

Human Services Council Meeting
 Tuesday, February 26, 2013
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chair	<i>Present</i>	Rick Gonzalez	<i>Absent</i>
Colonel Marion Barnwell	<i>Present</i>	Carol Ann Hawn	<i>Excused</i>
Richard P. Berger	<i>Present</i>	Myra Herbert	<i>Excused</i>
Dr. Jennifer Anne Bishop	<i>Excused</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: Joe Petit, Mary Agee, Joe Mondoro, Martin Taylor, Shari Zamarra, Marlene Blum, Amanda Andere, CFUH representative, Mr. Mensh, Ed Long.

County staff: George Braunstein, Nanette Bowler, Paula Sampson, Dennis Fee, Chris Leonard, Dean Klein, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Bill Belcher, Michele Wilhelm, Marijke Hannam, John Ruthinoski, Anne Marie Twohie, Laura, Yager, Ina Fernandez, Kevin Filbey, Barbara Antley, Juani Diaz,

Welcome and Overview - Henry Wulf, Budget Chair of the Fairfax County Human Services Council, opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

County Executive Presentation on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan

County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. provided an overview of the [Fairfax County FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan](#).

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

Members of the Council's budget committee discussed the following questions with the County Executive:

1. In managing our increasing needs and decreasing resources, what guidance will you give to the Board of Supervisors as they deliberate the FY 2014 and 2015 budgets? What guidance are you giving to department directors to manage the competing needs?
2. Departments with a high number of position vacancies (at the rate budgeted) essentially suffer unplanned service reductions. Human services advisory groups, many county residents and service recipients are recognizing this phenomenon. They are all expressing their unhappiness to us about these stealth budget cuts. What strategies are in place to communicate the impact of such service reductions to the Board?

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3. If the Board requests additional cuts beyond what you proposed, how will you notify county residents and the appointed members of Boards, Authorities and Commissions so that they have enough time to consider the impacts and advocate where necessary?
4. Do you have plans to create an emergency reserve fund or some other strategy for nonprofits that can assist with funding if necessary?
5. How will we bring about the ideas that have already promoted and how will the county proceed with future planning on similar issues?
6. How can you help improve coordination of county services with the school system and develop a better working relationship?
7. Ensuring a system-wide approach to prevention (particularly for our youth) is one of the top priorities for the Council. What guidance can you give us in addressing the need to create and resource a county-wide prevention system?

The County Executive noted his agreement about the needs of the system and that staff indicate several areas in which resources are stretched. He requested the Council indicate to the Board of Supervisors their position on the multi-year budgeting approach he has presented. Council members thanked him for his support of human services programs over the years. He was acknowledged for his long standing commitment to prevention programs and services. Members expressed concerns about the baseline and the metrics for evaluation of programs. Mr. Long noted appreciation of the work of the human services departments in reviewing and implementing a results-based framework for decision making and for improving service quality and capacity. The members discussed major concerns about the work on the horizon – particularly regarding anticipated growth in older adult population, the suburbanization of poverty. The group applauded the County Executive’s approach to investment in infrastructure, particularly regarding capital improvements, building and smart growth. A member noted that planning for service needs, especially for low income children and families, gives them the biggest change to succeed and benefits the entire community. The County Executive noted his support of the Board’s long range planning and envisioning and that both public schools and county services and supports must be planned carefully for the future. The group discussed the failures of past service integration efforts with the schools (Graham Road). Community schools, such as those in New Orleans, Niagara, NY were mentioned as models that were reviewed in the past.

Concern was noted regarding vacancies and resulting “shadow cuts” due to managing vacancies to meet budget targets. The county executive noted that in early 2000s, the “position turnover” metric was 3% of total salary budgets. Today, the levels have been pushed to 8%. This results in constraints in agencies regarding ability to hire, and in capacity to run programs. Agencies need more flexibility in hiring and capacity, particularly given the trends of future retirements of nearly 25% of the workforce over next five years. It was noted that the Board requested information about alternative budget reductions that were considered as part of the budget review in preparation for the budget. There was discussion about the need to take the proposals into context and that the cuts that weren’t taken were in part in

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response to community response in the past to levels of core services and what could be cut. The council members noted that what is lost in the current budget climate is capacity for improvement investments.

Funding for nonprofits was discussed. The impact of sequestration and alternate donations and community/business giving is reduced significantly than in the past. The \$8 million reserve the County Executive proposed related to sequestration was discussed. The Council mentioned the need to assure a portion of those funds were made available to address the disproportionate impact to a variety of county run programs, particularly in the block grants, aging, housing, child and other social services areas.

The County Executive noted that the recession negatively impacted business donations and fundraising capacity to leverage programs offered in the community. The Housing Blueprint was noted as significantly underfunded to support the goals for housing creation. The Council discussed the need to provide a clear message to the board regarding key areas that have to be focused on. The council was urged to consider ways to educate the community and taxpayers on the value for their investment in human services programs.

County communications planning was discussed. The County Executive has appointed Merni Fitzgerald of the Office of Public Affairs to review how the county should use social media going forward. The group advised the need to reach the business community in creative ways. Mr. Long noted that the business sector is investing heavily in STEM Education strategies.

Human Services Department Overview

Department directors provided brief overviews of the impact of key items included in the [FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan](#). (see attachments).

Historical budget trends/baseline - County staff Ron McDevitt provided an overview of the materials on the budget as they relate to changes to human services programs. (See attachments.)

Recognition of Richard “Dick” Berger

Dick Berger, Sully District representative, was acknowledged by members for his service on the Human Services Council. Mr. Berger will be leaving the area and resigns his appointment to the Council in May 2013. The Council endorsed a certificate of appreciation in recognition of Mr. Berger’s *“valuable contributions to the Fairfax County Human Services Council as Sully District representative from 2006 to 2013. In grateful appreciation for his valuable insights, dedication and sustained efforts in support of the Council’s mission.” Most importantly, Dick is acknowledged for his service to the continuous improvement of our community’s response to serve those most in need.*”

Announcements: Staff requested members review the meeting minutes from February 11th, 2013 Council meeting for action at the March 11th Council meeting.

Upcoming Council meetings were announced:

February 27, 2013 - Budget Committee Meeting

February 28, 2013 – Executive Committee meeting

Adjournment: The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.