

**Human Services Council Meeting**  
**Monday, February 06, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

<b>MEMBER NAME</b>		<b>MEMBER NAME</b>	
<b>Kevin H. Bell, Chair</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Baba Freeman</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Donna J. Fleming, Vice Chair</b>	<i>Excused</i>	<b>Robert Gaudian</b>	<i>Excused</i>
<b>Colonel Marion Barnwell</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Richard Gonzalez</b>	<i>Excused</i>
<b>Richard P. Berger</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Carol Ann Hawn</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Dr. Jennifer Anne Bishop</b>	<i>Excused</i>	<b>Myra Herbert</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Steven Bloom</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>William Kogler</b>	<i>Present</i>
		<b>Stephanie Mensh</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>John R. Byers</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Kathleen Murphy</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Kenneth (Mark) Deal</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Dr. Gerald V. Poje</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Robert L. Faherty</b>	<i>Present</i>	<b>Henry Wulf</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b><u>Staff:</u></b>			
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>
Regina Stewart, Office of the County Executive			<i>Present</i>

**Guests and Other Attendees:** Alice Morris, Anne-Marie Twohie, Amy Probst, Nannette Bowler, Ann Zuvekas, Kathaleen Karnes, Juani Diaz, Marijke Hannam, Ros Foroobar, Marlene Blum, Dwight Curtis, Deb Forkas, Karla Bruce, Barbara Martinez, Carolyn Castro-Donlan, Kevin Filbey, Jamie McCarron, George Braunstein, Steven Knippler, Chris Leonard, Telly Whitfield, Jim Gillespie, Esther Walker, Allan Berenson, Dot Groce, Elisa Lueck, Janet Hubbell, Evan Jones, Katherine Williams, and Mary Lee DiSpirito.

**7: 34 p.m. - Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. Myra Herbert and Marion Barnwell were introduced as conveners for the meeting. Col. Barnwell introduced moderators Aimee Brobst, Department of Family Services and Marijke Hannam, Department of Administration for Human Services.

**7: 35 p.m. – Economic Self Sufficiency Round Table (presentation/discussion)**

Ms. Brobst and Ms Hannam jointly gave the Economic Self Sufficiency presentation indicating:

**Definition**

Economic Self-Sufficiency is the ability of individuals and families to consistently meet their needs—including food, housing, utilities, health care, transportation, taxes, dependent care and clothing—with minimal or no financial assistance or subsidies from private or public organizations. (*Note: This definition does not address asset adequacy for longer term needs, such as retirement.*)

**Guiding Principles**

Individuals and families:

- are able to meet financial needs
- do not fall into poverty when they cannot work or work is unstable

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- have personal savings enough to cover basic necessities and emergencies
- when they lose their jobs, they have time to look for another or upgrade their education and skills without suffering severe hardship

**Determinants of Economic Self-Sufficiency**

- Job Stability—Individuals have sustained employment
- Educational Attainment—Individuals reach their employment goal through academic or vocational achievement
- English Literacy—Individuals have the ability to speak, read and write the English language
- Family Structure—The stability of families and attributes of parents influence development of positive behaviors and healthy relationships
- Health/Disability Status—Individuals with physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional or developmental capacity concerns participate to the fullest extent possible at school, at work, or through meaningful daily activities
- Community Connections—Individuals have community relationships to people or organizations that bolster self-sufficiency, or in the case of youth, future self-sufficiency

Questions/Comments from council members:

- What is the number of people that are not being reached by the social safety net?
- Is the pyramid concept something helpful to try to characterize where you are reaching into the pyramid? (*reference to handout*)
- The concept of self-sufficiency needs to be communicated and explained. Why are programs run by the county a priority- why are they so important?
- How are we responding to trend of economic crisis and is the trend likely to continue?
- Could the current human services structure deal with a tidal wave of referrals if needs rise?
- Populations are changing and the demographics of Washington, D.C. is changing – how does this affect Fairfax County?
- Without subsidized child care people can't work their way up the ladder – an important consideration for families to be economically “self-sufficient”.
- The county cannot make up funding shortfalls when the state and federal government keep reducing funds for services with shared responsibility- all mandated activities
- How is the system funded and what do you advise the Council to consider addressing regarding the financing of services?
- How do we communicate to stakeholders? How do we brand this?
- What are the efforts to work with the schools?
- There is great value in partnerships
- A lot of important work needs to be done
- Have to use planning resources that give the greatest benefit
- To what extent can the county produce more formal relationships with key stakeholders (such as the school system)?
- What is the ratio of people in poverty compared to the total County population

Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive, indicated that more than likely the economic situation will continue to fluctuate, impacting people and their ability to work and to support themselves. She

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stated that working through the issues will require a lot of work. Economic self-sufficiency is a major area of interest because the clients of the human services system and the community at large seek a vibrant and viable quality of life for County residents. Resources within the local government may not be present to meet all the needs of the community. Ms. Harrison noted that a need to build stronger relationships with partners in the community is required and that staff is working to develop strategies.

The full presentation is available on the Human Services Council webpage at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil/councilminutes.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil/councilminutes.htm)

**8:32 p.m. – Successful Youth Round Table (presentation/discussion)**

Convenor: Mark Deal introduced moderators Jamie McCarron, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services and Karla Bruce, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Ms. Bruce acknowledged team members. Mr. McCarron and Ms. Bruce jointly gave the Economic Self Sufficiency presentation indicating:

**Successful Youth Definition**

Children and youth reach adulthood with the skills, interests, and motivation to lead productive, healthy lives in caring relationships with other people. (“Children and youth” are inclusive of individuals from birth through age 21)

**Influencing factors include:**

- Access to basic life essentials for food, shelter and health care across the continuum of need
- Supportive & emotionally healthy families
- Absence of abuse, neglect & trauma
- Skill building in areas related to self-sufficiency: employment and financial literacy
- Quality education
- Safe neighborhoods
- Engaged communities that support the healthy development and well-being of children and families

**Working Together to Ensure Positive Outcomes for Youth**

- Strengthening links between programs and services
- Partnering with families to strengthen, empower and support capacities for nurturing children
- Engaging the community as our partners in creating a network of support for children and the adults who care for them
- Continuing work to develop strong linkages for workforce development and planning opportunities between the human services and the public school systems
- Focusing on development of community-based services and programs vs. out of county placements/services
- Identifying risk factors that lead to intensive, crisis-oriented or prolonged interventions later – prevention of more costly services
- Addressing disparities and ensuring accountability for achieving equity in systems, programs and family level outcomes
- Developing prevention strategies

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- Identifying ways to help young people as they “age out” of systems into adulthood and need community supports to be successful – Transitions
- Promoting healthy living strategies

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Ms. Harrison thanked staff for putting together information for the system and encouraged Council members to delve into the resources provided. Ms. Harrison thanked Brenda Gardiner for coordinating the roundtable discussions. She indicated that the next steps are to be more prepared as budget approaches.

9:19 p.m. Approval of January 2012 meeting minutes (*action* -packet handout)  
The minutes as recorded were approved.

New Business: Upcoming HSC meetings, calendar:

The County Executive will be coming to present the budget on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The Council members will present a Resolution to the County Executive recognizing his many years of service to Fairfax County.

March 13, 2012 meeting will be held a Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax

May 19th Human Services Forum

The next meeting is February 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in conference rooms 4/5.

**Adjournment:** The Human Services Council meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.