



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Human Services Committee Minutes from Monday March 11th, 2008

In Attendance:

Members:

Phil Smith

Walt Meyers

Tammy Wierciak

Jim Lewis

Holly Smith

Jacky Grimshaw

Candace King

Bob Gleeson

Joan Frankel

Sheri Cohen

Dan Strick

DuPage County Community Services

Northeast Illinois Area on Aging

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus/Council of Mayors

Chicago Community Trust

Kane County DOT

CNT

DuPage Federation on Human Services

Northern Illinois University

MCIC

Chicago Department of Public Health

CMAP Citizens Advisory Council

Guest:

Bruce Christensen

Linda Torp

Jon Czerwinski

Lake County

DuPage

CTA

CMAP Staff:

Russell Pietrowiak

Bob Dean

Jon Hallas

Drew Williams-Clark

Shana Alford

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

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1.0 Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves

2.0 Approval of February minutes.

The minutes for the February meeting were approved, with three corrections noted.

3.0 Comments from the Vice Chair

Holly Smith commented on the Development of Regional Importance (DRI) legislation and expressed a desire for more clarity for suburban counties.

4.0 Comprehensive Regional Plan

4.1 CMAP's Public Engagement Plan (Bob Dean)

Dan Strick presented a brief summary on the most recent public engagement through the microgrant program. CMAP staff worked with a community of developmental disability participants who were able to describe their preferences because of customized material used for the group. CMAP is also reaching out to the Hispanic population.

4.2 Human Services Indicators Discussion

4.2.1 The National Association of Planning Councils Social Indicators (Candace King)

Candace King expressed concern about human services planning in general. She wants to direct improvement and expand use of tracking progress on indicators. She briefly talked about the social indicators website that she is involved with through National Association of Planning Councils (NAPC) <http://www.socialindicators.com/>. She briefly discussed their ongoing work and pointed out specific indicators that could be useful for the committee. Additionally, this group has a number of initiatives that address the indicators, for example infant mortality death rate is an indicator and an initiative would be how to decrease infant mortality in communities through policy and programming. Candace King suggested two other websites, the Jacksonville Community Council <http://www.jcci.org/statistics/qualityoflife.aspx> and the National Association of Planning Councils <http://www.communityplanning.org/>

She described an upcoming conference in Florida that will be held by leaders in the field who are looking to try to institutionalize indicators. Ben Warner, the NAPC leader, has created a blog about data and has assisted the effort in developing data for local communities. The challenge was identified as finding data at the state level. It is hard to find information on expenditures. For instance, she would like to find out if human services funding is more inadequate for the suburbs vs. the City of Chicago because funding is allocated based on density and populations. However with population needs growing in the suburbs as the population grows and demographics change the funding associated with meeting various needs may need to be reexamined.

The issue that Bob Gleason pointed out is the importance of being able to track the performance of indicators which he described as being in 2 categories.

1) Broad and social data which measure outcomes such as poverty, employment, % of high school diplomas. It is necessary to identify these measures of outcomes for the system that is not working and the people who have the most need. These people need to be connected to the existing system. People who fund and use programs should lay out priorities. Funders and evaluators can use this to evaluate and prioritize funding by area.

2) Process performance is as important as the first category because it leads to results. It is expected that agencies have more responsibility to assist the portion of people who

have needs that are unmet, regarding human services. Agencies should demonstrate that their provision of services assists in helping people to become self-sufficient.

Candace King made the point that there are 130,000 people below poverty level in DuPage County, which is seemingly not a large % of the county population, but this number of people is greater than the total population in 87 other counties in Illinois. It is important to highlight that lots of people are not doing well, although overall it may appear the County is doing well.

Bob Gleason stated that the people in need are valuable and potential assets of the region especially due to the global regional economy. There are lots of people disconnected from the basic ways of making wealth. This could be an enormous opportunity for the region. The United Way Foundation focuses on investment in people.

4.2.2 CMAP's Indicators discussion (Andrew Williams-Clark)

Andrew Williams-Clark made a presentation about indicators*¹. The presentation defined a social indicator and the history of measuring indicators. Then he went on to share examples of best practices from around the nation. He mentioned Jacksonville, FL as a model, which was covered by Candace King previously, and 9 other model commitments to social indicators, including the Boston Indicator Project. Additionally, a key highlight that seemed to interest the committee was on the City of Baltimore where currently the Mayor utilizes indicator reports on a bi-weekly basis to make decisions on community issues. Toward the end of the presentation he explained that the purpose was to help the Human Services Committee select indicators and described the selection criteria that should be used to make those selections.

Candace and Bob agreed that it would be best to start with reviewing other indicators from the best models and then select indicators for the human services strategy. Phil (Last name) expressed concern about the number of indicators and doesn't want too many to overlap with each other. Andrew Williams-Clark stated that this clearly happened with the Boston Indicators Project. Also, Phil expressed that economics are a part of human services and should not be overlooked. We need to find out what are the investments and what are the indicators measuring.

4.3 Scenario Construction for the Regional Comprehensive Plan

Bob Dean gave a brief presentation on [scenario development](#) as it pertains to GoTo 2040 (Comprehensive Plan). Jim Lewis asked how CMAP intends to visually represent comparisons between scenarios based on indicators in the areas of education and human services. Bob Dean responded that CMAP is at the beginning of the process and understands the need for sensitivity on this particular topic.

Jim Lewis also asked to what level of geographic granularity the indicators be able to reach in each scenario, as more detail will help to illustrate equity across the scenarios. Candace King added that she acknowledges the political reality within which CMAP operates, but that perhaps the "sacred cow" could be turned into a "steak" if equity is

¹ Please reference the presentation file (on committee website) for more detail.

illustrated in the right way. Bob Gleeson noted that we have growth projections at a regional level, but need to know what percentage of that growth occurs in greenfields, etc. Joan Frankel added that she has noticed a growing number of suburbs expressing that they increasingly have “city problems.” Candace King concurred, noting that many CHA residents have moved to DuPage communities without community preparation (planning); now these communities are having CHA problems. Joan Frankel added that this could have been predicted. Bob Dean responded that CMAP will certainly produce projections at the end of the process, but will not use the projections as inputs into scenario development.

Bob Gleeson asked if the scenarios can be visualized well enough to rally the people of the region, because there are likely to be groups who would rally against it. So, CMAP will need to build a constituency of regional planning proponents. Walt Meyers added that CMAP should not put communities in a position to compete, but instead use planning to improve the entire region. Jim Lewis reiterated his position that in this competitive context, there are big losers. If CMAP does not look at small area differences, it will miss the equity issue. Phil Smith concurred saying that the process will have to yield location-specific indicators, so that people understand how different strategies may potentially yield unequal impacts within the region. Also, representations should not be so esoteric that average readers don’t understand the inequalities. Candace King concluded that simple iconic representations may not be as useful in selecting a preferred scenario.

A member of the public asked if CMAP will look at regional inequity in terms of communities of identity (race, ethnicity). Bob Dean responded that looking at impacts on specific identity groups is more difficult in terms of modeling and projections, but that CMAP will attempt to do so when possible.

Daniel Strick asked how many scenarios CMAP will develop. Bob Dean responded, saying perhaps four, but no more than five. CMAP is interested in understanding the impacts of strategies on groups of people, not just where the number of jobs or people will increase or decline around the region. Bob Gleeson added that this is a positive approach because policies will be more valid than previous formulae as the basis for projections. He also suggested looking to Los Alamos for models of data visualizations relevant to scenario development and selection.

4.4 Analysis of Strategies related to Human Services (Bob Dean)

Bob Dean announced that CMAP will continue to work with the Chicago Community Trust to prioritize strategy research topics.

4.5 Aging Snapshot Draft Report. (Jon Hallas & Russell Pietrowiak)

An updated version of the Regional Snapshot Report on Aging² was presented. Jim Lewis noted that he appreciates senior population displayed on a map versus the percentage total that our seniors because they provide more useful information for service providers. Joan Frankel asked for a clearer definition of “senior” in all legends and labels. Walt Meyers asked why no statistics were presented on the population aged 60+. Russell Pietrowiak responded that this would not be as useful, because retirement age is a more useful benchmark for planning purposes. Likewise, much more data is available for seniors aged 65+, so more consistent reporting is possible using this definition. Walt Meyers continued, saying that the state’s definition of the “aging population” is 60+ years. Russell Pietrowiak responded, saying that state numbers are not comparable to census numbers, which inform most of the report.

Joan Frankel asked if disabled seniors are self identified as such. Russell Pietrowiak responded in the affirmative.

Jim Lewis asked for more clarity on how “main issues” for the aging population were determined. Russell Pietrowiak responded, saying that these were taken from the literature review and would be discussed in greater detail in the final report. Jim Lewis added that this lack of clarity is confusing for the viewer (PPT).

Bob Gleeson suggested that for scenario development, CMAP should look at the ability of seniors get to work working. Some statistics indicate that 70% return to work after reaching retirement age. Within a planning context, a transportation indicator of transportation capacity for seniors will be important. Russell Pietrowiak responded, saying that the comprehensive plan will address this in more detail. Phil Smith suggested that this is important even at the snapshot stage. Bob Gleeson suggested looking at distances to work by age. Russell Pietrowiak responded, saying that such numbers can only come from the 2000 census and may therefore be somewhat outdated..

Candace King suggested that CMAP should provide both broad statements on employment and income among the aging population and more detail for those who are interested. Walt Meyers suggested adding numbers to show the difference between income and net worth (perhaps a ratio). Russell Pietrowiak asked Walt Meyers where to find data on net worth. Walt Meyers responded, saying that he will send such data to Russell Pietrowiak. Meyers also suggested that retirement outlook has much more to do with property ownership than income.

Jon Hallas announced that there were no changes in the land use and housing section of the snapshot draft. Russell Pietrowiak indicated that the dominant theme of the report will be aging in place. Candace King asked why there was not more localized data in the snapshot instead of national summary data. Russell Pietrowiak responded by stating that these were special tabulation done by the Census Bureau for their own reports and to get a similar special tabulation for the Chicago area, by for instance census tract would be cost prohibitive.

² Please reference the presentation file (on committee website) for more detail.

Russell Pietrowiak concluded by encouraging committee members to submit additional feedback by [email](#). He added that CMAP's next steps will be to develop subsets of recommendations, which will be different for the 85+ cohort. He also stated that mobility is a quality of life issue, aging in place is becoming increasingly more important to seniors, and that more data is needed for planning/recommendations and that the snapshot is a portrait in time of seniors that is not intended to be a rich data source but is intended to highlight various aspects of associated with today's seniors.

5.0 Next Meeting (April 14th at 10:00am)

Russell Pietrowiak distributed a list of subsequent meeting times and dates at the meeting. He will also distribute these via email.

6.0 Adjournment