obtained by families. The current staff can not handle the increase need in services. *Referenced handout: “Northern Virginia Family Service Presentation to the Fairfax County Human Services Council.”*

Question and Answer

Kevin Bell – Why didn’t the CSB ask for it back?

Stephanie Mensh: Are these families handled under Fairfax Cares?

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Response: Verdiana Haywood – No.

Henry Wulf: You mentioned a cascade to non-profits – i.e. Fannie Mae and the resulting funding impacts. Could you clarify?

Response: We will be soon using the last dollars of funding from their last grant.

Baba Freeman: What is happening with other funding sources?

Response: The lessening monies coming in from other funding sources is impactful and keeps rolling forward through the year.

United Community Ministries (UCM)

Cynthia Hull, Executive Director, stated that the funding for non-profits and certainly for UCM comes from many different sources and UCM is truly grateful for the county's partnership and funding support. Ms. Hull stated that UCM partners with the Healthy Families and childcare assistance programs and stressed this is not a good time to cut these programs during these hard economic times. The impacts of these reductions in funding of these programs results in UCM needing to shift its support and shifting funding dollars to cover these programs. Ms. Hull asked where these families will be served. Ms. Hull stressed that the Council look at big picture of the domino effect. Approximately 15-17% of UCM's funding comes from the county and is very stable; however, the rest is not so stable. *Referenced handout: "United Community Ministries Presentation to the Fairfax County Human Services Council."*

Question and Answer

Henry Wulf: You seem to see a broad view of the system, especially regarding some choices the County Executive made. Are there substituting programs you may suggest? Response: I will look at it. Early childhood is an initial thought. I will get back to council.

Henry Wulf: What is the amount of increase in numbers your organization has seen? Response: A 64% increase last year and about a 40% this year thus far.

Sideburn Civic Association

Terri Williams-Henderson, President, presented regarding the Community and Recreation Services (CRS) cuts around the computer learning centers. At present two will be cut and they still remain to be identified. Additionally, for those centers remaining fees may be added. Reducing hours of services in Community Centers will have a huge impact in the community because fewer participants will be able to access services and on top of that fees will increase. The impact of cuts in maintenance of centers coupled with reductions to the Park Authority budget makes for impacts much larger than the individual reduction line item amount of monies. There is a huge impact on seniors programs with two Senior Centers being eliminated in the same district, which are the Pinn and Wakefield centers. Additionally, the reductions to transportation impacts approximately 20,000K people who access these various centers over the course of a year. Simply moving participants from one center to another adversely impacts families and the other caregivers as well. It appears that these reductions result in cutting programs to the most vulnerable populations, youth and seniors. *Referenced handout: "Sideburn Civic Association at the David R. Pinn Community Center."*

Question and Answer

Bob Faherty: What percent of Pinn Center participants use FASTRAN?

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Response: 100%

Other Business: 9:10-9:55 PM

Approval of Minutes – Motion was made to approve and accept the March 4, 2009 meeting minutes

Henry Wulf: In preparation of the Council's message to the Board of Supervisors, what themes were heard tonight?

Response:

John Niemiec: Reduction and elimination. I propose to substitute "freeze" or "decrease funding" for the use of "elimination".

Verdia Haywood: If we lose the funding, the agency will still need to come back to the BOS and request it be added to budget and therefore it will need to be rejustified. If there is no money, and recommended positions can be frozen, perhaps stimulus package dollars may assist in this.

Baba Freeman: It is usually easier to find the dollars and harder to get positions, correct? Response: Verdia Haywood: yes.

Carol Hawn: - I have concerns regarding the SAAC pilot program. I am concerned that maybe now is not the time to try and privatize a wonderful program. I commend the presenters on not giving up and still looking for ways to still serve with a greater number of people to serve.

Laura McDowall: I also would like to focus on SAAC. I do not understand why the county is proposing a change to something that works and would like to know what the benefit is to the county for privatizing the services. Response: Verdia Haywood – I don't expect a lot of information about the two new centers. It is a belief held by some that a less costly way to do SAAC exists and the opinion exists that we have a very high standard for entire program. This is an issue that is bigger than two schools and there is some BOS support for exploring the outcomes of the pilot.

Laura McDowall: Reductions of Childcare programs is a theme. I am concerned about the safety of children and Head start.

Baba Freeman: We need to be able to defend our approach and cost savings is not all that matters. We must defend the vulnerable.

Tom Grodek: I have not heard a major theme tonight; maybe a few duplications. The Council was never briefed on the privatization of SAAC and I am concerned about the HS Council commenting on it when we do not know enough about it. We shouldn't let it fly into our message. I would like to review the letter that went to Boards, Authorities, and Commissions and see what we asked for from presenters.

Robert Faherty: Cuts in transportation, like FASTRAN. We should pull together all of the cumulative effect. Also the dire straights of community based organizations and their concerns in losing other county program dollars in support and the cascading effect of less from various funding sources and an increase in numbers of citizens needing assistance and services.

Stephanie Mesh: Isolation of the vulnerable populations, i.e. seniors and the decreasing dollars to support them coupled with the fact that other centers will be asked to absorb the numbers. Where will these people go? Will impact will this tax issue have if consumers of county services are sent to INOVA health system and nursing homes are institutionalized. Will there be starvation because of a lack of meals to seniors and will there be youth at risk with no group setting to get their basic needs met?

Robert Gaudian: Transportation, Isolation, FASTRAN and the pilot SAAC proposal. Response: Verdia Haywood – the pilot is not a formal proposal. There are under discussion multiple levels of privatization and there is yet to be a formal RFP process, with formal requirements and a formal Statement of Work. The Boards must approve (BOS and School Board).

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5

Robert Gaudian: Is there a case study? Response: Verdia Haywood – there are practices that exist all around us for an opportunity to see how private providers work with regards to SAAC, for example, Prince William County and some other neighboring jurisdictions as well.

Donna Fleming: Cascading impact of budget cuts on the elderly, youth and people of need, as well as the long term effects on the community. We should look at how the leveraging capability of the non-profit community in Fairfax County is being reduced with decreased funding from other sources and a greater increase in needs.

Kevin Bell: The SAAC alternative – the pilot is not good practice. The CSB Homeless services since the non-profit brought the issue up. We are at the beginning of a crisis, with a potential of three to four years of crisis that will impact how we do business in the future. This is more tragic than the two we had in the 90's. It is difficult to preserve spots and work to add line items to the budget when they have been cut; they are very difficult to get back. There is a fundamental shift in how we do business. The cascading effect and risk of losing non-profits and way of delivering HS services are big themes to me. We also need to look at Item 183 – Community Funding Pool Management Analyst support. Why have programs and no quality assurance checking from a program manager? Why have contracts being managed and no one who is going to support them.

Laura McDowall: I concur with the Management Analyst support for CCFP, plus the healthy families program.

Colonel Marion Barnwell: We need to be realists. If there is no money, some things will be cut. We need to identify what are the “must haves”, what is the priority of the next level.

Henry Wulf: It is a zero sum game. If we put something back, then we also need to add what we will take off. We should review the number of criteria considered in making cuts in our December letter.

Verdia Haywood: The BOS advertised one penny higher than the County Executive” tax rate total of \$1.04 and that puts the BOS at \$1.05. Public Safety cuts are receiving a lot of attention. This budget process is tight and the BOS do not want to give any unclear expectations.

Adjournment: 9:55 PM

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. Marie Custode: 703-324-4540 Fax 703-324-7572 Email: Kcusto@fairfaxcounty.gov

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