

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – August 14, 2012**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Celeste Adams, Save the Family
 *Christina Avila, City of Avondale
 Sgt. Marc Rivers for Lt. Robert Bates,
 Phoenix Police Dept.
 John Belatti, City of Chandler Prosecutor's
 Office
 John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal
 Justice Commission
 Jessye Johnson for Allie Bones, Arizona
 Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 *Town Manager Rick Buss, Town of Gila
 Bend
 Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
 Indian Community
 *Lacey Rose Cox, Town of Gilbert Police
 Dept.
 JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy
 Center
 Lynn Potts for Jon Eliason, City of Mesa
 Prosecutor's Office
 *President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-
 Maricopa Indian Community
 Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City of
 Tempe
 +Janeen Gaskins, City of Surprise
 Patricia George for Will Gonzalez, City of
 Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
 Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic
 Security
 *Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix
 Police Dept.
 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
 Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County
 Attorney's Office, Chair
 Chief Jerald Monahan, Apache Junction
 Police Dept., Vice Chair

Mary Murphy, Governor's Office for
 Children, Youth, and Families
 Maribel Gloria for Dottie O'Connell,
 Chicanos por la Causa
 *Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
 DC Ernst for Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix
 Fire Dept.
 Councilmember Lynn Selby, City of El
 Mirage
 +Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal
 Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Shanell Bender, Mesa Prosecutors Office
 Sgt. Patrick Beumler, Glendale Police Dept.
 Chief Steve Campbell, El Mirage Police
 Dept.
 + Judge Ellie Finn, Glendale City Court
 Mary Kay Hoskovec, Glendale Police Dept.
 Tom Hutchinson, A New Leaf
 Carl Mangold, Consultant
 Amy Martinez, Mesa Police Dept.
 Dana Martinez, A New Leaf
 Mary Alice McKone, The Salvation Army
 Teri Mingus, Mesa Police Dept.
 Brenda Nichols, Arizona Dept. of Health
 Services
 Teisha Portee, Scottsdale Police Dept.
 Lora Reid, Valley of the Sun United Way
 Iva Rody, El Mirage Police Dept.
 Angela Rose, City of Scottsdale
 Wendy Shepherd, Voices Empowered
 Elizabeth Clemens, A New Leaf

Rachel Brito, MAG
 Brande Mead, MAG
 Nathalea Silva, MAG
 Amy St. Peter, MAG
 Amanda Stanko, MAG
 Renae Tenney, MAG

+Those attending by video/audio conference
 * Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order
Chair Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. 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. There were no comments.
3. Approval of the June 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Chair Marshall called for approval of the June 21, 2012, MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes. Lynn Potts, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, motioned to approve the minutes. Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, seconded the motion. The motion passed.
4. FY2012 MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report
Chair Marshall stated the FY 2012 MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report provides an update on progress made toward the plan's 15 strategies over the past year. She noted the report was provided to the Council for review prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

John Belatti, City of Chandler Prosecutor's Office, motioned to approve the FY 2012 MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report. John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, seconded the vote. The motion passed.

5. Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project (This item was heard after agenda item number six)
Chair Marshall invited Renae Tenney, MAG, to provide an update on implementation of the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project. Ms. Tenney acknowledged the partners who assisted with the coordination of focus groups with victims and survivors of domestic violence. These partners included A New Leaf, Sojourner Center, Peoria Police Department, Chicanos por la Causa DeColores Shelter, Shelter without Walls, and the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center. Seven focus groups were held with a total of 63 participants. The focus groups included victims in shelter and those accessing community-based services. A handout of the Victim Focus Group Summary was provided.

Ms. Tenney noted many success stories were gathered from victims. These stories included their interaction with detectives, 911 dispatchers, and officers going above and beyond the call of duty. Victims noted the importance of separating victims from the offender when officers are collecting information on the scene and providing resources to help them determine their next steps. Ms. Tenney advised victims also offered insight about what can be improved by victim advocates, law enforcement and the courts. She noted opportunities for improvements are included in the Victim Focus Group Summary distributed for review prior to the meeting.

Ms. Tenney noted in a previous discussion, a question was raised regarding how many of the victims who participated in the focus groups had called the police. In contacting the participating agencies, it was determined 72 percent of victims contacted law enforcement. The lowest percentage of calls to law enforcement was reported from clients of DeColores. This was most likely due to fear and immigration issues. Language barriers, the need for translators, children not being interviewed, and assumptions about legal status were listed as areas of concern.

Ms. Tenney proceeded with an overview of the Professional Affinity Group summary. The handout offered an overview of conversations with victim advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors. A brief overview of the successes for each group was shared. Insight for areas of improvement were also provided and categorized by discipline. The meeting was opened for question and/or discussion.

Ms. St. Peter advised the focus group summaries will help identify topics for the training event. They will also assist in determining if revisions to the regional protocol model are needed. She asked for feedback on the information shared based on the Committee's experiences in the field. Input was requested on any items that should be removed, revised, or further researched. Chair Marshall recommended Committee members review the information provided and forward any suggestions to Ms. Tenney, herself, or Vice Chair Monahan. She noted a common theme was the need to provide better explanations to victims and to prepare them as much as possible for working through the system. She encouraged feedback on any additional issues that need to be addressed either in the model or through the training video.

John Belatti, City of Chandler, raised a question about the Professional Affinity Group summary. He asked for clarification on the intent of the victim involvement bullet point: "Re-assess no drop policies and enforcement of subpoenas." Ms. Tenney noted this recommendation was brought up by the Prosecutors Affinity Group. Chair Marshall clarified that the question was whether or not professionals should revisit proceeding when the victim does not want to proceed with prosecution.

Ms. Murphy inquired whether the victims who participated in focus groups were working with advocacy groups or lawyers. Ms. Tenney confirmed all of the victims had access to services and were contacted through partnerships with shelters or community-based groups. Ms. Murphy inquired whether or not pamphlets are available to victims, either through the advocacy centers and/or the courts, to assist them in navigating processes such as for orders of protection. Chair Marshall advised some locations may offer pamphlets but noted this may be inconsistent among the courts.

Judge Finn advised Glendale and Phoenix offer information on their websites. She noted distribution of information is not consistent throughout the state and varies depending on the court. She stated many courts do not use brochures, and often, in times of crisis, people are not able to retain information given to them whether written or verbal. She noted pamphlets are available on the Supreme Court's domestic violence webpage. JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, agreed it is good practice to have brochures available, but commented that depending on the jurisdiction, court systems

may operate differently. She suggested training on the various courts may be beneficial to advocates as they may only be familiar with courts in their own jurisdiction.

Ms. Tenney advised next steps for PEP include a training event and a training video. Draft outlines for both were provided in the handouts. The training event is scheduled for October 24, 2012 at the University of Arizona College Of Medicine-Phoenix. A brief overview of the agenda was provided and input requested. Judge Finn advised a court leadership conference for all presiding judges and court administrators is scheduled for October 23 and 24, 2012. She noted the dates may pose a conflict for some individuals. Ms. Tenney stated she would look into the potential conflict.

Kristen Scharlau, City of Tempe, expressed support for a half-day session. She noted the difficulties of sending several victim advocates to all-day trainings. She spoke about how this limits the ability to provide advocacy services and the costs associated with the trainings. Ms. Del-Colle stated her concern about being able to develop action steps during a shortened training. Another option for the format may be to place greater emphasis on developing action steps for the community versus having keynote speakers.

Ms. St. Peter discussed different formats for the event under consideration. She advised that STOP Grant funding does not cover food expenses. It was noted that to ensure a successful outcome, the process should not be rushed. Discussion ensued on different possible formats for the training event. Requests were made to offer CDs of the various topics addressed during the training and to allow participants to participate via video conference. A suggestion also was made to cluster some of the small group discussion topics. Ms. Tenney thanked the Committee for their input and requested any additional thoughts be emailed to her attention.

Ms. Tenney referred to the draft outline for the training video. She advised the potential focus will be on the role of victim advocates and requested feedback from the Committee. A question was raised on how speakers will be selected for each topic. Ms. Tenney advised staff receives recommendations and seeks speakers that can address local or national best practices. Amy Martinez, Mesa Police Department, suggested utilizing a request for proposal process that allows presenters to submit a proposal on the topic they will address. Ms. St. Peter welcomed the suggestion noting staff is always open to new ideas. She also encouraged anyone interested in presenting, or who has recommendations for the video or event, to contact staff. Ms. Martinez offered to share a copy of a one-sheet proposal for reference.

Ms. Tenney advised data collection is another step in the Protocol Evaluation Project that needs to be addressed. She asked for input on establishing a focus group to address data collection, reporting methods, and how data is collected for grant reporting. A question was raised on what measures would be an indicator of success. Ms. St. Peter advised the proposal for the PEP indicates success of protocols will be shown through the data collected. However, there are varying perspectives on what indicators to use as a measure of success and whether they should be from law enforcement, prosecutions, or victim advocates. She noted the Committee has not concluded what indicators will determine if the project is successful.

Ms. Scharlau advised a measure of success for the Care 7 advocacy program is based on the victim's satisfaction. Care 7's overall goal is to engage victims in the criminal justice process. Outcome measures are based on victim satisfaction, victims having greater knowledge of the process, feeling safer, and being happier. Ms. Del-Colle commented the measure is not based on one specific indicator. She discussed different types of data and the need to measure various indicators. Ms. St. Peter agreed data collection spans many different areas and as such there is the need to develop a workgroup to help define something less nebulous. Work group volunteers included Ms. Scharlau, a representative of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (Phil Stevenson), D.C. Ernst, Phoenix Fire Department, and Laura Guild, Department of Economic Services.

Ms. Tenney advised Domestic Violence Awareness Month is in October. She requested input on the importance of continuing with the annual press conference. Ms. St. Peter recommended scheduling a meeting for anyone interested in attending to discuss plans for the annual press conference. Chair Marshall requested a motion from the Committee. Lynn Potts, City of Mesa, made a motion to approve next steps for implementation of the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project. Alice Ghareib, Area Agency on Aging, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Resources for Victim Advocates (This item was heard after agenda item number four.)

Chair Marshall invited Nathalea Silva and Amanda Stanko, MAG interns, to offer a report on a collaborative project with the AVON Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor House and A New Leaf to support the work of victim advocates.

Amanda Stanko, MAG intern, advised a survey was conducted of advocates from different agencies. Of the 107 survey responses, 57 percent were complete with 43 percent incomplete. A provider inventory and a web map were developed based on the responses received. The provider inventory identifies victim advocates by sector and provides information about the services offered by agency. The services listed include legal advocacy, financial assistance, and crisis response among several other services.

Ms. Stanko offered a demonstration of the interactive web map. The web map allows a user to see the location of each agency and the services available at a specific location. She stated services available are unique to each agency based on information gathered through the survey responses. The web map reflects the agency address, city, hours of operation, and website address. Ms. Stanko noted a "quick exit" function was implemented to allow users to quickly exit the site. The locator function allows a user to enter a physical address to find services available in the surrounding area. Ms. Stanko noted shelters were not mapped for privacy reasons. However, a drop down box provides links to shelter websites.

Ms. Tenney acknowledged Ms. Stanko and Ms. Silva for their efforts. She noted they have done fantastic work in creating a new tool that will be very useful. A question was raised about whether the survey is available online. Ms. Stanko advised the web map and provider inventory will be available on the MAG website. Mary Murphy, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, inquired whether or not rural areas and other counties are included in the web map. Ms. Stanko advised any agencies that responded

to the survey are included. She noted the tools can easily be updated to include other agencies that provide their information.

Ms. Del-Colle questioned how the provider inventory will be maintained and updated. Ms. St. Peter advised the new resources have been established and are relatively easy to maintain. Ms. Stanko is an intern in the MAG Information Services Division. Maintaining the inventory will be done with on-going support and participation from this division. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged Ms. Stanko, Ms. Silva, O'Connor House, and A New Leaf for ensuring this is a successful project.

Nathalea Silva, MAG Intern, addressed the Committee regarding resources to support victim advocates. She acknowledged A New Leaf and the O'Connor House for being an integral part of this project. Of the 150 surveys distributed to victim advocates, 87 participants responded and 60 completed the survey. Ms. Silva noted data provided is based on the completed surveys.

Ms. Silva provided an overview of victim advocates' average employment period and training. A key finding was that 44 percent of victim advocates had not received training in their first year. However, the data changed significantly after the first year reflecting 90 percent of victim advocates had received training. Currently, victim advocates receive training one to two times per year, however, 48 percent indicated they would like to receive training quarterly. Identified barriers to training included cost and lack of time; other noted barriers were lack of training offered in the community and the need for advanced level advocacy training. Ms. Silva noted the preferred approaches to training were face-to-face followed by interactive webinar training. The preferred types of training requested included cross-disciplinary training, advanced training on specific populations, and specialized topics such as orders of protection.

Ms. Silva noted responses received were mainly from advocates from community-based agencies and law enforcement. Additional training or networking opportunities requested included: knowledge of judicial system, more online resources, management training, training on specific populations, more scholarship opportunities and cross-disciplinary training.

A question was raised about whether the survey defined specific trainings. Ms. Silva advised the survey referred to "advocacy training" and left an option for participants to fill in. Ms. Del-Colle advised the Arizona Victim Assistance Advanced Academy will be held in September. Ms. Tenney will forward additional information about the training via email. Judge Finn also advised of a multi-disciplinary conference being planned for March 13, 2013. Additional information will follow.

Chair Marshall requested a motion from the Committee. A motion was made by Lynn Potts, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, to approve the resources for assisting victim advocates in their work. The motion was seconded by Ms. Del-Colle. The motion passed.

7. Forensic Evidence for Strangulation Cases

Chair Marshall invited Sgt. Patrick Beumler, Glendale Police Department, to present on gathering forensic evidence for prosecuting strangulation cases. The Committee viewed a brief video on Domestic Violence Strangulation.

Sgt. Beumler presented a PowerPoint entitled Glendale Police Department's D.V. Strangulation Pilot Project 2011-2012. The presentation offered a history of strangulation and how a pilot project to address aggravated assault by strangulation was developed. An overview of studies conducted by San Diego, Los Angeles and Dallas was provided.

Sgt. Beumler covered fatality caused by strangulation, the importance of forensic exams, signs and symptoms, and medical training on strangulation. He noted the importance of training officers to know what they are looking for in such cases. A review of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) by law enforcement responding to these types of cases was provided. The review included questions such as "how much time can pass before a forensic exam is no longer applicable" and "if the forensic exam includes photography does patrol still need to take photographs of the victim?"

Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services, raised a question on whether or not the person who conducts the forensic exam would be called in as expert witness. Sgt. Beumler confirmed noting all of the nurses conducting forensic exams will be on contract to serve as medical experts. Chair Marshall thanked Sgt. Beumler for his presentation to the Committee.

8. Centralized/Coordinated Intake Process Update

In the interest of time, this item was not addressed. Chair Marshall requested Ms. Mead distribute information on this topic via email.

9. Success Stories

Chair Marshall offered an opportunity for the Committee to share stories of success experienced during their work with survivors of domestic violence.

Chair Marshall announced Patricia George, City of Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office, was awarded a statewide victim's rights award at the annual Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council meeting.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Marshall offered an opportunity for Committee members to request topics or issues of interest to be considered for discussion at a future meeting. No requests were made.

11. Comments from the Council:

An opportunity was provided for the Council to present a brief summary of current events.

The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, advised the Biennial Statewide Domestic Violence Conference is scheduled for September 20-21, 2012, at the Renaissance Downtown Phoenix. The Coalition's third Annual Thrive Gala and Awards Dinner is scheduled for September 19, 2012 and Domestic Violence

Awareness Night with the Diamondbacks is scheduled for Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 5:10 p.m.

Information on all of the AZCADV events is available on the Coalition's website at www.azcadv.org.

12. Adjourn:

Chair Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The October MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting will be rescheduled.