

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale, Chairperson
Jeremy Arp for the Governor's Office
Tony Vidale for John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Susan Bonville for Trinity Donovan, Councilmember of Chandler
Laura Guild, DES
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House
*Bill Hart, Office of the Attorney General
Linda Melendez for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix, Public Affairs Bureau, Vice Chair
Candace Johnson, Prehab of Arizona
Alice Gharieb for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
*Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale
*Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women
*Betty Lynch, Councilmember of Avondale
*JoEllen Lynn, American Express
*Carolyn McBurney, Envision Project Management
*Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services
Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear
Chris Groninger for Leah Meyers, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
*Sandra Renteria, Phoenix Police Department
*Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear
Tina Solomon, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
*Patricia Stevens, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Kristen Scharlau for Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Rick Ybarra, Value Options

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rod Ambrose, Project BRAVE
Jane Forino, City of Phoenix
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Linda Gray, CAC
Susan Hallett, DES
Karla Houston, Glendale Fire Dept
Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Dept
Jessye Johnson, Elim House
Terra Masias, CPLC
Frances Ortiz, JFCS
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
Katy Sabine, JFCS
Nancy Sanchez, MAG
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Manross called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. She welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the October 5, 2006 Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Manross ask if there were any revisions to the October 5, 2006, meeting minutes. There were none. Connie Phillips moved to approve the minutes. Rick Ybarra seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Chair Manross introduced Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office, Division for Women, to provide an update on the activities of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. He noted that Rachel Whyte could not be here due to a scheduling conflict. She provided him with updates to report from the Commission, as well as a list of progress made in 2006 toward the implementation of state domestic violence plan. They plan to release a matrix tracking the progress data to the public. If anyone would like more details at this time, he invited them to attend the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women's quarterly meeting next week on Thursday, January 11, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Governor's Executive Towers, second floor conference room.

Some highlights from the 30-page State Plan include:

- There were a multitude of events and activities during 2006 across the state to help raise awareness about DV and sexual violence.
- Several entities such as AZ Department of Health Services' programs for women and children, MAG, Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, Healthy Families Arizona home visiting program, Child Protective Services offices, and some local programs have already developed or are developing routine screening for exposure to DV.
- New Family Advocacy Centers are being planned in Cochise, Gila and Navajo Counties, by several tribes, and in the tri-city area of Buckeye, Avondale and Goodyear.
- Contact has been made with Luke Air Force Base, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, and Yuma Marine Corps Air Station. They are all implementing sexual assault response and DV protocols and services on their bases.
- Sexual violence prevention and education staff at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University are working with the Northland Family Help Center in a "tri-versity" Coalition to coordinate some major events, such as bringing Jackson Katz to Arizona in 2007, and continuing or establishing the MARS project on each campus (men against rape and sexism).
- HB2124 was passed in 2006 that prohibits rental agreements from denying or penalizing tenants when they summon police in response to emergencies.
- In an effort to maximize housing resources for victims of DV, in September 2006, the Arizona Department of Housing, Department of Economic Security and Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families began meeting to identify how to best utilize existing housing resources.

- The Committee on the Impact of DV and the Courts is creating separate Rules of DV Procedure to be included in Family Law Procedure.
- A series of trainings on Battered Immigrant Women were provided in four southern Arizona communities in October.
- The AZ Coalition Against DV Health Issues Committee developed and is implementing a series of comprehensive trainings on DV and health care in four rural areas in the state for health care staff.
- AZ Department of Corrections has implemented a DV intervention curriculum for all Level One, Two, and Three male prisoners in Arizona, and a female version for all women prisoners at Perryville.

Mr. Arp suggested that if any members had questions, they could contact him or Rachael Whyte at the Governor's Office. Chair Manross thanked him for his update and praised the effort to reach out to the military bases in order to assure they also have adequate DV programs in place.

5. Legislative Update

Chair Manross introduced Chris Groninger, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AzCADV), to discuss domestic violence related legislative priorities for the 2007 session at the Arizona State Legislature. She began by noting that Senator Waring is the primary sponsor on most bills supported by AzCADV.

SB1006 would allow DV victims to prevent private investigators from being able to access their motor vehicle records through the AZ Department of Transportation (ADOT). Currently, the general public cannot access this information. AzCADV will work with ADOT, and the bill will be heard in the Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

SB1009 is an appropriations bill that would provide an additional \$3 million for emergency DV shelter beds. Senator Waring is sponsoring this bill and indicated that it would be easier to fight for this type of legislation now, before the Governor's draft budget proposal is released.

SB1016 would increase court filing fees on certain civil cases by \$5 in order to support a civil legal assistance fund. In AzCADV's legislative priorities survey conducted in 2006, this was the highest priority among survey respondents, even though the fund would not be DV specific. This bill is being introduced by Senator Waring on behalf of the AZ Bar Association.

SB 1020 will be heard in committee on Monday and pertains to concurrent versus consecutive sentencing. She noted this bill is not being sponsored on behalf of AzCADV and is not on the legislative priorities handout. Senator Waring is sponsoring the bill on behalf of a constituent whose sister was murdered by someone released from prison after serving multiple sentences concurrently (fulfilling his sentences simultaneously, rather than one after another). After fifteen years of serving concurrent sentences for multiple crimes, including murder, the perpetrator was released and killed his girlfriend. The girlfriend's family asked Senator Waring for

his help in ensuring that more offenders are forced to serve multiple sentences consecutively. However, there is some concern because of the cost to the state to keep people in custody so much longer.

SB 1021 has the same language as the strangulation and suffocation bill from the last session that did not pass. This bill would increase and define the penalties for intentional strangulation and suffocation.

The Coalition is also working closely with the Multi-Housing Association on a bill that would allow victims of DV to terminate their rental agreements upon notice and demonstration of proof without penalty. This would waive early termination fees and would not be detrimental to the victim's credit history. The concern of the Multi-Housing Association is that they want language in the bill that would prevent other people from claiming to be a victim of DV in order to break their lease. They have been working hard to tighten up the language so it is satisfactory to both parties. Senator Waring is sponsoring this bill and has given them three days to settle on the language. Chair Manross asked why there is a three day deadline. Ms. Groninger said that they are already very behind schedule because of the holidays and because the legislative committee did not release their revised language until two days ago. There is a lot more work needed on it because they did not use any of the proposed language given to them.

There is a custody bill led by Rep. Lujan. This bill would amend existing statute and distinguish DV from the best interests' standard used in determining custody in DV situations. The current language leaves custody up in the air. The Coalition is working to find a sponsor.

The Governor's Office is the lead on a bill that would amend existing victims' rights language to extend employment protections to protective order hearings. This would allow victims time off from work for order hearings, as well as for trial.

There is an initiative being led by the AZ Foundation for Women to identify an alternative revenue source to create and sustain a civil legal assistance fund, as well as support housing and affordable housing initiatives.

Chair Manross thanked Ms. Groninger for this information and noted that the members will all need to push for these bills and encouraged those in attendance to lend support when they can.

6. STOP Violence Against Women Day

Ms. Groninger discussed plans for the 2007 STOP Violence Against Women Day, scheduled for February 14. Denise Brown, the sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, will be the main speaker. They have reserved the House lawn and the sidewalks around Wesley Bolin Plaza for exhibitors and information tables. They will have many activities available free of charge, including many types of arts and crafts for children. Former Miss Navajo will perform. The event will be emceed by a news

anchor from Channel 12. The Coalition will present their Annual Courage of Conviction Award to someone who works in the DV field. She referred the members to the STOP Violence Against Women Day flyer and encouraged them to participate. She added that they are still looking for sponsors to help provide financial assistance for those exhibitors that will be traveling to Phoenix from elsewhere in the state and for various audio-visual equipment rental fees. She asked if anyone knows of an organization that might be interested in sponsoring, to please contact her at the Coalition at 602-279-2900.

7. Stakeholder Group Updates

Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) Youth Policy Stakeholders Group:

Amy St. Peter, MAG, reported that the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is continuing. They are excited to report that 23 entries in three different categories were received for the public service announcement contest. These entries were submitted in the video, print ad and storyboard categories. They came from a good representation of youths from across the region. One exceptional entry from Finland was received. MAG will be convening a judging panel next month and are looking for more judges, especially more youth and public relations professionals. She thanked Value Options for connecting the Stakeholder Group with a professional from their Communications Department to serve as a judge.

There will be a recognition event for all of the entrants. Ideally, this will be held in a movie theater so the top three winning entries can be shown to the group. They are looking for more help in defining that event. If any members are interested in attending, the next Stakeholder Group meeting is next Friday January 12 from 11:00am to 12:00pm at MAG. She invited everyone to attend, as this is a joint project between the DV Council and the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholder Group. She thanked Value Options for providing the prize funding and the Governor's Office for providing the grant that makes the project possible.

They have distributed over 2000 flyers into the community about the contest and thanked the Council for helping to get the word out. There may be another competition for the categories where no entries were received.

Chair Manross added that our ultimate goal is to address the younger generation in order to have a lasting impact in reducing DV, so this momentum needs to be maintained. She added that if we could continue this program, in a year or so it would be interesting to measure how successful it was.

Ms. St. Peter noted that once the winning video is professionally produced by MAG Communications staff, they will need assistance in getting it out into as many mainstream venues as possible. Chair Manross committed to securing Channel 11 airtime to show the video.

Ad Hoc Executive Stakeholder Group:

Teresa Franquiz, MAG, reported that over the holidays the Ad Hoc Executive Stakeholder Group took time to discuss a few membership and logistical issues. This year there was not much for them to discuss, as members have been coming to the meetings very regularly and it's been well over a year since the Council has not had a quorum. There are just a few members who cannot attend because of a consistent scheduling conflict. The Stakeholder Group recommended that a letter be sent to these members asking them to contact MAG with the appointment of a permanent proxy or a new representative from their organization if they wish to retain their seat on the Council.

There are also a few members who retired in 2006 and staff is still looking to fill these positions. These members include: Judge Mark Armstrong from Maricopa County Superior Court; Roger Illingworth from Department of Public Safety; and Jerry Boone from Maricopa County Department of Public Health. The Stakeholder Group recommends sending letters to these organizations asking for a replacement, as they would like to retain membership from each of these organizations.

There has been a request from a new agency to join the Council. The City of Glendale Fire Department has requested a seat on the Council, and the Stakeholder Group recommended that they receive an invitation to join.

Chair Manross thanked all the members for their continued support and participation in the Council, especially those who were able to attend every meeting in 2006. She called for a motion to approve the Stakeholder Group's recommendations. Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear moved to accept, and JoAnn Del-Colle, City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, seconded. The recommendations were approved unanimously.

8. Goals for FY 2008

Ms. St. Peter informed that Council that each year, MAG committees look over their accomplishments and begin to discuss and brainstorm potential goals and concrete objectives for the next fiscal year. She asked the Council to begin voicing any ideas they may have for important issues to address in FY2008. The discussion time today is for brainstorming only. Feedback will be noted and staff will come back to the Council in March with concrete action items to debate and potentially take action on.

Commander Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Department, noted that a current major issue regarding DV and law enforcement pertains to some recent legal decisions that have come down through the courts. These decisions will impact the rate of prosecution and will likely lead to even fewer DV perpetrators being held criminally accountable for their actions. He suggested that one idea may be to look at the impact of these legal decisions on the rate of prosecution locally. Chair Manross asked specifically which decisions have had the most detrimental impact upon prosecution. Commander Humphrey noted an example that due to recent Supreme Court decisions on a defendant's right to confront their accuser, a prosecutor will not

go ahead with a case unless the victim is willing to come to court. Often, they are not willing to do so out of fear, so this will potentially bring down prosecution rates.

Chris Groninger said that there may be opportunities to provide training for attorneys, judges and other court officials that may help to clarify some of these recent decisions and their implementation. Amy St. Peter added that during MAG's series of focus groups last year, DV survivors noted that their interactions with the legal system were a top priority area for improvement. The Human Services Summit being planned for June 2007 will include a workshop on DV and the legal system because of their feedback. It may be a good venue for this topic. Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center, said that she would like to get more information about these legal issues, as this is not something that shelter providers normally are involved in, as many women who come to shelter do not choose to access the legal system. She suggested providing more education to non-law enforcement members of the Council. Other members agreed. Chair Manross asked if this is an issue other states or communities are struggling with. Commander Humphrey replied that it is a national issue, as these decisions are mainly coming from the U.S. Supreme Court. He suggested that the Council might look at what we can do locally, as someone needs to take the lead on the issue.

Ms. St. Peter asked for other suggestions for FY2008. JoAnn Del-Colle offered that at the Advocacy Center, many families report that there is not enough good legal advice available to victims. What is available is often not affordable.

Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Department suggested trying to decrease the number of victims that are turned away from shelter due to substance abuse and mental health issues. It is difficult for first responder to know where to refer people who are deemed ineligible for services for various reasons. Connie Phillips agreed that substance abuse is an issue that all shelters struggle with. Often they will attempt to relax their standards for intake until an incident occurs jeopardizing the other residents, and the standards must then be raised again. She suggested that the Council invite substance abuse service providers to the table to share in the discussion. Overall, it is not an issue that Maricopa County in general has many resources to deal with, but there may be best practice models elsewhere that local providers could draw upon.

Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone for their suggestions and said that staff would come to the meeting in March with a prepared list of potential goals for FY2008.

9. Announcements

Chris Groninger introduced Chris Moore, AzCADV's new Executive Director. She was formerly with CAAFA in Apache Junction.

Commander Humphrey announced that the City of Phoenix's online DV training for law enforcement officers is being launched now. Ideally, they would like to open up to the training to individuals who work in other areas. He suggested that he might bring a sample to the next meeting in order to receive feedback from the Council on

what other types of organizations might be interested. Help may also be needed in revising the content for other audiences. Chair Manross agreed and asked that this item be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Chair Manross thanked everyone for attending and noted that Linda Gray from the AZ Children's Advocacy Center would be providing a presentation on children and trauma after the meeting, for those who were able to stay. She noted that the next meeting will be held in the Cholla Room.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next Regional DV Council meeting will be on Thursday, March 1, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.