

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2004**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

*Jan Brewer, Secretary of State
Dennis Cahill, City of Tempe, Councilmember
Ernie Calderón (Chairman), Jennings, Strouss
& Salmon, PLC

*Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Planning
Subcommittee Chair
Linda Snidecor for James Cavanaugh, City of
Goodyear, Councilmember
Kit Wood for Sandra Dowling, Maricopa
County Schools

*Ken Einbeinder, US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Michelle Ryan for Mike Franczak, Arizona
Department of Health Services
Gloria Santiago Espino for Steve Frate, City of
Glendale, Councilmember
Sheila D. Harris, Director, Arizona Department
of Housing
Mark Holleran, Human Service Campus, LLC

*Ryan Johnson, World At Work

*Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F

*Mary Keehl, AZ Department of Corrections
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance

*Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix
Ann Lipp, Area Agency on Aging, HIV Care
Josie Ojeda for Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise

*Marvin Martin, Phoenix Revitalization
Corporation
Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness

*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
Sara Moya, Homeless Trust Fund

*Crucita Nunez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
Connie James for David Ortega, City of
Scottsdale, Councilmember

*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way

*Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix
Louisa Stark, Community Housing
Partnership
Annette Stein, Health Care for the
Homeless
Margaret Trujillo, Value Options

*Jonathan Weisbuch, Department of Public
Health

*Mike Whalen, City of Mesa

*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
Barbara Williams, Collaboration for a New
Century

*Terri Wogan (Vice Chair), Governors
Office, C Y & F
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Carter, MAG
Debbra Determan, MAG
Kathryn Bleumenfeld-Jones, CHP
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
Kirby Gibbons, AZ Behavioral Health
Kathleen Mitchell, Catholic social Services
Rene Moquin, Valley of the Sun United Way
Laurie Pierce, Valle del Sol
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Rebecca Robinson, Valley of the Sun United
Way
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Donald Taylor, CPCA
Robin Wainright, Catholic Social Services

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions
Chairman Ernest Calderón called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
There were no comments from the audience. Mark Holleran did comment that the Valley Leadership lunch honoring member Diana Yazzie Devine was wonderful and well deserved.
3. Approval of the March 25, 2004 Meeting Minutes
Margaret Trujillo made a motion to approve the minutes, and Terri Wogan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Membership Subcommittee Report
Chairman Calderón introduced Don Keuth, Chairman of the Membership Subcommittee, who reported on their recent meeting. Mr. Keuth reported that the Membership Committee has met two times already with the purpose of drafting an appropriate plan to determine the best size of the Continuum, as well as the composition that would best fit within HUD guidelines. He believed staggered term limits would be appropriate, as well as exit strategies, attendance requirements and a way to transition leadership. Mr. Keuth commented that the Continuum may only meet quarterly in the future with the Executive Committee meeting between these dates to make decisions. He stressed it is important to present the community opportunities to get involved, including ad-hoc committees. Chairman Calderon commented these meetings have been an outgrowth of the strategic planning retreat. He thanked the committee for their work and noted that all proposed guidelines will be open to a full Continuum review.
5. Ranking and Rating Committee
Chairman Calderón asked if the Ranking and Rating Committee agenda item could be moved up to accommodate the Valley of the Sun United Way's schedule. All agreed and he then introduced Rebecca Robinson, VSUW, who presented on this year's rating and ranking process. He also introduced Co-Chair of the Ranking and Rate Committee Laurie Pierce who reported on the composition, strategies and activities of this committee. Ms. Robinson gave a power point presentation on these topics. She explained the purpose of the Ranking and Rating process was to provide a neutral review process through which the HUD applications could be judged and ranked. The committee size has grown from only ten members four years ago to nearly 20 for this year's competition. Non-profit agencies, providers, formerly homeless people, city government, foundations, advocates, community colleges and technical experts make up the committee. The new leadership of the committee is Chair Audrey Broner and Co-Chair Laurie Pierce.

Ms. Robinson explained that she has been working with MAG staff to streamline the application and application process. She reviewed the process by which grants are ranked and also discussed how feedback to the applicants will be incorporated this

year. Dr. Sheila Harris asked how this feedback would be given. Ms. Robinson replied she would be taking notes during the ranking process and would send it to the agencies with their rankings. She also explained that focus would be given to performance measurements in the form of site visits and monitoring, performance evaluation tables and historical data. The Committee will ask each agency about their participation in the Evaluation Project this year and will encourage them to participate.

Laurie Pierce gave a brief description of her history as a grant writer with Via del Sol. She said she is excited about the opportunity to offer ideas to improve the application and application process.

6. Report on Homelessness

Chairman Calderón introduced Louisa Stark, Community Housing Partnership, who gave a presentation on the current trends in homelessness. Ms. Stark discussed the history and work of Community Housing Partnership (CHP) as celebrating its 20th anniversary and having 600 units of housing. Currently 300 of these units are slated for homeless individuals. The remaining housing units are used for families and low-income people. The rents are stable and do not increase as tenant income may increase. They may receive case management services upon request or if the need for such services manifests. CHP receives many calls for housing. In the last year, they received over 2,700 calls for just 60 units available. Ms. Stark reported that most of the people calling were indeed eligible for services but there was no housing available.

The trend before was that people would move quickly from CHP's housing into units of their own, as they were able to upgrade their jobs and find apartments at market rates. Now, Ms. Stark reports that people are remaining in CHP programs for longer periods of time, as they are unable to secure employment that will support them in housing at market rates. This also prevents other people from being able to move into the housing at CHP and leaving more people without resources.

The homeless population is staying in different areas now as well. Ms. Stark stated that there are small faith based organizations rising to meet this challenge and are trying very hard to fill these gaps in service.

Another trend reported by Ms. Stark is that more elderly people are becoming homeless, very often because they must choose between paying their rent and paying for their medication. She gave an example of an 80 year-old woman who was forced to make that choice and called CHP because she was living in her car as a result. People in this situation are very often from the middle class and have very good references but are without the income necessary to sustain housing. This makes applying for benefits such as SSI critical.

Single fathers are another group that are becoming homeless more often now but are without the knowledge or resources to help themselves. Ms. Stark gave an example of

one single father who brought his son to work with him each night because he had no one to care for his son.

7. Appointment to State Homeless Plan Working Group

Chairman Calderón reported that the Governor has made a commitment to ending homelessness and has brought together a group to work toward that plan, the State Plan to End Homelessness work group. He stated that we needed a representative to participate in this work group. Amy St. Peter, the new Homeless Planner, has been recommended to represent the Continuum in this work group. Chairman Calderon then asked if anyone would like to represent the Continuum on this group instead of or in addition to Ms. St. Peter. Don Keuth said he would like to see Ms. St. Peter attend the work group and report back to the Continuum. Chairman Calderon stated the Executive Committee would decide who would represent the Continuum at the state's work group. The motion was made by Don Keuth, seconded by Brian Spicker, and approved. Louisa Stark said that if Amy St. Peter was chosen that she would be wonderful. Chairman Calderon agreed that Ms. St. Peter had the Continuum's complete confidence and said that he just wanted to open up the opportunity to everyone.

8. Legislation Update

Chairman Calderón stated that at the last committee meeting several legislative issues were highlighted as part of the Affordable Housing agenda item. It was decided to include legislative updates at all future meeting to better educate members about current topics. Chairman Calderón asked if there were any committee members who would like to address any legislative issues. Dr. Sheila Harris said the Farnsworth bill had died but the Landrum Taylor bill had passed with changes. The bill had originally stated that if the appraisal was 10% more than what the city had paid in eminent domain, then the city would have to pay for all legal fees for the resident. Dr. Harris added that the two sex offender bills had died as well.

Meggan Medina added that one of the sex offender bills, SB 1307, died in committee. This was one of the two clustering bills that prohibited more than three sex offenders to live in one housing unit. One of the reasons the bill died was that there is a lack of housing for sex offenders currently and this bill would have only aggravated the situation. Ms. Medina went on to report that SB 1918 is still being considered. This bill places the responsibility on landlords. Under this bill, if a landlord rents to more than three sex offenders at a time who are required to notify, then the city may deem the housing a slum and fine the landlord. This bill is currently being held in the Rules Committee due to constitutionality issues. Ms. Medina also said there are rumors about budget issues that will affect homeless service providers, including reducing Homeless Trust Fund dollars to supplement the homeless service line item, as well as major cuts in domestic violence spending and further cuts to child care subsidies. Currently, there are 93,000 on child-care subsidy wait lists and these cuts will add another 2,000 who are currently receiving child-care subsidies.

Sheila Harris added to her previous statement regarding the Landrum Taylor bill. In cases where a property appraisal was more than 10% over what the city had paid in eminent domain, then the city would be required to pay the difference in cost as well as for the legal costs.

9. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

10. Announcements

Ann Lipp announced that there was a temporary injunction against the state from charging co-pays to AHCCCS clients for doctor visits and medication even when they had no income. It looks as though the co-pays will not be charged anymore.

Dr. Harris said that the Arizona Department of Housing is now offering a link on their website and a toll free number that will allow the public to search for affordable housing units. They have hundreds of units reported on the link now and are adding more. The website is located at socialserve.com. Eventually all units that receive state funds will be included. She also said there was a get-well card circulating through the meeting for Jan Brewer and she asked people to sign it.

Sara Moya thanked Louisa Stark for her thoughtful and compelling report on the trends of homelessness.

Meggan Medina announced that the ACAA/AAFB Conference will be held from May 12th-14th. The annual meeting for ACEH will be held on May 14th from 12:30-3:00p.m. directly following the conference.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20p.m. The next Regional Continuum of Care Committee will be Thursday, May 27, 2004 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.