

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

\*Michelle Thomas for Roberto Armijo,  
Community Information & Referral Services  
Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Councilmember  
Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing  
\*Kathryn Brown, Arizona Department of  
Corrections  
\*Kendra Cea, APS  
\*Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye  
Tim Cole for JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family  
Advocacy Center  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Vice Mayor  
Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler, Councilmember  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
\*Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix,  
Councilmember  
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of  
Arizona  
Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic  
Security  
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department  
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus  
\*Frank Migali, Arizona Department of Education  
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County  
Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Centers  
Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear,  
Councilmember, Chair  
Gina Ramos Montes, City of Avondale  
\*Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health  
Services  
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United  
Way  
Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
\*Christina Soto, Catholic Charities  
Jacki Taylor, Save the Family  
\*Trish Georgeoff for Margaret Trujillo, MG  
Trujillo Associates  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,  
Supervisor

Nicky Stevens for Ted Williams, Arizona  
Behavioral Health Corporation  
+Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American  
Connections, Inc.  
+Chris Wudarski, Women In New Recovery

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Araman, Lodestar Day Resource Center  
Jonnie Arnold, U.S. Vets, Inc.  
Lidia Arrazola, Valle del Sol  
Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service Agency  
Brad Bridwell  
Cynthia Brooks, NOVA  
Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix  
Chris Bartz, Recovery Innovations of Arizona  
Daniela Cheo, Chicanos por la Causa, Inc.  
Major David Clitheroe, Salvation Army  
Hank Doss, U.S. Vets  
Richard Geasland, Tumbleweed Center for Youth  
Development  
Trish Georgeoff, Maricopa County Human Services  
Division  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Michael A. Leon, Veterans' Affairs  
Gilbert Lopez, City of Glendale  
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Mary Murphy, Governor's Office for Children  
Youth and Families  
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center  
Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound  
Sean Price, Arizona Department of Veterans'  
Services  
Ty Rosensteel, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Allyson Ross, Care Directions  
Jeremiah Smith, Salvation Army  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti  
John Wall, Central Arizona Shelter Services

Brandee Mead, MAG

Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Jamie Bakosh, MAG  
Margaret Kilman, MAG

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair JoAnne Osborne, Vice Mayor, City of Goodyear, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

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

3. Approval of the July 25, 2011 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Chair Osborne requested a motion to approve the July 25, 2011 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilmember Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Steve Frate, City of Glendale. The motion passed.

4. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee Report

Chair Osborne invited Theresa James, City of Tempe, to provide a report of the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee activities. Ms. James reported on the following activities:

**Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

At the Planning Subcommittee meeting in August, Paul Carlson from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness attended and discussed “Opening Doors”, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Mr. Carlson gave an introduction of the plan and referred to the main goals of the plan.

Goals

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years
- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in five years
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

Important Elements

- Data and Outcomes
- Housing First

Mr. Carlson asked that the Continuum commit to the goals in the federal plan and work to align the Regional Plan to End Homelessness with the federal plan. He indicated that the prevention goals in the plan are critical pieces and suggested that communities also prioritize prevention activities.

Mr. Carlson said that the Federal Plan is in alignment with HUD's HEARTH Act and that they are working, at all levels, to integrate funding sources. He said that communities should be having funding integration discussions at the local level as well.

### **Continuum of Care Technical Assistance Plan**

The Planning Subcommittee also reviewed the draft technical assistance action plan developed as a result of the Continuum of Care Checkup and Assessment process. Members of the Subcommittee agreed with the three priority action steps and thought that the steps should be prioritized as presented in the action plan.

### **Implementation of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness**

The Subcommittee reviewed the implementation of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness action steps. Progress has been made on two action steps.

- The Corporation for Supportive Housing is working on bringing SOAR training to the Human Services Campus to help clients at the Campus get SSI/SSDI benefits.
- Supportive service teams are being created and provided to clients in the new rapid re-housing programs across the region.

There was discussion on weaving in the goals of the CoC Technical Assistance Action Plan and aligning the regional plan with the federal plan. The Planning Subcommittee will be working on that.

Ms. James thanked the committee and presented the report for approval by the Committee. Chair Osborne notified the committee and attendees that a copy of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness Report Card was available. Chair Osborne asked if any members of the public had completed a public comment card for this item. None were completed. Chair Osborne asked the board if there was any comment on this item. None were offered.

Chair Osborne asked if the not yet established goal to develop recommendations for local prevention strategies based on assessment of best practices was a part of the action plan.

Ms. James answered in the affirmative that this item would be addressed. Vice Mayor Frate made a motion to approve the planning subcommittee report. Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5. FY2011 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney-Vento Application**

Next on the agenda is the FY2011 HUD application. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released on August 30<sup>th</sup> and there is a two-month turn-around time for the submission of the consolidated funding application. Because of the short turn-around time, staff is presenting some items for committee review and approval. In addition, staff asked that members attend a special Continuum of Care Committee meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> to approve the consolidated application before it can be submitted to HUD on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Mead thanked members of the Committee. She said that the local application process for McKinney-Vento funding is in full swing. The release of the federal NOFA initiates the local planning process for new and renewal projects as well as the completion of the consolidated application to HUD. Ms. Mead advised the Committee that she would be seeking approval of the items today and apologized for not being able to advise the Committee of the details in advance of today's meeting.

A project workshop was conducted on Friday and the deadline for new and renewal projects to submit applications to MAG is October 5<sup>th</sup>. HUD is once again funding projects in two-phases. Renewal projects will be funded first in a non-competitive round. New projects will be funded in a competitive funding round that will take place after the Continuum's consolidated applications are scored. Due to federal funding constraints, new projects are likely to be even more competitive this year. The Continuum has \$1.4 million available to apply for a permanent housing bonus projects. The funds must be used for one or more new permanent housing projects. Projects may serve homeless disabled families, or chronically homeless individuals and chronically homeless families. The Continuum of Care will be approving the consolidated application and recommended new projects on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms Mead stated that there are two items being presented for review and approval by the Committee today. The first is project performance standards or weights. The purpose of the performance standards is to establish criteria against which renewal projects performance will be measured. Many of the measures presented in the handout have been used in previous years. This year, however, measures have been added to the weights to be in alignment with goals under the HEARTH Act. She reviewed the handout indicating that on the left hand column, are the major goals, including those from HEARTH. The middle column indicates how the project performance will be measured and with what tool. This is looking at renewal projects currently receiving funding.

Ms. Mead continued explaining the handout, the measurements with an asterisk are the new data elements that are being proposed. Since this is the first year that the Continuum would be collecting the data, we won't be able to measure the performance improvement in those areas. Therefore, this year would be establishing the projects baseline and then improvement in those areas would be measured next year.

Ms. Mead directed the Committee's attention to the Project Performance Measures and reviewed the items in sequence. The first two measurements on the performance of permanent housing and transitional housing programs remain the same as last year. These are measured by HMIS and APR data. The third measurement that will be assessed is new, with this year being a baseline for future measurements. The goal is to reduce the average length of shelter stay by ten percent over a twelve-month period. The fourth, also a new measurement, focused on reducing the average number of clients who re-enter emergency or

transitional shelter system over a three-month, six-month, nine-month and twelve month periods is reduced by at least ten percent.

Under the goal of increasing jobs and self-sufficiency; it was noted the first item is not a new measurement. This performance measure will look to see if at least twenty percent of persons in the program obtain employment at time of exit. The second item is a new measurement that will look to see if at least twenty percent of participants are enrolled in education or skills training programs. The third item is also a new measurement that will look to ensure that at least sixty-percent of participants are connected to mainstream resources at exit. Ms. Mead indicated that the current achievement of program goals remains the same and it is important to see that at least eighty percent of program goals in the Annual Program Review are achieved.

Continuing through the handout, the next category is new, aimed at effective use of grant funding. Ms. Mead proposed assessing that the cost per household is consistent with budget and second that funds will be drawn down on a quarterly basis. All funds must be drawn down within ninety days of the expiration of the grant. Ms. Mead continued that compliance with HMIS Data Standards goal remains the same and is measured by ensuring that programs comply with HUD Data Standards including Program Data Elements, Universal Data Elements and Self Sufficiency Matrix and Training.

Lastly, participation with the Continuum of Care will be measured and this is measured through the sign in sheets. An expectation is that programs attend and participate in at least fifty percent of the Continuum of Care Committee meetings.

Ms. Mead asked for feedback on the proposed performance measures being presented for approval. Ms. Newsom asked a question about Domestic Violence providers entering data about participants and Ms. Mead responded that these providers are prohibited from entering this data and would therefore be excluded from the HMIS categories.

One member noted that all of the weights, or points, are presented as equal to each other and suggested that some items may be more important and asked if they could be given more points. Ms. Mead responded that currently those points are distributed evenly but that could change if there is something that the Committee feels should be weighted higher.

A member asked if HUD prioritizes some areas over others. Ms. Mead responded that the first three categories under goals are what HUD is reviewing most carefully. The areas include increasing housing retention, increased jobs and self-sufficiency and achieving program goals.

Chair Osborn asked if we were reviewing some of our strengths and weaknesses addressed in the technical assistance action plan and wondered if those actions should be included in the HUD goals. Ms. Mead responded that the action steps in the technical action plan are being incorporated in the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. In addition, the Planning Subcommittee will be working to implement the items we do not receive technical assistance for.

Jackie Taylor, Save the Family, brought up a concern for reducing the average length of shelter stay by ten percent over a twelve-month period. This program is working on implementing a Critical Time Intervention best practice, and would not be aligned with the new goals since the timeline of length of stay may not reconcile with the HUD objectives. Ms. Mead asked if all clients in the program would take part in the Critical Time Intervention and asked for suggestions on how Ms. Taylor thought we should approach the issue. Ms. Mead clarified that this measurement is coming from HUD and the federal goals to reduce the average length of stay. She also mentioned that other continuums have begun with a goal of decreasing length of stay by ten percent initially. Ms. Mead asked the audience if there were any ideas on how to best to work toward this objective.

Chair Osborn suggested that we table this one item and bring it back to the Planning Subcommittee for further review and look at other ways to measure this item. Ms. Taylor suggested that tabling this item might be a good idea so that we can more closely examine the impacts of the new measurements in light of other best practices being implemented. Chair Osborn asked what the current length of stay in transitional housing is. Ms. Mead clarified that Bob Duvall had that data from HMIS and she would get back to the Committee with that information.

Chair Osborn suggested having that information would be helpful in deciding if a ten percent reduction in length of stay was reasonable for the continuum.

Ms. Mead again suggested that this single item be tabled for further discussion. Michelle Thomas, Community Information and Referral, interjected that the average length of stay is one hundred seventy-two days. At this time, it was suggested that since our average length of stay is already less than six months, we might want to focus on a ten percent reduction in length of stay.

Ms. James asked for clarification on the performance standards and what programs would specifically be included. Ms. Mead responded that for these performance standards, it is only programs receiving McKinney-Vento funding and it would be looking project by project. Chair Osborn recapped to clarify that we would pull this one item to be reviewed by the subcommittee for further review at the next subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Yazzie-Devine asked if there would be a voice representing youth at the next discussion and Ms. Mead replied that Dick Geasland from Tumbleweed is a member of the subcommittee.

Chair Osborn recapped to clarify that we would pull this one item to be reviewed by the subcommittee for further review and asked for a motion to approve all the project performance measures *except* the average length of shelter stay is reduced ten percent over a twelve month period. Mike McQuaid, the Human Services Campus, made a motion for the performance measures to be approved and Ms. Newsome seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Next Ms. Mead directed the Committee to the handout with the strategic planning objectives. The short and long term goals included on the handout are the goals from the 2010 HUD application. Ms. Mead indicated that included on the handout are the accomplishments for the 2010 short-term goals. In addition, there is also progress indicated on some of the long term (or 10 year) goals.

Ms. Mead stated that she would like to gather feedback from the Committee on recommended short-term goals for the 2011 application. Also, she asked for recommendations on changes to long-term goals if needed.

Ms. Mead discussed each of the recommendations included in the handout for short term goals.

- Objective One: “create new PH beds for chronically homeless persons.”
  - Add new beds that would be created under the Permanent Housing Bonus projects.
  - Continue the permanent housing goals, from the work of the Valley of the Sun United Way and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Ms. Schwabendlender clarified that the permanent supportive housing institute was held from January to June 2011 and another would be held from January to June of 2012. Ms. Mead said this change will be made as recommended.

Ms. Mead suggested that this stay as a short-term goal and asked the committee if they had any additional ideas for other short-term goals. Chair Osborn asked if there was anything in these objectives that address homeless youth specifically. Ms. Mead replied that these objectives are items that the Continuum responds to based on HUD’s objectives and HUD does not specifically address homeless youth in a separate category.

Ms. Mead stated homeless youth could be addressed in one of the other objectives. Ms. Mead suggested putting a youth focus goal under objective three, increasing the percentage of homeless persons moving from transitional to permanent housing.

Chair Osborn stated that she was disappointed that there wasn't a specific goal from HUD on the category of homeless youth and addressing the needs of this population.

Ms. Schwabendlender suggested adding a short-term goal that would increase the membership of the committee to ensure that we had members from local businesses and the housing authority to help expedite the goal of increasing permanent housing beds. Ms. Mead replied that is great place to add this in and it had been discussed at the last meeting.

- Objective Two: “Increase the percentage of homeless person remaining in PH over six months to at least 77 percent”.
  - Ask low performing providers to develop a corrective plan on improving their performance.
  - The Corporation for Supportive Housing is conducting training on the “seven dimensions of quality supportive housing” in November. Low performing projects could be required to attend the training.
- Objective Three: “Increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from TH to PH to at least 65 percent”.
  - The projects performing below 65 percent will be submitting performance improvement action steps with their application. My recommendation is to work closely with the transitional housing projects on implementing their actions to improve performance. In addition, improving project performance of transitional housing providers is a priority in the technical assistance action plan that was submitted to HUD. I propose using the action steps from the technical assistance plan.

Ms. Mushkatel asked if this was the second year the Continuum had struggled in this area. Ms. Mead replied that the Continuum did not score well in this area last year but she did not have the results of this year so it is unknown if the action plans implemented last year have helped us achieve this objective.

- Objective Four: “Increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 20 percent”.
  - Projects performing below 20 percent will be submitting performance improvement action steps. Ms. Mead’s recommendation is to work with the providers on implementing their steps. There was discussion about this national objective at the training on Friday and was also discussed by the Continuum last year. Providers who serve persons with disabilities feel challenged in this area as it is harder for their clients to seek and find employment. It was suggested that research be done on the “Pathways to

Housing” model. A rapid re-housing program that serves chronically homeless persons with disabilities and has good employment outcomes.

- Objective Five: “Decrease the number of homeless households with children”.

- Last year, new Permanent Housing Bonus funds were used to create new permanent housing units for homeless families. In addition, more than 2,000 households received Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing assistance to prevent and end homelessness. Ms. Mead suggested that bonus funding could once again be used to create new permanent housing projects.

Ms. Mead said that the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program is winding down and asked for suggestions from members on decreasing the number of homeless families.

None were offered. Ms. Mead asked if there were any specific goals that programs working with homeless families are implementing over the next year that could be included as a short-term goal or any goals through the Arizona Commission on Homelessness and Housing. None were offered.

Ms. Mead informed the Committee that this item is on the agenda for approval today. Mr. Williams offered a motion to approve the items as presented and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Project CHALENG Report

Chair Osborne invited Michael Leon, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Coordinator, Carl T. Haden VA Medical Center, to inform the Committee on the Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Network Group known as project CHALENG.

Michael Leon presented on CHALENG for long term permant housing for veterans and said that they are expanding to veterans with families, ex-offenders, and prevention including veterans’ court.

Mr. Leon stated the importance of prevention. He said that vets with post-traumatic stress disorder or those experiencing trauma should not be in prison, but should instead be connected to services. He said Project CHALENG works to address the needs of chronically homeless veterans. Mr. Leon reviewed the partner survey for providers FY 2011 CHALENG Participant Survey.

This survey looks to discover the top unmet needs for homeless veterans. These include:

- Welfare payments
- Employment
- Child Care
- Re-Entry for Veterans
- Justice Outreach for Veterans

Current statistics reflect:

- HUD case managers 370 vouchers for vets with permanent housing.
- Hiring new case managers to deal with new vouchers.
- The ability to get these individuals from the street to permanent supportive housing.
- Five years ago there were three percent of women vets, now there is five percent; more and more women and families are in need of veteran's services.

Mr. Leon expressed the importance of accurate feedback from providers in an effort to have data that can be used to provide the best possible services for homeless veterans and their families. Mr. Leon shared the process of identifying homeless veterans and working to get them the services they need and this can be facilitated through collaborations with local providers. Chair Osborne encouraged members to work on survey and return it to Mr. Leon.

#### 7. Regional Homeless Data Overview

Chair Osborne discussed the development of the Overview that was recommended as a result of the data from the homeless street count. MAG has an intern that is working on developing the overview and staff would like some feedback from the Committee. Chair Osborn asked Ms. Mead to update the Committee on the development of the Overview.

Ms. Mead introduced Jamie Bakosh and Margaret Kilman, the two new interns and gave an overview of the current state of the project. Ms. Mead mentioned that staff has been reviewing best practices from other communities as well as past meeting minutes to understand what the Committee had envisioned for the data overview.

Ms. Mead asked for some direction from the committee to ensure that the overview meets the vision of the Committee and requested feedback and ensure that the data collected can be used in a meaningful way. Ms. Mead mentioned that past discussions have included development of fact sheets, and reviewed prior suggestions of data sources. Ms. Mead also asked for volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc working group to meet on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The ad-hoc working group will meet periodically to help guide the development of the overview. Ms. Mead asked for feedback from the Committee.

Mr. McQuaid stated that he felt, based on much of the feedback from this meeting and others that is vital to have data on specific groups including individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, youth ages eighteen-twenty-five, families and veterans as sub-populations that we need to address. He added that having this data can help us achieve the goals of the continuum. Chair Osborn asked if the ad-hoc working group was open only to committee members and Ms. Mead responded that it was open to anyone who wanted to have input on the project.

Ms. Bleyle asked for clarification on what the ad-hoc working groups would do since many providers gave feedback about the goal related to the point-in-time count previously. Ms. Mead responded that the working group would help to guide the development of the overview that would be more comprehensive than just point-in-time count data. Ms.

Mushkatel asked who the audience for the data overview would be and Ms. Mead responded that the audience would be the public, media, policy makers and grant writers. This project came about from concerns brought up by providers after the press release on the point in time count.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, mentioned that having a detailed level of information that can be disseminated along with the next point in time count press release would be helpful in providing a more complete picture of homelessness in the community. The goal is to have detailed messaging that the public can reference since the press releases often lack this detailed level of information. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged that many great ideas were offered previously and that as a Committee, we need to continue to have the voices of providers at the table as the project develops.

Ms. Mead suggested that volunteers email her to volunteer for the ad-hoc working group. A member suggested targeting specific people for the ad-hoc group that could help facilitate the collection of data including the experts in certain data collection like Bob Duvall and Frank Migali.

#### 8. Maricopa Association of Governments Overview

Chair Osborn asked MAG staff to provide an overview on MAG. MAG is involved with and taking the lead on some important regional projects and thought it would be helpful for members to learn more about MAG and its' other initiatives.

Ms. St. Peter provided background on the recent Brookings Institution partnership. The Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank, has chosen a small number of communities to participate in a pilot program to develop a metropolitan business plan. The planning process and development of this business plan are approached from a regional perspective rather than just looking at federal policies or having individual cities having their own economic development goals.

MAG was selected, along with three other regions across the country to participate in this unique development process. Ms. St. Peter, the coordinator for this project, expressed her excitement at having the opportunity to begin looking at human services from a different perspective. By looking at wage increases and developing a strategic overview that describes an impression of the current state of our economic status and providing suggestions on how we can develop a lead initiative for the Brookings partnerships. Ms. St. Peter used affordable housing as an example of issue that can be addressed by this important initiative. For example, conversations about affordable housing often entail how to build more but we could look at it from a different perspective, how do we increase wages and employment opportunities.

Ms. St. Peter stated that MAG is in the process of completing a strategic overview that is due today and will provide a description of the current landscape of our economy. This overview will help us shape and develop a lead initiative. The lead initiative will help guide our development process and can include a focus on a specific industry like aerospace or solar. Or it could focus on human capital-how do we train and educate people in a better way and

graduate more people from high school and college that can participate in higher wage industries.

This lead initiative will develop our regional plan together with the MAG Economic Development Committee which is comprised of elected officials, as well as private sector leaders, and we will launch that lead initiative in fall 2012 with a very public national campaign with the other regions. The other regions include Syracuse, New York, Memphis, Tennessee and Lexington, Kentucky. Our current document, currently at one hundred pages, should lay a good foundation for this project. We are working with our partners locally to develop this, particularly with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. We discuss things like hunger and poverty because these issues are part of our capacity as a region to be able to undertake these higher-level job growth opportunities, which hopefully we can attract and maintain. Ms. St. Peter asked the Committee if they had any questions about the project.

Mr. Lopez asked if the only partnership was Greater Phoenix Economic Council or had any other economic partners from Valley cities been included? Ms. St. Peter stated that a leadership advisory committee to guide the process, and that they are open to including other leaders to help shape the proposed initiative. As the project develops the project will include work with other partners on a more in-depth level. Mr. Lopez also asked if the State economic partners were included. Ms. St. Peter responded that yes, they were working with the Arizona Commerce Authority. An advisory committee has also been formed that includes some top talent from ASU and the Thunderbird School of Global Management to help guide us since MAG hasn't historically been involved in economic development. We want to make sure that MAG is navigating these waters appropriately and appreciate the expertise available to us. Once the lead initiative is proposed, a second advisory committee will be formed that is specific to the industry or particular goal.

She let the members know that there will a public meeting to launch the project on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 11:30 MAG in the Saguaro Room and Ms. St. Peter invited the Committee and members of the public to attend. This will be a press event with Brookings Institution staff in attendance and after that, the next meeting will be in December in Washington, D.C. to learn from the first round pilot regions as well as current participants in the projects.

Chair Osborn asked if there were any additional questions or comments. She commented that it sounded like a great project with a great team. Ms. St. Peter suggested that the Committee members contact her directly with any additional questions about the project.

9. Joint Meeting Planning for the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and the Regional Domestic Violence Council

Chair Osborne advised in the past, the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee and the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council have had joint meetings of the two Committees to improve on coordination efforts. Staff would like to have another joint meeting of the two Committees early next year and would like to hear from members of each Committee on recommendations for the collaborative meeting. Chair Osborne opened the floor to members for suggestions on coordination opportunities and topics that should be considered.

Mrs. Mead asked for collaboration ideas. Ms. Taylor suggested that in the interest of time this item be assigned to the subcommittee to offer recommendations. This item will also be on the Domestic Violence Council agenda for recommendations. Chair Osborn suggested that the Continuum of Care Committee review the recommendations made before the joint meeting is planned.

#### 10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Osborne asked for input from the Committee on any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas.

Ms. James asked that members be reminded that the next subcommittee meeting is rescheduled since the Continuum of Care is meeting on the October 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mead said that the Planning Subcommittee meeting would reschedule soon and the notice will be sent out to members.

Mr. McQuaid asked if we could get new members on the Continuum and asked if there was a formal process for this. Ms. Mead reviewed the process for appointing new members to the Committee and stated that the Committee can have up to forty-two members and there are currently twenty-nine. New members must be approved by the MAG Regional Council Chair. New members must have a letter of recommendation that would be sent to the Chair for appointment.

Ms. Blyele said there should be invitations to the Committee members to increase the diversity of the Committee and work to include some business partners. Mrs. Mead replied that the Membership Subcommittee usually invites members to serve on the Committee.

Chair Osborne brought up concerns about transit passes to the homeless are now required to have a stamp from the provider issuing the passes. Chair Osborn asked if this was an item we could add to the agenda.

Ms. Mead stated City of Phoenix has made some decisions about stamping noting that the reduced fare passes should have a contact number for the agency providing the pass. Ms. Newsome responded that some concern arose from the need to have a stamp that provided contact information because of possible stigmas of a vulnerable population and Domestic Violence shelters providing contact information could put the population at risk.

Ms. Yazzie-Devine also suggested that this is an issue for behavioral health providers and should be addressed. Ms. Mead suggested that we ask a representative from Valley Metro to attend the next meeting.

Ms. Mead asked Tim Cole, City of Phoenix to request a representative from public transit to address the topic at a future meeting

#### 11. Announcements

Chair Osborne asked for announcements from Committee members.

Ms. Serviss announced that the registration is open for the conference on homelessness; *Leading the Way Home: Encouraging Conversation, Engage Community, Execute Change*. The conference will be held October 17-18 in Phoenix and details can be found on the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness website. She also provided the Committee with an outline of talking points for the Every Arizonan Deserves a Home campaign. She expressed this as an opportunity for Continuum of Care members to work to educate the public on the need a department of housing in Arizona and why it is so important to our community.

Valley of the Sun United Way is taking action with solutions that address the root causes of homelessness. Project Connect offers instant access to the resources people in our community need to start the journey back to health, financial stability and housing. This includes access to goods - like food and clothing - and services such as counseling and job placement. Be part of the solution to end and prevent homelessness. Ms. Schwabenlender encouraged people to volunteer for Project Connect on Thursday, October 20, 2011. The event takes place from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Christ Church of the Valley in Surprise.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Auxiliary 5K Walk for Homeless Families UMOM New Day Centers will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. at Wesley Bolin Memorial Park (17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Washington).

Chair Osborn made an announcement about the 3000 club monthly farmers markets for needy people and reminded us about grass roots movements and thinking beyond federal funding for our projects.

## 12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for October 24, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room.