

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chair	<i>Present</i>	Rick Gonzalez	<i>Absent</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Excused</i>	Carol Ann Hawn	<i>Present</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Excused</i>	Myra Herbert	<i>Excused</i>
Dr. Jennifer Anne Bishop	<i>Present</i>	William Kogler	<i>Present</i>
Steven Bloom	<i>Present</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Present</i>
Kenneth (Mark) Deal	<i>Present</i>	Kathleen Murphy	<i>Present</i>
David Dunlap	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Gerald V. Poje	<i>Present</i>
Robert L. Faherty	<i>Present</i>	Tessie Wilson	<i>Present</i>
Baba Freeman	<i>Present</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Present</i>
Robert Gaudian	<i>Excused</i>		
Staff:			
Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive			<i>Present</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>

Guests: LaVonne Johnson. **County staff:** George Braunstein, Robert Easley, Michelle Gregory, Bill Belcher

Welcome and Overview Carol Hawn, Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Human Services Council, introduced the meeting agenda and opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Discussion and report on January 26th Community Dialogue session - Council members Wulf, Bloom and Deal summarized input provided from participants at the January 26th, 2013 community dialogue sessions. They reported on key themes emerging from the community dialogue. Council members were asked to provide comment and input on the session, and identify next steps. Comments included:

- Positive feedback from advisory group members who attended session.
- Good opportunity for informal networking and relationship building.
- Session was a good connection to the HS results-based framework and “trends” in community.
- Representatives of some of the core constituencies for needed services were not present at the meeting.
- The Council remains concerned that administrative savings could be achieved through coordination of services across providers.
- Sustainability of nonprofits was discussed. More models are needed, to fulfill expectations regarding service outcomes.
- Concern about parochial priority setting – “take his program, and not mine” when facing budget constraints.
- Effective collaboration = effective client outcomes - a key systems goal.
- Conversations in small groups indicated growing pressure for programs serving specific target populations.
- One outcome of the event was that learning was occurring between dissimilar and familiar service providers/networks.
- Group noted positive aspects and contributions of having human services directors participate in small group discussions. This led to some leveling of information that was needed for all participants to hear and understand.

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Areas for future consideration/improvements to community dialogue sessions were discussed:

- Be clear about purpose of meeting
- Plan for at least twice annually
- Community priorities and how they match up with the Board of Supervisors' priorities/vision – how should the human services system address unspoken needs?
- Confusion among some advisory group members about available community and county services, resources and basic information about county operations. Some Council members noted surprise at the lack of knowledge on available resources by some of the long-term community members – both advisory group members, as well as service providers in the nonprofit sector.
- Council members noted the size and rich array of resources within the Fairfax community/northern Virginia region makes putting existing infrastructure into perspective difficult. The group discussed a need to develop ongoing learning strategies to help individual residents, community advisory representatives and public at large gain knowledge about available services.
- Members noted need for ongoing communications between the county, business community, nonprofit providers, faith organizations, and level of services available through each.
- Web site design – very difficult for county residents to use the www.fairfaxcounty.gov site's search engine. The search tool is not user friendly and does not capture needed information relevant to the person's search for information.
- Jerry Poje reported on the AHAC meeting regarding affordable housing. Four issues were framed: 1. developing new funding sources; 2. address needs of homelessness; 3. housing policies needs to address trends, and 4. land use design and development.
- Baba Freeman mentioned need for specific interventions when community issues arise – example: a homeless man served through the county's hypothermia program was a "do not admit" client to the homeless shelter system. The role of volunteers was discussed.
- Kathleen Murphy noted that the small groups started discussing strategies to work better and more effectively; that while groups do not control budget, there is a way to approach solutions from a systems perspective.
- Mark Deal noted that he saw individuals gain greater appreciation for the "other guy" and that concerned citizens were engaged in advocating for system issues, not just programs.
- Tessie Wilson noted that turf and advocacy issues cannot be barriers to addressing the lack of sufficient funding to address all needs.
- Carol Hawn noted that it is critical to seek input from clients and users of services as a valuable strategy.
- Dave Dunlap identified need for communicating the expected outcome of future meetings. He also noted need to avoid jargon in discussions.
- Steven Bloom noted that advocacy must include recognition that there is a stagnant level of resources and insufficient community investment- funds from charitable sectors (example: United Way has severely limited funding compared to other jurisdictions.)
- Kevin Bell thanked the Council members and staff for their participation. He noted that it was an engaging session, and that these comments will be considered by group planning the next dialogue session, scheduled for May 18th. Questions to consider include what the future will look like and how the human services system can best serve people in our community.

Preparation for County Executive Presentation on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan

Henry Wulf requested input regarding the upcoming February 26, 2013 meeting with the County Executive, the Council and interested community members.

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Historical budget trends/baseline - County staff Ron McDevitt provided an overview of the historical actual expenditures, budget levels and revenues received, by department, from FY 2007 to FY 2013. Council members requested information regarding possible impact of federal sequestration actions. The group discussed the value of a comparable budget analysis/current services budget. They noted the trend of the flat nature of allocated funding compared to the rising demand for services. Stephanie Mensh noted the value of a program-based budget to analyze the baseline by community needs. Pat Harrison noted the difficulty in assessing the baseline and the value added by sorting program expenditures by those areas.

Discussion of Budget committee questions to Boards and FY 2014 Budget Review Process

Henry Wulf reviewed the Council proposed strategies in meeting with the County Executive on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan. Areas for discussion identified included: the real estate tax rate, the proportionate share of the budget for human services programs, the relationship of the county to nonprofits, the trends seen in the community, the impact of funding reductions/lack of sufficient funding from the state. The group discussed sending questions to Ed Long in advance of the February 26th meeting. The Council expressed concern about the 6 years of absorbing budget reductions in the human services system. The group agreed to submit questions to Henry by close of business Friday, February 15th so that he could compile them for submission to the County Executive. The human services directors will be at the meeting with the County Executive and will be prepared to provide brief overviews of the budget as it impacts their service areas.

Budget process and HSC calendar at 9:10 p.m., Chairman Kevin Bell reviewed the proposed process for obtaining community input on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan. The group reviewed the calendar for upcoming county budget activities and the March Council meeting schedule. Proposed documents, requests for information, community survey results were provided.

Update on “CSB Restoring Fiscal Stability Work Plan” (George Braunstein and Gail Ledford)

Gail Ledford provided an update on the fiscal stability component of the CSB workplan. She reported that financial reviews are ongoing and that the interagency oversight team, consisting of staff from DAHS, CSB, DMB, and the Deputy County Executive, meets every other week to review the position vacancies that must be managed within the CSB to maintain the expenditures within available funding, and the status of revenues, and expenditures. Henry Wulf noted the complexity of the financial structure supporting the CSB. The Medicaid billing, grant funding, and the fee structure supporting services offered by the CSB, and the 3rd party financing, including federal and state resources, are all complicating factors. .

George Braunstein provided an overview of the status of additional CSB workplan items. He also noted a current projected positive balance at end of the fiscal year. The CSB is maintaining a current vacancy management rate of approximately 12% of the workforce authorized level. The Department of Justice discharge plan for closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center is facing challenges due to insufficient funding from the state to address community placements for those individuals, while there are already in community individuals also waiting for funding for their services. There are no current waiting lists for the Infant and Toddler Connection. A consultant study on the intellectual disability day/employment plan is anticipated to be concluded soon. With proposed new service models for some services and savings resulting from other work plan areas, savings of approximately \$1.8 million are projected (which are already incorporated into FY 2014 baseline budget projections). Some of these savings were achieved through

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aggressive revenue generation strategies, such as use of non- county revenues to cover the cost of prescription medications for low-income CSB consumers.

Business items:

Meeting minutes from January 14th, 2013 Council meeting were reviewed and approved, upon a motion for approval, by Henry Wulf, seconded by Mark Deal. Carol Hawn abstained from voting.

Carol Hawn reported on the by-Laws committee, that a meeting will be forthcoming in March; Jerry Poje announced the Policy Committee will meet on February 21, 2013.

Next Steps and Adjournment

Announcements: Upcoming Council meetings were announced:

February 26, 2013 - special meeting of the Human Services Council – presentation by the County Executive on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan.

Adjournment: The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.