

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2012

Members Attending

*Theresa James, City of Tempe, Chair
Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
Laura Peters, Labor's Community Service
Agency
Michelle Thomas for Robert Duvall,
Community Information & Referral
Richard Geasland, Tumbleweed
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police
Department
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Mattie Lord for Darlene Newsom,
UMOM New Day Center
Kim Van Nimwegen for Amy
Schwablenlender, Valley of the Sun
United Way
*Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
Laura Skotnicki for Jacki Taylor, Save the
Family
John Wall, Arizona Housing, Inc.
* Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

Others Present

Jonnie Arnold, US Vets Phoenix
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix
Jennifer Day, Basic Mission
+Piper Ehlen, HomeBase
Margaret Finn, Southwest Behavioral
Health
Dan Greenleaf, NOVA Safe Haven
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Robert Ruocco, Homeward Bound
Brian Straub, Recovery Innovations
Monika Wallace, Labor's Community
Service Agency
Brandee Mead, MAG

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.
+Present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Planning Subcommittee. No comments were made.

3. Approval of January 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the January 9, 2012, meeting minutes was made by Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County. Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Point-in-Time Street and Shelter Count Update

Brandee Mead, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided an update on the 2012 Homeless Shelter Count. Ms. Mead stated that the point-in-time count took place on January

24, 2012 through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Ms. Mead added that providers who are not participating in HMIS entered their data through a survey developed by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), via Survey Monkey. She indicated that data is still being collected and a report will be out soon. Ms. Mead thanked the HMIS team and Donna Bleyle, DES, for their roles in the shelter count. Once the data has been entered, providers will have an opportunity to review the data for their programs before it is considered final. Ms. Mead asked for feedback from providers on the new data collection methods. Providers indicated that reporting is easier this year and that they are happy with the changes so far.

Next, Ms. Mead updated members on the work of the Homeless Street Count Working Group. She explained that the group is meeting monthly to develop an improved street count methodology to begin in 2013. A matrix has been developed with information from each of the cities and towns indicating relevant information about how the count is administered in each of their geographical areas. Ms. Mead stated that the working group members reviewed the information collected in the matrix during the last meeting. In addition to reviewing how the count has been conducted in the past, the group is seeking information on best practices from across the country. Ms. Mead informed members that they are partnering with Arizona State University, School of Public Programs, to conduct research on best practices. Recommendations on best practices will be made to the working group this spring.

5. CoC Technical Assistance Action Plan

Ms. Mead welcomed and thanked Piper Ehlen, HomeBase, for calling in to the meeting and providing an update on the status of the Technical Assistance Action Plan. Ms. Ehlen reviewed the history of the development of the action plan for the Continuum of Care. She announced that HUD has agreed to fund technical assistance toward the top three priority areas. The three areas that will be focused on are:

- Development of a Centralized/Coordinated Assessment and Intake Process
- Transitional Housing Programs being utilized for those most appropriate
- Governance of the Continuum of Care (ensuring membership includes stakeholders recommended under the HEARTH Act and the structure meets the needs of important issues)

Ms. Ehlen indicated that she is working with Brande Mead, MAG, to develop the process for which the technical assistance will be completed. Some of the next steps include:

- Thinking about who needs to be at the table
- Should the work be done through an existing group or develop another working group
- Planning a community-wide kick-off event to inform people about the work being done and to engage people who are not currently involved with the Continuum of Care

6. Project Performance Evaluation Discussion

Mattie Lord, UMOM New Day Centers, presented information on the Alameda County progress report called, "EveryOne Home Ending Homelessness in Alameda County". Ms. Lord provided

a handout from the report and suggested that members review the report as a best practices example for measuring progress and achieving outcomes. Ms. Lord added that she would like to have the Self-Sufficiency Matrix (SSM) report available from HMIS. She indicated that this is a good tool for measuring performance of their programs. Ms. Mead added that the SSM report is also a report the Continuum will be looking at for project performance measurement.

Ms. Lord explained their housing barriers and assessment process. She handed out a copy of the questions that are asked during the assessment. She indicated that it is conducted as an interview process on housing barriers. They are using the assessment as a tool to determine what programs to refer families to. She added that UMOM New Day Centers is re-purposing funding as there is a need for permanent supportive housing for people without a serious mental illness diagnosis. Ms. Lord said that all of the family emergency shelter providers are meeting and several are using the assessment tool.

Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family, added that Save the Family is also using the housing barriers assessment tool and finds it useful. They have added additional barriers to the end of the questionnaire but do not score on those added items. She added that they are seeing more vulnerable family's accessing services.

Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic Security, acknowledged the importance of a common assessment tool but commented that she believes there needs to be a separate tool for families and one for single individuals. Ms. Bleyle mentioned the HART tool which is being used as an assessment tool at the Human Services Campus. It is being used for chronically homeless individuals to determine what services are needed for each individual.

Members discussed the importance of including a lethality assessment for persons fleeing domestic violence.

7. Changes in the HUD Definition of "Homeless"

Ms. Mead updated members that HUD produced final regulations on January 4, 2012 for the new definition of homeless. Ms. Mead reviewed several handouts from HUD as well as the National Alliance to End Homelessness to help providers implement the new definition. She explained that there are four categories under which an individual or family may qualify as homeless, they are:

1. Literally homeless – An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning the individual or family has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation or is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements. This category also includes individuals who are exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entry into the institution.
2. Imminent Risk of Homelessness – an individual or family who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence provided that no subsequent residence

has been identified and the individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

3. Homeless under other Federal Statutes – unaccompanied youth (under 25) or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition and are defined as homeless under another federal statute, have not had permanent housing during the past 60 days, have experience persistent instability, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time.
4. Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV – any individual or family who is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Ms. Mead informed members that the new rule applies to all recipients of the Emergency Solutions Grants program funds and all recipients of the SHP and S+C funding awarded through the CoC at the point that their renewal award takes effect. She added that the new definition does not apply to HPRP programs as much of the funding for this program has ended and will not be renewed through HUD.

Ms. Mead encouraged members to review the HUD website and the National Alliance to End Homelessness website for additional assistance and tools on implementation of the new definition.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Mead asked for additional items to be considered for future agendas. There were no requests for future agenda items.

9. Comments from the Subcommittee

Ms. Mead asked for comments from Subcommittee members. There were no comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.