



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Human Services Committee Minutes from Monday May 10th, 2010

In Attendance:

Members:

Sheri Cohen	Chicago Department of Public Health
Thomas Galassini	United Way of Metro Chicago
Elizabeth Cole	United Way of Metro Chicago
Mary Keating	DuPage County
Jim Lewis	Chicago Community Trust
Donna Copeland	NEIL Area Agency on Aging
Henry Sullivan	CNT
Tammy Wierciak	Metropolitan Mayors Caucus/Council of Mayors
Jan Ward	Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors
Lynn O'Shea	Association for Individual Development

Guest:

Rebecca Burgstahler	Age Options
Lillian Lar	CTA
Sherry Meyer	CMAP's Citizens Advisory Council
Greg Pullman	Chicago Lighthouse
Al Cacciottolo	Pace

CMAP Staff:

Russell Pietrowiak	CMAP Staff
Patricia Berry	CMAP Staff
Annie Byrne	CMAP Staff
Amy Talbot	CMAP Staff
Bob Dean	CMAP Staff

1.0 Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

2.0 Approval of meeting minutes.

This item was postponed to the next committee meeting

3.0 Comments from the Chair or Vice Chair

Sheri Cohen, the Chair commented that the planning committee had not met since the last Human Services Committee meeting but would be meeting in 2 days. The same thing was stated regarding the programming committee by the vice-chair.

4.0 Health Planning Initiatives Discussion: Russell Pietrowiak, CMAP

The committee was provided with a variety of updates related to various Public Health planning initiatives that are currently ongoing. The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is nearing the end of its process. At this point there are a series of public hearing that are going on throughout the state in an attempt solicit public feedback on the plan. After this is done the SHIP planning team will meet again to review the public comments and to make any changes to the plan that they deem necessary.

Jan Ward updated the committee on Kane County's Fit Kids 2020 leadership summit. A committee member asked if part of their future planning called for making things more accessible as a way to increase physical activity. Jan Ward stated that that suggestion would be passed on to the County Health Department. Sheri Cohen informed the committee about Chicago's I-Plan process that they are beginning to undertake. She asked if anyone knew if any other counties or municipalities were updating either their own I-Plans or embarking on new Public Health planning initiatives. It was also stated that it would be desirable to train public health officials in urban planning principals so that the built environment could be included more in Public Health planning efforts.

Jana Stansell mentioned that Health and Medicine Policy research group was conducting periodic seminars and putting out a monthly newsletter. A summit on the Illinois budget and its impacts on Health and Human Services is scheduled for June 11th.

5.0 Dial-A-Ride Summit Discussion: Russell Pietrowiak, CMAP

A discussion took place regarding both the outcomes of the dial-a-ride summit and the latest developments related to dial-a-ride in the region. With regard to the later Pace has learned that it is now Medicaid eligible. This means that rides Pace provides in which they are transporting Medicaid recipients to medical appointments are eligible for reimbursement from the Medicaid program. This applies only to ADA paratransit riders and not dial-a-ride users. This should positively impact Pace's financial situation and help to diversify their funding streams that help support ADA service. The amount of riders that currently qualify is relatively low but over time this may change.

The RTA is considering putting together a mobility management taskforce as more information about this becomes available it will be shared with the committee. It terms of the dial-a-ride summit about 50 people attend from throughout the region. The levels of services and stage of development various greatly from one county to another. Will County is in the initial planning stages while DuPage has had service for several years. Each of the collar counties (except Will) gave a presentation about their service design, challenges, fares, funding, etc. The conversation then turned to financing and future challenges for dial-a-ride service. This generated a good deal of comments and suggestions from those in attendance. Some of the comments were that dial-a-ride services are too expensive. Others felt that while it is expensive it is far less expensive

than some of the alternatives such as institutionalization. Others felt public school transportation should be looked at to see if that could be used during non school hours and other felt the state should be making a financial contribution for this type of service. It was also suggested that the region look into defining just what the expectations should be regarding mobility both for transportation disadvantaged populations and the region in general. In some parts of the region dial-a-ride is the most common form of public transportation and perhaps that should be a consideration when discussing public transportation within the region.

6.0 GOTO 2040 Plan Policy Recommendations: Food Systems, Amy Talbot, CMAP

A power point presentation on Sustainable Local Food Systems, a priority recommendation in the *GO TO 2040* plan was given by CMAP staff. A memo was also provided to the committee that included more details on the subject matter than the power point presentation. The recommendations centered on two items; production of food in the region and people's ability to access affordable, fresh food. The following 6 recommendations were made.

1. Link Federal Farm Programs to Local Food Production
2. Inform Public Officials
3. Use data and research to demonstrate the benefits of including a food component into local plans and planning.
4. Create a Regional Identity for Local Foods
5. Promote Land and Environmental Conservation Strategies
6. Link local food policies with anti-hunger strategies.

The committee discussed and commented on the Food Systems recommendations contained in the plan. A committee member asked why food system was a priority in the plan over other issues and that the recommendation to focus on local food production over imports goes against Chicago's place as a global hub. Others thought that it would be possible to measurably increase the availability of food through local production. Others thought that locally grown food might actually cost more than food that is imported into the region. Some thought there were benefits to local food production, including environmental, economic, health, etc. The fresher food is the more nutritional value there is. It was also pointed out that local farmers markets and community gardens have a positive impact on a community. Finally it was mentioned that there is an issue with "food deserts" that the plan felt the need to address.

7.0 GOTO 2040 Plan Policy Recommendations: Workforce Development Annie Byrne, CMAP

A power point presentation on Education and Workforce Development, a priority recommendation in the *GO TO 2040* plan was given by CMAP staff. A memo was also provided to the committee that included more details on the subject matter than the power point presentation did. The plan recommendations include the following:

1. Raise the Quality of Education in the Region
2. Access to High Quality Education for all.

3. Create Greater Coherence, Coordination and Efficiency Within and Across Agencies.

These recommendations involve entities and organizations that CMAP typically is not heavily involved with thus improvements and changes to the educational system will need to be done by governmental bodies, educational institutions, civic and business organizations and leaders, community organizations, and other human development service institutions and is not something that CMAP would likely take the lead in. That being said it is recognized that education is a vital to the future development of the region. Regarding workforce development the plan recommends the following:

1. Develop Career and Educational Pathways.
2. Strengthen Local Service Delivery
3. Establish Flexible Funding and Programs.

The committee discussed these recommendations and provided comments. In general the committee was supportive of these recommendations but had concerns that these areas were outside of CMAP's expertise which might make it more difficult to implement and track.

8.0 Next Meeting (June 14th at 10:00am)

9.0 Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.