

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
JULY 26, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Vice Mayor, Chair
Robert Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services
Maria-Elena Ochoa for the Governor's Office
*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
*Kendra Cea, APS
*Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Vice Mayor
Christina Soto for Victor Hudenko, Catholic Charities
Theresa James, City of Tempe
*Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix, Councilmember
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
*Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of Arizona
Andy Hall for Mattie Lord, Arizona Department of Economic Security/CPIP
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Holly Zoe for Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Centers
*Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear, Councilmember, Vice Chair
Sylvia Sheffield for Gina Ramos Montes, City of Avondale
*Brenda Robbins, Arizona Dept of Health Services
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way
*Jacki Taylor, Save the Family
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Supervisor
Nicky Stevens for Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation
Margot Cordova for Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing
Bill Black, Arizona Organizing Project
Cheryl Burnton, City Of Phoenix
Jimmy Davis, The Salvation Army
Jenny Day, Basic Mission
Charlene Flaherty, CSH
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
Gilbert Lopez, City of Glendale
Shamieka Marks, Florence Crittenton
Christopher L. Nash, LDRC
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa
Tim Oyen, Community Member
Marlena Pina The Salvation Army
Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound
Vicki Rainey, Recovery Innovations of Arizona
Christopher Wren Robin, The Underwood Types
Maria Rodriguez, Basic Mission
Ellen Solowey, Virginia Piper Trust
Christina Soto, Catholic Charities
Parrish Spisz, City of Goodyear
Nicky Stevens, ABC Housing
Michelle Thomas, Community Information and Referral
Amy Vogelsson, Southwest Behavioral Health Services
Amber Wakeman, City of Tempe
John Wall, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Kevin Walton, Capitol Mall Fellows
+Matt White, Abt Associates, Inc.

Rachel Brito, MAG
Carley Emery, MAG Intern
Brande Mead, MAG

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Introductions ensued. The Committee joined in a moment of silence to acknowledge the recent deaths of three homeless individuals in Maricopa County.

2. Call to the Audience

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

3. Approval of the May 17, 2010 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellis asked for a motion to approve the May 17, 2010, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral. The motion was seconded by Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County. The minutes were approved.

4. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee Report

Chair Ellis welcomed Theresa James, Chair of the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee, to provide a report on the work of the Planning Subcommittee. The Planning Subcommittee met on June 28, 2010. They discussed the Regional Plan to End Homelessness Report Card and reviewed implementation steps for each of the categories. Ms. James referred to the meeting materials noting 40 percent of the action steps have been implemented, 36 percent have had some progress, and 24 percent have not yet been established. She advised the Planning Subcommittee will continue to work on the action steps and provide an updated report at the end of the year.

Ms. James referenced Action Step 28: *Collaborate with homeless school liaison in the public school system to provide resources for homeless youth to complete and /or obtain their education.* She advised a focus group was held with school liaisons to discuss implementation of this goal. A “Train the Trainer” session was recommended to educate school liaisons about domestic violence awareness and provide networking opportunities to learn about domestic violence in the valley. Chair Ellis asked for a motion to approve the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee report. Vice Mayor Steve Frate, City of Glendale, motioned to approve the Subcommittee report presented by Ms. James. Mr. Duvall seconded the report. The motion passed.

5. Update on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Priorities

Chair Ellis introduced Matt White, Abt Associates, Inc., to provide an update on HUD’s priorities related to the Homeless Family Intervention Study, Rapid Re-Housing Grant, and the HEARTH/HMIS Conference.

Homeless Family Intervention Study: Mr. White noted his visit to Phoenix last September to introduce the idea for a homeless family intervention study in which families are assigned to one intervention method. Discussion revolved around the study design based on four different interventions: Usual care, project based transitional housing, rapid re-housing and housing choice voucher/Section 8 subsidies. While progress has been much slower than

anticipated, Mr. White advised community providers have been identified for each of the four interventions thereby allowing the project to move forward with implementation.

Mr. White advised much work has occurred to develop the necessary protocols for enrollment in the study. All materials are expected to be approved by HUD. A community meeting, at MAG, is scheduled for August 6, 2010, to allow one final overview of the study design and provide community partners an opportunity to discuss next steps. Mr. White anticipates meeting with providers prior to the community meeting to further discuss their participation in the study. Families will be enrolled in the program after the study has been approved by the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness in September.

Evaluation of Rapid Re-housing Demonstration Grant: The grant operates similarly to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). Mr. White advised many of the providers are the same as those participating in the Homeless Family Intervention study. However, it is a separate process and focuses only on those families in the rapid re-housing demonstration grant. Evaluation tools and protocols are being finalized and the program is expected to begin in mid-September.

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) and HMIS Training Conference: Conference dates have been scheduled in September 2010 in Denver, Colorado and in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference will have a number of tracks that deal with transition or implementation of some of the HEARTH Act changes. Draft regulations will be in place at the time the conference is held. Mr. White encouraged early registration for the Denver conference as the Atlanta conference is full. Additional information can be found at www.hudre.info. He advised limited scholarships to attend the conference are also available. Chair Ellis thanked Mr. White for the information presented.

6. Sustainable Communities Grant

Chair Ellis introduced Brande Mead, MAG, to provide a report on the Sustainable Communities Grant application. Amy St. Peter was unavailable as she was attending a meeting in Casa Grande. The grant opportunity is made available through a partnership between HUD, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. It makes available \$100 million nationally to support the creation of regional plans for sustainable development and consists of a three year grant period. Ms. Mead advised \$5 million is available for large metro areas and \$2 million for small metro or rural areas.

The notice of funding availability was released June 24, 2010; the application deadline is August 23, 2010. There is consensus for MAG to apply as the lead applicant on behalf of the Sun Corridor which consists of Maricopa County, Pinal County, and Pima County. Ms. St. Peter is coordinating these efforts. One of the focus areas for MAG is developing additional green housing and jobs along high capacity transit routes. Additionally, the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) are taking approaches to respond to needs in their respective areas. Ms. Mead provided a brief overview of the plan elements.

Ms. Mead referred the Committee to the organizational chart provided noting activity will be driven by the Councils of Government. She reviewed the six livability principles applicable to the Sustainable Communities Planning grant. Ms. Mead requested anyone interested in partnering in these efforts speak with her or contact Amy St. Peter right away. She advised the Committee is being asked to support the grant application and partner in the process on any projects that would support these efforts. Chair Ellis asked for a motion to support the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant application. She confirmed MAG would serve as the lead agency on the application. Chair Ellis asked for a motion to support the Sustainable Communities Grant application process with MAG serving as the lead agency. Holly Zoe, Human Services Campus, made a motion to support the grant application process. Vice Mayor Frate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Heat Relief Network Update

Chair Ellis invited Brande Mead, MAG, to provide an update on the Heat Relief Network.

Ms. Mead advised of the recent media opportunities to discuss the dangers of extreme heat and promote the heat relief network. She said since the television and radio interviews, there has been a lot of press alerting everyone in the community to the dangers of heat and the importance of contributing to the heat relief network. She acknowledged and thanked everyone who has been involved in these efforts. Ms. Mead advised authorities are investigating the deaths of three homeless men who died the prior week. She stressed how critical it is to spread the word about the heat relief network in an effort to save lives.

Ms. Mead reported 63 hydration and refuge locations are available throughout the region. She said it is important for people to donate to this effort, however, if the people needing the resources are not aware of the program, they won't get the assistance needed. Ms. Mead asked for help to get the word out to clients, and co-workers, and anyone able to share this information. Copies of the maps were made available and have also been distributed to homeless outreach teams, food banks, emergency responders, CAP agencies, libraries, emergency rooms, and municipalities. Any other suggestions for distribution can be forwarded to Ms. Mead. The Committee discussed transit schedule changes noting longer wait times. A recommendation was made to coordinate distribution of the maps and information with Valley Metro as people now have longer wait times at bus stops due to changes in bus schedules. Ms. Mead offered to follow-up on this recommendation. She acknowledged Tim Cole, City of Phoenix, for his efforts on the Heat Relief Network and helping to spread the word.

8. Transportation Needs Study Update

Chair Ellis introduced Carley Emery, ASU student and MAG intern, to provide an update on the Regional Transportation Needs study. Ms. Emery advised MAG, in partnership with the CARE program at ASU, implemented a Domestic Violence and Homeless Transportation Needs Study in May 2010. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the transportation needs of people experiencing domestic violence and homelessness throughout the region. The questions and protocol for conducting focus groups were developed and finalized in June with input from the domestic violence and homeless shelter stakeholders. Throughout the month of July, eight of the nine scheduled focus groups had been completed.

Topics discussed during the focus groups included activities requiring transportation, strengths of transportation services, challenges to accessing transportation services, and recommendations to improve transportation services. Some of the preliminary findings identified were as follows:

- Important activities requiring transportation include work, looking for work, grocery shopping, and medical appointments. Most residents said owning their own car, using the bus, or using light rail would work best for them when trying to get to the places they need to go.
- Some of the problems reported in accessing transportation include:
 - Prices or accessibility of bus passes/owning a car/light rail/Dial-a-Ride.
 - Disabilities that prevent walking or waiting at bus stops.
 - Bus routes being cut.
 - Non-frequent and unpredictable bus schedules.
 - Requiring employment located along the bus route.
 - Fear of using public transportation due to the possibility of being seen by abusers, stalkers, or people asking too many questions.
 - Missing activities such as visiting family, social outings, appointments, and job opportunities.
 - Difficulty accessing transportation during early mornings, nights and weekends.
- The recommendations residents made to improve transportation include:
 - Decreasing the cost of bus passes.
 - Increasing the frequency and routes of buses.
 - Implementing a van system for transportation to jobs and grocery stores.
 - Increasing the availability of bus and taxi vouchers.
 - Increasing the number of shared vehicles for carpooling.
 - Implementing a neighborhood circulator like the Dash or the Orbit.

Ms. Emery reported results gathered thus far are passionate accounts of people's transportation necessities. She noted another aspect of the project is to gather information about clients' transportation habits from case managers and staff. However, due to busy schedules, only a few surveys have been collected. Ms. Emery advised information will be worked into key informant interviews that will supplement client responses. Once the data have been organized, a report will be provided highlighting the transportation needs of people experiencing domestic violence and homelessness along with recommendations to address key issues.

Ms. Mead acknowledged Ms. Emery's efforts and hard work on the study as well as all of the providers and clients who participated in the focus groups. She said it is amazing how much people get things done despite challenges and barriers. Ms. Mead advised one focus for the joint Committee meeting next year will be to look at recommendations based on results of this study.

9. National Alliance to End Homelessness Summary

Chair Ellis introduced Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, to provide an overview of the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference. The conference was held in Washington, D.C. on July 12-14, 2010. Mark Clark and Ms. Schwabenlender attended on behalf of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. She provided an overview of the various workshops available including Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness. Key speakers at the conference were Nan Roman, President of the Alliance; Suzanne Haggerty, President of 100K Homes; and Secretary Shaun Donovan; among others. The main focus of the conference was the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness – *Opening Doors*. Key points discussed included finishing the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years, preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans in five years, and preventing and ending homelessness for families, youth and children in 10 years.

The final day of the conference was a presentation by Charniele Herring, who discussed her experience as a woman who experienced homelessness as a child with her family. Ms. Herring has made it her job to ensure housing for everyone in Virginia. General Eric Shinseki, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, also discussed creating a plan to end homelessness for veterans. Ms. Schwabenlender noted that in many other communities the public housing authorities are actively engaged at all steps in the report card. She posed the question of how to engage the housing authorities in Maricopa County for future discussion. The next National Alliance to End Homelessness conference is scheduled for July 2011. The conference was previously scheduled to be held in Phoenix but will be moved to another location.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Ellis asked for input from the Committee on any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas. Margot Cordova asked if the September meeting would possibly be too late in the year to make any needed approvals for the 2010 HUD application. Ms. Mead advised the grant would possibly be released in August and, if that is the case, then the September meeting would be good timing for approval of needed items. Should the Committee need to take action on anything sooner, a meeting would be scheduled.

11. Announcements

Chair Ellis asked for announcements from Committee members. Nick Margiotta, City of Phoenix, announced the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness' annual conference "*Challenging Times and Golden Opportunities: Bringing Arizona Home*" is scheduled for October 18-19, 2010, at the Black Canyon Conference Center.

Ms. Schwabenlender recalled during the previous meeting, Mike McQuaid discussed that the Maricopa IDA is creating a revolving fund for housing. She advised \$3 million dollars were approved for a revolving door fund. Anyone interested in working on permanent supportive housing is encouraged to speak with Ms. Schwabenlender. Ms. Mead congratulated the Continuum of Care noting HUD's recent announcement on project funding. She noted two new projects ABC and Community Bridges were both funded as well as all renewal projects. The application score has not yet been provided.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned 3:04 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for September 27, 2010, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the MAG Saguaro Room.