

Human Services Council Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

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

Staff: George Braunstein, Martin Taylor, Nanette Bowler, Rosalyn Foroobar. **Guests:** Gordon Dean

7: 15 p.m. - Presentation to HS Committee Board of Supervisors - Council members reviewed the presentation to the Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors earlier in the day (2 p.m.) The Council noted overall positive reactions from their respective Supervisors and thanked Chairman Bell for his representation of the Council. Chairman Bell noted appreciation of Council members, particularly the members of the Budget Committee, Henry Wulf, Steve Bloom and Tessie Wilson. He thanked all the members who attended the meeting with the Board, including Bob Faherty, Dick Berger, Kathleen Murphy, Mark Deal, Jerry Poge, Myra Herbert, Jack Dobbyn, Henry Wulf, Tessie Wilson, and Stephanie Mensh. (*reference: presentation and letter attached*).

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) letter to the Board of Supervisors – March 8, 2013 - George Braunstein, Executive Director of the CSB, reviewed CSB Board member recommendations with the Council. Council members were provided copies of the March 8th letter to the School board and the response dated March 9th (reference attachments).

The FY 2014 budget review process was discussed. Council members noted dissatisfaction with communications across the system and lack of adequate time for coordination to provide appropriate information to the Board. The CSB priorities as discussed with the Council on March 5th were outlined: staff vacancy rates; restoration of positions, and commendation on the County Executive's approach to the budget. Members noted that failure to address issues collectively cast doubt on the ability to coordinate effectively across the system.

The Council discussed the Board of Supervisors' matter presented by Supervisor Hudgins in January regarding activities in response to the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. Deputy County Executive Harrison noted a desire to be inclusive of other agencies to address holistically the needs of the community. A planning process to prioritize service needs and procedures for the Human Services Committee's prevention strategy was discussed, as well as the School Board members' response to the CSB Board request. The CSB voted to send a letter to alert Supervisors on the negotiation with the schools; the attachment with additional background information was provided to the Council. The group noted that the transfer to the school system for provision of youth and family supportive services needs better coordination with the health and human services and public safety systems funded by the County's General Fund. Stephanie Mensh requested information regarding the process for CSB negotiations with the school board. George Braunstein emphasized the need for agreements among various human services departments with the schools on prevention and directly provided services. Pat Harrison noted the need for agencies to coordinate needs assessment and guidance from the County on additional funding that might be available to meet service needs in the schools.

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Members discussed the impact of budget cuts as a part of managing position vacancies and also with regard to the impact on youth services. Twelve schools had counselors in a pilot that was phased out. The CSB fiscal committee is looking at strengthening its capacity to review budget issues.

Dick Berger asked George Braunstein to address what he as Executive Director would like to see happen and secondly, what he thought should happen. The group discussed next steps. Pat Harrison announced an interagency work group, comprised of human services, schools, and police staff will be convened in coming months to develop a list of requirements from youth services from various agencies, and the capacity for service delivery in response. The group will report out information and strategy recommendations in the fall in time for consideration as part of the FY 2015 budget.

Henry Wulf made a motion that the Council recommend to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) that should the BOS find additional resources to support the CSB request, the CSB's request should be considered as a lower priority to the Human Services Council's budget recommendations for FY 2014. This motion was seconded by Barney Barnwell and the motion carried. Stephanie Menseh commented that the proposal was too prescriptive in identification of exact school resources and that should the Board appropriate funds, the strategies should be flexible and based on identified needs. Members noted the need for flexibility in the deployment of resources, and that different models should be considered.

Board of Supervisors Request for Council input on the 5% Budget "Reductions not Taken"

Jerry Poje made a motion to indicate that the Council had reviewed the proposed "5% cuts not taken" list provided to the Board in a memo from the County Executive and proposed the Council not support any of those cuts, reiterating the position in the Council's letter to the Board. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Menseh and Barney Barnwell. Motion carried. Members noted desire to restore items reduced over past five years, and noted their careful review and unanimous vote to reaffirm its position that reductions have been too drastic. Concern was expressed that the County Executive's proposed 2 cent increase in real estate tax rate still requires additional reductions and that previous human services funding reductions from past budgets, that the council opposed, are impacting the community negatively. The Council members reiterated concern regarding managed vacancies and the resulting 'shadow' cuts" reduce service levels. Mark Deal noted that individual board members should be informed that 'recommendations' on cuts were actually made over the Council's strong objections and have proven disastrous.

Jerry Poge urged Council members to attend their local Board member's respective magisterial district meetings, and to share the frustrations of the human services delivery issues with other advisory group appointees and the public. Additional education with the affected populations is needed.

Steve Bloom moved approval of draft letter including main points discussed by members. Kathleen Murphy seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Bell appointed a writing committee to draft the Council's response, incorporating the motions carried. Members are Henry Wulf, Steve Bloom, Stephanie Menseh and Mark Deal. All members are welcome to comment. Staff was directed to provide assistance and a response was to be provided to the Board as soon as possible, per Chairman Bulova's request earlier in the day.

Members reviewed individual Board member reactions to the Council's presentation earlier at the HS BOS Committee. The group noted additional information needs to be given to the Board by staff regarding employment services to the community. The members noted that the BOS members need to be told by Council members that the redirection of resources through the cumulative budget reductions were not acceptable to the Council.

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, April 15, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – LOCATION: Government Center Conference Center, rooms 9 and 10

Adjournment: The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.