

MAG DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2001

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tom Ambrose, Phoenix Suns
Tracy Bame, Phelps Dodge Corp.
Elizabeth Reich, Governor's Division of Domestic Violence Prevention
Peggy Bilsten, Councilmember of Phoenix
*Dr. Mary Ellen Bradshaw, Az Public Health Assoc.
Donna Marcum for Mike Branham, Criminal Justice Commission
*Jan Brewer, Maricopa County Supervisor
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe
*Michael Carey, Buckeye Police Dept.
*Maggie Cathey, Vice Mayor, Town of Gilbert
*Dean Coonrod, Maricopa Integrated Health Systems/Medpro
Gene D'Adamo, The Arizona Republic
*Sheila Day-Geary, John C. Lincoln Hospital
*David Easchief, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
*Hon. Susan Ehrlich, Arizona Supreme Court of Appeals
*Dr. Paul Eppinger, Arizona Ecumenical Council
Jill Faver, Arizona Foundation for Women
*Kathleen Ferraro, ASU
Margarita Garcia, Councilmember of Guadalupe
*David Goulet, Councilmember of Glendale
*Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, Az. Regional Community Policing Inst.
*Roger Illingworth, Dept. Of Public Safety
*Dianne Greer, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Loren Kirkeide, SRP
*John Leach, City of Goodyear
Rev. Deborah Lerner, Paradise Valley United Methodist

*Marie Lopez-Rogers, Councilmember of Avondale
Cynthia Lukas, Councilmember of Scottsdale
*JoEllen Lyn, American Express
*Preston McMurry, McMurry Publishing
Carolyn McBurney, 3TV/KTVK
Laura Miller, Attorney Generals Office
Rick Miller, Violence Prevention Initiative
*Stephanie Orr, Center Against Sexual Abuse
Paul Oves, Tosco Marketing Company
*Rev. Fran Park, NW Valley Community Council
*Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
*David Petersen, Arizona State Senate
Don Peyton, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
*Angie Rodgers, Children's Action Alliance
*Dr. Lawrence Sands, Maricopa Cnty Dept. of Public Health
*Joan Shafer, Mayor of Surprise
*Marie Sullivan, AZ Womens Education and Employment
Lt. Louie Tovar, Domestic Violence Unit, Phoenix, P.D.
*Roberta Voss, Arizona House of Representatives
John Pombier for Kerry G. Wangberg, Law Department/ Criminal Division
*Phillip Westbrooks, Councilmember of Chandler

**Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.*

OTHERS PRESENT

Sammy Lazarus, Northwest Community Council

Martha Fraser Harman, MAN

Maria Armijo, Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Jane Brady, Maricopa Medical Center

Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis

Barbara Thompson, My Sister's Place

Sue Glawe, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Kim Daffron, Chrysalis Shelters

Kevin Pool, Surprise Fire Department

Dee Wheeler-Cronin, City of Phoenix, FAC

Rena Kraft, CASA

Mary Thomson, MAG

Linda Kmetz, MAG

Brandie Mead, MAG

Chris Shipley, MAG

1. Call to Order

The Domestic Violence Council meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairwoman Peggy Bilsten who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Introductions ensued.

2. Approval of the February 13, 2001 Council Meeting Minutes

It was noted that at the bottom of page 6, Dianne Post's name was misspelled and the employment bill was taken down incorrectly. There were no other requests to change the minutes, so Ms. Bilsten asked for approval of the minutes, there was a motion made by Carolyn McBurney and a second from Dianne Post. The Council approved the minutes.

3. Offender Treatment and Accountability

A Brief video was shown to the council on the Domestic Violence Shelter Fund. It was noted that the video has aired in Tucson and will air in Phoenix soon.

Ms. Bilsten introduced Judy Mattingly from Justice Services who began by quoting Colin Powell. Ms. Mattingly has been working with offender treatment for 22 years she explained and feels that it is extremely important that it be recognized. Offender treatment is not a popular subject she stated and agencies generally don't fund offender treatment programs, but they are hoping that will change. Ms. Mattingly spoke at a conference in Flagstaff last week and the speaker mentioned offender treatment and said, "someone has to do it". It is not popular, but it is critical.

The research shows that the treatment does work. Ms. Mattingly said she would like to speak of the problems associated with holding the batterer accountable. Research has shown that batterer treatment does work. The amount of offender re-arrests is substantially reduced when there is treatment. The mistake being made around the country is that many agencies have “hung out the shingle” on offender accountability.

First, the agency needs to be qualified to treat Domestic Violence offenders. There must also be caution when referring offenders. At Justice Services, she said, they hold offenders accountable for the damage they have caused.

It is important when an offender is sent to an agency that the agency has the technology to track the offender. Ideally, when reported, the offender goes into the database and has 30 days to be assessed. If the offender doesn't contact the agency, the agency will call after 10 days. If they are unable to make contact with the offender, they will then contact the court. There is not a waiting list, once the offender contacts the agency; they go into treatment right away. If they miss a class, the agency contacts them and gets them back into the program. If they cannot get a hold of the offender, then the agency will call the court. However, at this point, it takes several weeks to get them into the court system. This is one reason it is so important to hold the offenders accountable. Once an offender enters the court system and the court orders them back to court, if they don't show up, then a bench warrant is sent for their arrest. However, usually warrants are not served on misdemeanors. So, the offenders seem to fall into a “hole”. If they get picked up for something else then they go to jail.

The good offender programs track the offenders very carefully, but need the support of the system to do so. Ms. Mattingly said organizations like MAG are crucial to their programs and spreading the word that domestic violence is not tolerated. At justice services, they know their program works.

Ms. Mattingly told the council of a story that touched her. A gentleman that had gone through their program returned to speak with Ms. Mattingly. This was a gentleman that she thought might never succeed. He looked completely different and he hugged Ms. Mattingly and said that she and the program had changed his life. He explained that he is now in a successful relationship and doing very well.

There was a study of 600 people from Phoenix done to determine how many perpetrators were rearrested. Of the 600, 70% had completed the offender program and the re-arrest rate for program completers was only 2%! Holding the offenders accountable does take the support of judges. The weaknesses are where the offenders are getting around the system. One of the most common excuses of perpetrators not going through the program is they say they “do not have the money to pay for their treatment”. Ms. Mattingly asked that the offenders get sent to their system no matter what their excuse is; they will only charge what the offender can afford to pay.

Mr. Louie Tovar mentioned that 19% of those arrested for domestic violence are females. In the year 2000, 23% of offenders were females. There was discussion among the council on the percentages of female offenders.

There are other treatment providers in town said Ms. Mattingly. She believes that the program can make a difference in their lives! Mr. Ambrose asked how long the offenders are in the program. Ms. Mattingly said that it depends on the offender, usually a minimum of 16 weeks. For a more serious offender, then they are sent to a 36-week program. The standards are recommending programs that last up to a year. The offenders usually attend once a week for 2 hours, unless they miss a session, then they need to make up that session.

Mr. Miller asked if 23% of offenders are really female? Ms. Mattingly said yes, that the numbers are increasing. Mr. Pombier asked if they saw a difference in the outcome of those going through the 16-week and the 36-week program? Ms. Mattingly said there wasn't a big difference in the outcome.

The question was asked if dual arrests were taken into account in those statistics mentioned earlier, said Mr. Kirkiede. Mr. Tovar said he doesn't believe that dual arrests were not taken into account. Mr. Kirkiede asked how the program is funded? Ms. Mattingly said they are committed to the program but that the therapists won't work for free. Offender fees fund them, so they keep the costs low. It's a struggle to get quality care at a low cost, she said, most people don't want to invest in offenders. If offenders are not treated, then there will be numerous victims out there, said Ms. Mattingly. Ms. Glowe suggested the behavior management systems as funding and that it may be medically necessary for the treatment of certain offenders. There are people there who want to start ordering the treatment. It was noted that anger management treatment is not the same as domestic violence treatment and that should be recognized. For some offenders, their heart rate and stress level actually goes down when they are offending.

Ms. Bilsten introduced Martha Fraser Harmon of MAN who is speaking about a Summit planned for September of 2001. Ms. Fraser Harmon said they are going to put on a Summit in the fall on Best Practices. They will look at the system and find out what efforts are being duplicated and focus on that. They are going to look at other parts of the Country to see if they have a Best Practices created. They believe that they can really help. Many people in the community have agreed to help with the Summit. They will be making recommendations after the Summit on Best Practices. She asked if anyone would like to take part in the Summit to contact her.

Ms. Bilsten introduced Lisa Glowe. Ms. Glowe explained that they are giving funds to DPS for a sexual assault database to be created. They are trying to pursue a domestic violence database as well. However, the policy piece has not been coordinated yet. DPS will not have access to the database in Phase I but might have access in Phase II. They hired a consultant who came to the conclusion that there needed to be coordination in funding and other issues as well. The database issues need to be worked out. Ms. Glowe said that Judge Finn understands the issue the best

and could better explain it. Ms. Bilsten asked about the benefits of the database. It was explained that now the cities are linking the systems together, so an offence in one city would not follow through to another city. The database would enable all the cities to link together. Ms. Bilsten asked how long it should take for the database to be working? Ms. Glowe said the benefits speak for themselves and the timeframe for Phase I is to be completed in December but, that does not include all of the courts. The City of Phoenix is not included in Phase I. Ms. Bilsten asked if she could find out if the City of Phoenix is not included in Phase I because of a funding issue. Phase II would include all the courts and should be completed at the end of 2002. Mr. Pombier said that the different cities have been using different computer systems and that is why they are not linking up now. Phase I is being done with cities that have a certain type of computer system and then the other cities will be brought in during Phase II. Ms. Bilsten said unfortunately that the paperwork does not follow the person. Mr. Kirkeide asked if they could better enforce the misdemeanor law after this is put into effect. Ms. Glowe said she was not certain, but that would be ideal. Mr. Kirkeide said this database would be a great tribute to Hank Barnes for all of her effort put into this issue.

4. Work Group Progress

Ms. Mary Thomson of MAG took the place of Dr. Dean Coonrod and presented on the update of the annual hospital training. Ms. Thomson said that the hospitals were surveyed and then met and developed a model protocol. They are hoping for system wide training in screening and identification of victims of domestic violence. They hope to gain buy in from top leadership. A great deal of their argument for doing the training is that this issue is a healthcare crisis, the statistics are astounding. On March 1, there was a CEO luncheon that was very successful. 5 CEO's attended, they said they were interested in the concept of the package but not the certification itself. They felt that certification would be too much. They are looking to develop a public awareness campaign for Healthcare Organizations. The "I stop on Red" is another public awareness campaign out there right now. They are trying to get community recognition. She also mentioned that providing advocacy and referral resources are important as well, they are working on that now with CASA. Ms. Thomson said that further down the road, they are considering a staff person who would work with healthcare organizations to assist with the instituting guidelines. Moving forward is a marketing agency who would assist in the campaign. Ms. Bilsten said that if anyone has information or could help with the marketing to see Mary Thomson.

Ms. Bilsten introduced Ms. Lerner who will speak about the faith based efforts. Ms. Lerner said this is the 4th year of the conference and this year they had fewer speakers but extended the period of time for each speaker. They are getting into the real issues of religious leaders, she said. Ms. Lerner spoke of an incident where she stopped by the hospital and that a woman had told her that she was abused and that she went to her pastor for help. The pastor spoke to the offender about the abuse and the woman almost died because of this. The tendency pastors have when confronted with a situation of abuse is to talk to the offenders about it. They don't realize that it can

sometimes worsen the situation. There will be an extended presentation on batterers at the conference. They will give them suggestions on dealing with batterers, counseling issues, and how to relate to people. The conference will also address how to ask leading questions, touch on teen dating, and adolescent issues as well. The date of the conference is October 16, 2001 and is at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church. They are expecting about 500 people to attend. They anticipate that the cost will be between 10 and 15 thousand dollars to hold the conference. Paradise Valley United Methodist Church will donate their facility for the conference. They hope to do four mailings like they did last year. Ms. Bilsten said that they might need to charge people to attend this year because of the funding issue. Ms. Bilsten said she would help her with donations. Ms. Bilsten said this conference has made a huge impact and it has been great to see the conference grow.

Ms. Bilsten introduced Lynn Potts who spoke of the coordinating councils. She said they hope to make Mesa a model city. They have their next meeting scheduled for May and someone will be speaking on the recourses available. Then, they will see how to make the City address the issue.

Sammy Lazarus was introduced and spoke about the second meeting their group had in February. They compiled a list of resources and then picked their committees. The third task force meeting is scheduled for next week. They are finding that their goals will take longer and they are expanding their time line. But, they will write the plan.

Lt. Louie Tovar said that the training is one of the best things they have ever done. They had a great meeting in March. Vicki Bourne said they meet 4 times a year as a task force. They got together after the training and they solidified the goals and mission statement. They made some positive changes. They have an agenda for the next meeting. The statistics they thought were very enlightening. They asked people for membership, they added a former victim who spoke at the training. She reminded them of the importance of the issues. Ms. Bilsten mentioned how important the Coordinating Councils are and spoke of a situation of domestic violence in the workplace that was handled very well. The training has helped greatly.

5. EADV

Ms. Bilsten introduced Mr. Gene D'Adamo. Mr. D'Adamo spoke of a domestic violence incident that took place in front of him as he was driving down the road. He said that it reinforced the issue to him and how important what the council is doing. He asked the question, what do you do when you see domestic violence happening in front of you? EADV has set the date of May 24 for the Business Leaders Breakfast, which will feature many speakers including Governor Jane Hull. They are focusing on getting a protocol and also a policy in place. They are going to ask for members as well. Members have to commit on paper and also commit publicly. Mr. D'Adamo was happy to announce to the group that they have a logo! The logo was shown to

the group and it was said that letterhead is being printed. Mr. D'Adamo asked for comments, there were no comments.

6. Strategic Planning Work Group

Ms. Bilsten introduced Tom Canasi, who made his final presentation since he will be leaving the council after this meeting. Mr. Canasi made a presentation on the funding development of the Strategic Planning Work Group. Mr. Canasi praised the group for moving forward on so many different issues at the same time. The committee is rolling down the track and should take the time to sure-up some of the funding resources that are available. The committee took a look at the budget which is about \$80,000 but other means will be approached, specifically, the 2001-2002 Governor's Innovative Grant, the 2002 Center for Disease Control Community Coordinated Response. Also, there are several SSBG funds that will be looked at to institutionalize funding. One of the thoughts would be to go back to the Coordinating Council at MAG and see whether or not some of the SSBG funding would be available. It was the Continuum of Care Committee that spawned this Council to begin with he said.

Other charges that were brought to light are where it is this committee will be going? How much more can staff handle as well as developing long-term projects while evaluating the current initiatives. What, on the horizon needs to be addressed as the first wave of recommendations are completed? The two that will be looked at are #14 and #27, standardized training for judges and offender accountability respectively.

There should also be an evaluation mechanism for this committee that will take a look at the council and give us an unbiased report on what is going on and where the council can go. It was suggested that this be added into the next grant period. The funding issues will be carried forward as well.

7. Legislative Update

Ms. Dianne Post was introduced and spoke of the weekly update. She said that 1084 would bring the laws into conjunction with the violence against women law. With all that is going on with the budget, Ms. Post is uncertain of whether or not the group will receive funding. On the last page, a bill that had the words "victims of domestic violence" was taken out, had the words been put back in, the bill would have passed.

The Maricopa County Prosecutor's Office released a January 2, 2001 copy of a protocol that says that an order of protection can be enforced and that a petitioner cannot violate the protocol. Pinal and Maricopa County all enforce measures that say that a defendant can be prosecuted even if the plaintiff asks the defendant to have contact with them. The City of Chandler prosecutor's office charges the woman with contempt of court if the woman violates the protocol. The Town of Gilbert Prosecutor's Office has a hard time getting the judge to convict the person who makes the initial contact. This goes back to offender accountability and there are two

problems with people violating the orders. Mr. Armijo makes a brief statement about the protocols surrounding the order of protections. In talking to the prosecutor's and having meetings with John Pombier, some of the prosecutors had ethical problems with filing charges against some of the women who would violate the order of protection. In some cases the plaintiff would get back together with the defendant and then absent of other crime would call in the order of protection if another incident occurred. Based upon the fact that prosecutors were not getting convictions in these cases, they would no longer file charges on these cases. The City is interested in having something written in order to prevent a backlog of cases.

8. Call to the Public

Connie Phillips apologized for her outburst earlier in the meeting and praised the Council for looking at sensitive and delicate issues.

Mr. Rick Miller asks whether the Council has drawn enough lines for the big picture that the public needs to understand. When we begin to understand that violence is an interrelated issue and then get the community to realize that violence is a complex issue. The thread for all this is the violence prevention legislation.

Mary Thomson noted that there was a group in Russia looking at the way that cities in the United States were dealing with domestic violence. The group was looking at getting cameras for kits that police officers in Russia could use to combat domestic violence. Mary put the Russians in contact with Polaroid America.

Councilmember Margarita Garcia from the Town of Guadalupe stated that there is a tremendous amount of work that still needs to be done in the Hispanic Community, especially with illegal immigrants who remain quiet in order to stay in the country. There aren't the funds, outreach, counseling that there needs to be in order to prevent a lot of these things from happening. Poverty leads to stress, and many men have become frustrated with not having a job and this in turn leads to other forms of abuse. There should be a general concern for the Hispanic Community when it comes to domestic violence prevention.

9. Announcements

It was announced by Ms. Bilsten that the next meeting is June 19th.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.