

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2011

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Celeste Adams, Save the Family
Christina Avila, City of Avondale
*Lt. Robert Bates, Phoenix Police Dept.
John Belatti, City of Chandler
Larry Grubbs for John A. Blackburn, Jr.,
AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
Town Manager Rick Buss, Town of Gila
Bend
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
*JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family
Advocacy Center
*Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El
Mirage
*President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community
Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City of
Tempe
*Will Gonzalez, City of Phoenix
Prosecutor's Office
Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic
Security
Linda Melendez for City of Surprise
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix
Police Dept., Chair
Karla Houston for Lynette Jelinek,
Glendale Fire Dept.
Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic,
Area Agency on Aging
*Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter Inc.
*Councilmember Suzanne Klapp, City of
Scottsdale
+Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, City of
Goodyear
*Councilmember Phil Lieberman, City of
Glendale
*Jodi Beckley Liggett, Arizona Foundation
for Women
Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County
Attorney's Office, Vice Chair

John Raeder for Governor's Office for
Children, Youth, and Families
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos Por la Causa
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
*Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal
Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Angela Andrews, Maricopa County
Attorney's Office
Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix
Leslee Garner, Admin. Office of the
Courts, Arizona Supreme Court
Alona Del Rosario, UMOM
+Honorable Judge Ellie Finn, City of
Glendale
Rob Gotwals, St. Anthony Episcopal
Church
Brian Hill, City of Phoenix
Irene Jacobs, Avon Program at O'Connor
House
Lindsay Johnson, Avon Program at
O'Connor House
Martha Longoria, City of Glendale
Mary Alice McKone, Elim House
Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound
Lora Reid, Valley of the Sun United Way
Samantha Rivera, City of Mesa
Wendy Shepherd, Voices Empowered
Lindsay Simmons, Arizona Coalition
against Domestic Violence

Rachel Brito, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Renae Tenney, MAG

+ Those attending by video/audio
conference

* Those not present or represented by
proxy

1. Call to Order
Chair Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police Department, called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. He welcomed new member John Belatti, Prosecutor, City of Chandler. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
An opportunity was provided for members of the audience to address the Council on non-agenda items that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or agenda items for discussion but not for action. No comments were made.
3. Approval of the November 3, 2010, Meeting Minutes
Chair Humphrey called for approval of the November 3, 2010, MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes. Lynn Potts, City of Mesa, motioned to approve the minutes. Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Phoenix Police Department Update
Chair Humphrey advised the Phoenix Police Department update would not be presented due to a scheduling conflict. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.
5. MAG Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation
Chair Humphrey invited Renae Tenney, MAG, to provide an update on the Protocol Evaluation Project. Ms. Tenney said the project is supported by the Governor's Office and STOP Violence Against Women grant funding. The project's purpose is to assess protocols used to arrest and prosecute domestic violence offenders at the misdemeanor level. The outcome aims to increase victim safety and hold more abusers accountable.

The Promising Practices Roundtable was held on December 1, 2010. More than 130 people including representation from law enforcement, prosecution, the judicial system, shelters, advocates, and survivors attended the event. A panel of speakers from the Diane Halle Center; the Avon Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor House; and the Phoenix Police Department highlighted local best practices. Representatives from King County, Washington; St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; and Nashville, Tennessee highlighted national promising practices. The keynote speaker was Lt. Mark Wynn.

Ms. Tenney acknowledged the Arizona Coalition against Domestic Violence for their assistance in organizing a panel of domestic violence survivors who shared their stories and provided valuable insight. The event received tremendous support and feedback. The day wrapped-up with a working plenary to discuss lessons learned throughout the day and identify Areas of Most Potential (AMPs). A summary of the AMPs, provided in the meeting handouts, represents opportunities to address challenges with the most potential for making a difference. Ms. Tenney said two main themes that surfaced were on-going involvement of victims and effective evidence collection.

Ms. Tenney stated the AMPs were presented at a stakeholder group meeting on January 27, 2011 to discuss how best to move the project forward. More than 25 people attended

the meeting. Much of the discussion focused on how to empower and engage victims, provide victim assistance, and the importance of effective evidence collection. The group further discussed how to narrow and clarify the direction of the project. Ms. Tenney noted previous discussion had focused on victim involvement. She asked for feedback from the Committee on how to incorporate victim involvement in a way that would help to enhance the arrest and prosecution process. Amy St. Peter, MAG, said discussion from the stakeholder group focused on what the ideal outcome for the project should be. Some individuals believe increasing the number of convictions should be the outcome while others believe increasing victim safety is the best outcome. She said ultimately, there is a need to be focused and to have everyone's support on the specified outcome.

Chair Humphrey noted grant funding for PEP is focused on protocols for misdemeanor domestic violence. He said it is important to remain focused on misdemeanors and not move into the area of felonies. Additionally, as the project moves forward, there is a need for outcome-based decisions. Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition against Domestic Violence, asked what outcome was identified in the grant. Ms. St. Peter said the initial framework was broad and now needs to be clarified. In terms of the grant and the initial approach, the focus was to look at the protocols and determine what is and is not working well, to replicate protocols that are working well, and provide assistance to mitigate elements that are not. Throughout the research, two areas that continue to surface are the importance of evidence collection and victim involvement. Some of the protocols that address these areas are not being implemented consistently across the region. Ms. St. Peter said during the stakeholder meeting, the focus was narrowed to evidence collection and victim involvement. However, there is a need to define those in greater detail. Ms. St. Peter asked which protocols relating to these areas should have priority now.

Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department, said a lot of effort has been put towards having a better ability to prosecute and convict domestic violence offenders. While thankful for these efforts, some victims still express concerns that the legal avenue is not always the best answer for them. They still want the support and resources allotted to them. Ms. Ramella said it appears some of what victims need has been lost in efforts to improve prosecution and conviction. John Belatti, City of Chandler, said when offender accountability is in place, good evidence collection and good victim involvement is also in practice. He noted offender accountability as the best outcome.

Ms. St. Peter shared a story about the importance of sharing perspectives to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole picture. Ms. St. Peter said it can be challenging to arrive at a complete picture while sifting through varying perspectives for PEP.

Ms. Bones, using the story as an example, said the big picture is reduction of domestic violence. Perspectives vary depending on who is being serviced, but the result is a reduction in instances of domestic violence or reducing recidivism. Chair Humphrey noted recidivism is measurable through comparison of data. Results would be able to reflect whether or not the project has been effective. Other elements would require research to determine their effectiveness.

Chair Humphrey noted discussion at the previous stakeholder meeting provided the impetus for the Committee's discussion. He stressed the need to narrow the focus of the

project within the parameters of the criminal justice system. The project has to determine how to tie in elements such as victim safety and then determine how those elements work best together. Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center, said most women at Sojourner Center do not have on-going cases. However, women that are in support groups, who do have on-going cases, indicate they had stopped calling because they are dissatisfied with the system. She suggested research on recidivism should be complemented with a survey to determine survivors' satisfaction rate.

Kristen Scharlau, City of Tempe, recounted a discussion between a City of Tempe victim advocate and a domestic violence survivor from the Promising Practices Roundtable. The advocate shared with Ms. Scharlau the survivors were incredibly angry and had no positive feedback on how the system works. Agreeing with Ms. Phillips' statements, Ms. Scharlau said victims can become disgusted with the system and give up or quit calling. She said victims will continue trying to work through the system until they get tired of hitting a brick wall and then they quit. She said the greatest barrier to reducing domestic violence is how to engage the victim. She noted that until they are full participants in the solution, a complete picture of the entire system is not clearly seen.

Ms. St. Peter said victim involvement, evidence collection, and offender accountability would be key elements if the focus is to reduce recidivism. Recidivism could then be measured through survivor satisfaction surveys and through the decreased number of calls. She asked for input on other measurable data points to ensure input from individuals who give up trying to work with the system is not omitted. Another suggestion was made to ask police departments to track the number of domestic violence calls they received for one day and provide a summary with brief descriptions of each call. Ms. St. Peter said this information would provide insight into identifying the types of calls at the misdemeanor level. Another option was to research how victim involvement and evidence collection impact recidivism.

Ms. St. Peter advised the next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2011. Ms. Ramella asked for clarification on researching the number of calls received by police departments. She asked whether that pertains to the total number of calls, or the number of calls from individual victims. She suggested a better measure may be to review calls made for a specified period of time for a specific victim versus the number of calls in general. Ms. Bones suggested opportunities to conduct focus groups with survivors to research the experiences of those who called the police and those who did not.

Vice Chair Barbara Marshall, Office of the Maricopa County Attorney, said if there is concern victims are getting frustrated and not calling in, recidivism rates will not be accurate. She suggested focusing on offender accountability with the assumption being if offenders are held accountable, they will commit fewer crimes. Vice Chair Marshall also stressed the importance of everyone understanding the difference between misdemeanor and felony domestic violence. She noted much of the discussion during the stakeholder meeting was better suited for felony crimes.

Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound, addressed the Council regarding the importance of having baseline data to be able to determine whether or not the project has been successful. Chair Humphrey agreed stating Phoenix Police department keeps track of

certain data related to how often a victim has been victimized. Ms. Phillips cautioned not to inadvertently put the burden on the victim for not following protocol.

Ms. St. Peter asked if victim involvement and evidence collection are good elements to consider if the focus is offender accountability. She asked for input on other elements to consider. Chair Humphrey said evidence collection should be further defined. He said there is not much evidence for misdemeanor cases; much of the evidence may be based on how well the initial police report is written. If the initial response and report is not done well, the follow-up becomes an issue. Vice Chair Marshall said victim involvement may also have different meanings for a prosecutor compared to an advocate and should also be clarified.

Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security, said her understanding of the project included researching protocols, identifying best practices, and then looking at issues, needs, and gaps. She said as the layers of the project are peeled back, other areas requiring attention are revealed. Ms. Guild said domestic violence may not be reduced as a result of the project, but the project simply provides an analysis of what is and is not working along with recommendations.

Wendy Shepherd, Voices Empowered, suggested conducting a pilot program with an advocacy group to have an advocate follow a victim throughout the entire process while documenting steps along the way. She said having several of these reports would provide a starting point to track outcomes. Ms. Scharlau commented the City of Tempe maintains detailed records of initial involvement at the point of trauma and how that transcends into a successful prosecution. She said although not always feasible to do, providing victim assistance at initial contact has made a huge difference. If victims are involved from the beginning, they are much more likely to follow through.

Chair Humphrey asked for a motion to move forward with next steps. Ms. St. Peter summarized additional steps including reviewing reviewing calls to police departments for one day. She asked for volunteers. Mr. Belatti suggested tracking domestic violence cases for one week, then reporting on the number that proceeded to trial, the number of cases where the victim did not show, or cases that were continued. He advised he would be able to volunteer the City of Chandler for this type of study. He noted he would not be able to make a commitment on behalf of the City of Chandler Police Department to conduct a study on domestic violence calls. Ms. St. Peter thanked Mr. Belatti for his input. She continued with next steps adding interviews and focus groups with survivors. She asked for volunteers for the focus groups. Ms. Phillips, Sojourner Center, offered to conduct survivor focus groups. Chair Humphrey suggested also reviewing information gathered through previous studies conducted by the Morrison Institute. He said following someone through the process is a vital aspect to being able to see every step in the process; where gaps occur; and determine what is and is not effective.

Ms. St. Peter summarized the four next steps as reviewing domestic violence calls to police for either a day or a week; reviewing existing research; conducting interviews; and conducting focus groups with survivors. She asked for additional next steps. Chair Humphrey added identification of the outcome. Ms. St. Peter noted the two issues discussed the most include offender accountability and recidivism. Ms. Phillips

recommended also reviewing outcomes from the previous appreciative inquiry interviews with victims. She said both processes provided great insight to what was helpful for victims.

Ms. St. Peter said at the onset, the goal was to review protocols and determine what is and is not working well. Additional sources of information that have been recommended can be used to make that determination and to identify gaps in the process. Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa, recommended survivor focus groups not only include women in shelters, but also women living in the community. She suggested Allie Bones as a point of contact for identifying individuals not in shelter.

Ms. Bones questioned whether offenders arrested at the misdemeanor level really are held accountable. She said a number of offenders only receive unsupervised probation or are sent to a batterer intervention program that has not been formally evaluated. She suggested addressing the issue now rather than later.

Chair Humphrey recommended defining offender accountability along with the elements that will be used to measure progress. He said the project continues to grow and it is a difficult task to narrow the project to a particular focus. Once the focus has been identified and work has been completed, the Council may then take on the next task and expand upon that. He said there are many different possible directions the project can focus on and in looking at the system as a whole, everyone can identify an issue that needs to be improved.

Chair Humphrey asked for motion to move forward with the next steps. Ms. St. Peter summarized the next steps Christina Avila, City of Avondale, motioned to approve the next steps for the MAG domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project. Barbara Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Protocol Evaluation Project Stakeholder Groups

Chair Humphrey invited Ms. Tenney to discuss developing topic specific stakeholder groups focusing on law enforcement, prosecution, and public safety.

Ms. Tenney advised discussion occurred at the November Council meeting about developing topic specific stakeholder groups. The topic was brought forward by Sarah Buel, Director of the Diane Halle Center for Women and Justice, as a method for having more informal conversations on specific topics. Ms. Buel had shared her vision for including law students attending ASU in these discussions. The Council had discussed that these groups would tie into the work of the Protocol Evaluation Project. Ms. Tenney requested input from the Council on implementation of topic specific stakeholder groups.

Ms. St. Peter asked if there would be interest in having periodic meetings for prosecutors, law enforcement, victim advocates, or shelter providers. Vice Chair Marshall said it would be beneficial to have meetings for prosecutors. She noted there are 23 jurisdictions and currently three prosecutors on the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. She commented she thought it would be beneficial for the other disciplines to meet as well. Ms. St. Peter suggested the first meeting be scheduled for prosecutors. Additional meetings can be scheduled for other disciplines at a later time. Ms. Tenney

asked if there was a particular time of day that would be best for scheduling the meeting. Lynn Potts noted afternoons seem to be easier for traveling to the MAG offices. There was agreement to schedule the first prosecutor stakeholder group meeting with an open format in the afternoon. Chair Humphrey thanked everyone for their input noting the first meeting would serve as a pilot with future meetings scheduled thereafter.

7. Legislative Update

Chair Humphrey introduced Lindsay Simmons, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to provide an update on domestic violence related legislation. Ms. Simmons said this is the fourth week of session. Over 1,200 bills have been filed which sets a new record. The Senate deadline to hear bills in Committee is two weeks away with potentially one more week with an extension. The Coalition's main priority this year is to preserve the current budget for domestic violence services. They are focusing on the fiscal impact, increased budgetary cuts for domestic violence, health and human services, and how programs and services will be further impacted. As such, the Coalition is not proposing any new bills but will focus on the current legislation.

Ms. Simmons provided a brief overview of several bills, which if passed, would impact victims of intimate partner violence. Those include:

- HB 2855 name change; stalking victims
- HB 2658 Fatality Review Teams
- HB 2232 sentencing; criminal restitution order
- HB 2238 child abuse definition; exhaustion; torture.
- HB 2302 protected address, secretary of state
- HB 1155 electronic; digital devices; stalking ; threatening;

Bills opposed by the Coalition include:

- HB 2502 public programs; advertisements; funding source
- SB 1083 domestic relations; child custody
- SB 1187 dissolution of marriage; legal separation

Chair Humphrey thanked Ms. Simmons for her update.

8. Committee Meeting Calendar and Evaluation

Chair Humphrey invited Ms. Tenney to lead a discussion on the Committee meeting calendar and evaluation of the work completed to date. Ms. Tenney reviewed the draft schedule for future meetings. Currently, meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Tenney asked for feedback on any conflicts with the proposed meeting dates. Ms. Ramella noted conflict with another regular standing Committee meeting. She clarified she can continue sending a proxy. No other conflicts were noted. Ms. Tenney advised the next meeting will be in April; there is no meeting in March. Chair Humphrey requested Council members notify Ms. Tenney of any future scheduling conflicts.

Ms. Tenney asked for input on any functions or activities of the Council that they would like to review, or if there are specific areas they would like to improve upon. No input was received. Chair Humphrey asked for a motion from the Council.

Ms. Tenney noted many Council members have been involved with the PEP stakeholder group meetings. She said it has been very exciting and helpful to have so many of the Council members engaged in the project. She expressed her hopes for their continued involvement and support.

Town Manager Rick Buss, Town of Gila Bend, made a motion to approve the strategies and meeting dates needed to facilitate the work of the Committee. Ms. Bones seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

9. FY 2012 Committee Goals

Chair Humphrey referred the Council to the draft goals developed for inclusion in the MAG FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Tenney advised the goals are a continuation of the work being done by the Committee. The goals include continuing with PEP. The work of this project will include in-person training, a webinar, a public awareness video, and a training video. Implementation of the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence will continue to be monitored through quarterly reports to the Committee. Another goal will be to continue coordinating activities with community partners including the Fatality Review Teams, Domestic Violence Commissions, the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Purple Ribbon Council, the O'Connor House, and other groups with similar focus. Chair Humphrey asked for motion from the Committee.

Ms. Bones made a motion to approve the committee goals for inclusion in the MAG FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Belatti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were asked to provide input on topics or issues of interest that the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting. Chair Humphrey advised an update from the Phoenix Police Department will be on a future agenda. Vice Chair Marshall asked when information regarding the number of misdemeanor domestic violence calls received for one day will be presented. Ms. St. Peter advised the goal was to collect the information and report on it at the February 28, 2011 stakeholder group meeting and the March Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting.

Ms. Tenney noted a previous request for information on the ADT Program to assist victims of domestic violence with acquiring home security systems. Research is underway. She said she is gathering further information for a future presentation.

11. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided to Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. Ms. Bones addressed the Committee regarding an issue identified at the Promising Practices Roundtable event in December. She said 13-3601(J) was not being

followed consistently. This regulation states anytime an officer responds to a domestic violence call, whether or not domestic violence has occurred or may occur, the officer is required to provide information regarding services available and how to get an Order of Protection. Ms. Bones noted the wording “domestic violence *may* occur” caused uncertainty on whether or not information was still required to be provided.

Once this issue had been identified, the Coalition worked with the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police to email all police departments inquiring how this regulation was being followed. The responses varied. Departments overwhelmingly expressed the need to create something to ensure this regulation was being followed and officers were aware of its requirements. Ms. Bones advised the City of Scottsdale already had a tool in place. Tracy Wilkinson provided a sample of their domestic violence information card. The Coalition created a template using the City of Scottsdale’s sample. The card was presented at the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police meeting. The Coalition is now working with Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZPOST) and securing a grant through the Governor’s Office for STOP Violence Against Women funds for police agencies to request reimbursement from for printing fees. Next, the templates will be sent to all law enforcement agencies. They will be required to fill in their agency information and send the template to AZPOST for printing. Police departments will have the ability to print at least a one-year supply. Chair Humphrey commended Ms. Bones and everyone involved for their efforts in taking on this task and seeing it through in such a short period of time.

Mr. Belatti advised the East Valley Fatality Review Board completed its first case study in January. The team has produced very practical and useful recommendations. The question was asked about whether the report is now available. Mr. Belatti stated the report has been submitted to the Attorney General. He is not sure whether it has been made available to the public yet.

Ms. Tenney advised the Arizona Supreme Court will host the second annual Arizona Domestic Violence Summit on March 3, 2011 in Tempe. Informational flyers are available for anyone interested in attending. Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, advised they are partnering with ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy to review the Crime Victim Compensation Fund program in an effort to identify any barriers preventing victims from applying for compensation benefits. Bill Hart will lead the research.

12. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Saguaro Room at the MAG offices.