

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2009

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Chair
Lt. Robert Bates, Phoenix Police Dept.
Kristen Scharlau for Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
*John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Grace Carrillo, Neighborhood and Family Services Commission
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Angela Wold for Suzanne Cohen, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
*Councilmember William Conner, City of El Mirage
Libby Bissa for JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House
Jessica Breedlov for Diana Hinz, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
*Councilmember Brenda Holland, City of Goodyear
+Linda Melendez for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Dept., Vice Chair
Megan Hank for Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Dept.

Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter Inc.
Councilmember Phil Lieberman, City of Glendale
*Jodi Beckley Liggett, Arizona Foundation for Women
Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos Por la Causa
*Stephanie Olohan, City of Goodyear
Celeste Adams for Save the Family Foundation
Katie Hobbs for Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office for Children Youth and Families
Jessye Johnson, The Salvation Army, Elim House
Melissa LePiane, Governor's Office for Children Youth and Family
Michelle Thomas, Community Information and Referral
Emily Winans, Governor's Office for Children Youth and Families

+ Those attending by video/audio conference

* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Kim Humphrey, Commander, Phoenix Police Department, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of the April 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair called for approval of the April 2, 2009 Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes. Patricia Khlar, Chrysalis Shelter, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legal Assistance Study

Amy St. Peter, MAG, presented the draft report and findings from the Legal Assistance Study. She said the last update was provided in April and most recently, a draft of the report was distributed on June 1, 2009. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the short time frame for reviewing the report and thanked Committee members who were able to provide feedback. She said comments were received from Community Legal Services, the City of Glendale, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and from the ASU Morrison Institute on Public Policy.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee the report provided in the agenda packets differed slightly from the previous version distributed with the electronic agenda. The report handout included changes recommended by Committee members to tighten the legal language and clarify the charts. Ms. St. Peter noted changes made were not substantial. Ms. St. Peter presented the findings and recommendations of the study.

Main findings:

- Nearly one quarter of domestic violence survivors wanting legal assistance (filing paperwork, etc) reported they did not receive it.
- The majority of survivors wanting legal representation (attorneys) were not able to secure it.
- The majority of professionals estimated that domestic violence survivors would benefit from legal assistance.
- The number one reason cited by survivors for not accessing legal representation is funding. The majority of professionals cited awareness as the biggest barrier to survivors securing legal representation.
- The majority of domestic violence survivors reported needing legal representation for future civil cases. They do not expect to be able to secure representation.

Main recommendations:

- Develop a fund to increase legal services and advocates.
- Reach out to attorneys for more pro bono legal services.
- Develop and distribute educational materials explaining the civil court process.
- Implement an awareness campaign describing the benefits of accessing legal services.

Ms. St. Peter said the findings and recommendations are based on data gleaned from 59 professional surveys, 83 survivor surveys, 13 interviews with professionals, and 27 interviews with DV survivors (182 total). She noted the report contains an explanation of

the methodology, the findings and recommendations, an inventory of legal assistance services in the region, and an explanation of the civil court process for DV survivors.

Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone who helped complete and distribute the surveys and conduct interviews, including the stakeholders and MAG interns Amy Schlappi and Blake Holub, who worked on the project. Ms. St. Peter also acknowledged Renae Tenney for drafting the report, and specifically Richard Toon for sharing his time and expertise to make this report possible. Ms. St. Peter opened the topic for discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), asked for clarification regarding language on page four, under Executive Summary, bullet point number four which states “*The number one reason cited by survivors for not accessing legal representation is funding...*” Ms. St. Peter clarified the statement refers to survivors not being able to afford legal representation. She said it does not signify that funds for providing legal representation services are not available.

Ms. St. Peter advised there is no deadline or timeframe by when the report has to be approved. She informed the Committee of their option to delay the vote until August to allow more time for review; to approve the study; or to approve the study allowing for minor changes as a result of proofing or feedback. She added any significant changes would be brought back to the Committee for further review in August.

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, recommended allowing more time for review of the study and delaying the Committee vote until the next meeting in August. Vice Chair Humphrey asked for a motion to delay approval of the study until August. Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor’s Office made a motion to delay approval of the Legal Assistance Study until the August Committee meeting. Councilmember Phil Lieberman, City of Glendale, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Shelter Capacity Study

Brandee Mead, MAG, presented information on the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Shelter Capacity Study.

Ms. Mead said the study was recommended as a project during a joint meeting between the Domestic Violence Council and MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness goal planning session. Ms. Mead introduced MAG intern Christine Glass and noted Ms. Glass is a student of the ASU Community Action Research Experience (CARE) program, School of Social and Family Dynamics, and will be conducting the study.

Ms. Mead said the Shelter Capacity Study will update the 2005 MAG report on *The Need for Increased Domestic Violence Shelter*. She added the purpose of the study is to discover why people are being turned away from shelter and how often this is occurring. The study will include both domestic violence and homeless shelters and will provide a

better understanding of emergency shelters within the region. Additionally, the goal of the study is to maximize current opportunities and determine best practices throughout the region.

Ms. Mead gave an overview of the three step process to conduct the study. She said the first step has begun with Ms. Glass reviewing screening processes. Second, each of the shelters will be interviewed to obtain further information on their screening procedures. Third, aggregate data will be collected in the form of a survey conducted by shelter staff. The information gathered will relate to why requests for shelter are denied.

Ms. Mead said the data will be compiled and presented in a report to the Domestic Violence Council and MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. She noted the study methodology was emailed to Committee members and draft survey questions are provided in the agenda packets. Ms. Mead invited the Committee to review the materials and provide feedback. She noted the project design for the Shelter Capacity Study was on the agenda for action. Ms. Mead said pending approval by the Domestic Violence Council, the study methodology will be presented by email to the Continuum of Care Committee. Feedback from both committees will be incorporated and then presented to the Planning Subcommittee on June 15, 2009. Feedback provided by the Subcommittee will also be incorporated into the study methodology.

Councilmember Lieberman said he attended the Project Homeless Connect event in Avondale. He commented the event was outstanding but had not received the attendance expected. Councilmember Lieberman encouraged everyone to attend the next event which will be held in August in Glendale and added it was a wonderful learning experience. Ms. Mead said Project Homeless Connect events are being held across the valley and noted additional information is available for anyone interested.

Ms. Guild asked if the survey incorporates changes recommended at the Stakeholder meeting. Ms. Mead confirmed changes have been incorporated. She acknowledged and thanked those who attended the meeting. Amy St. Peter noted the revised survey was distributed to the Stakeholder group and two comments were received with no further changes being made.

Vice Chair Humphrey asked for a motion to approve the Shelter Capacity Study design. Ms. Bones made a motion to approve the design for the shelter capacity study. Ms. Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Youth Empowerment Project Update

Amy St. Peter, MAG, presented an update on Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) activities including a report on the recognition event and the release of the winning entries. She thanked Governor Brewer's Office Innovative Domestic Violence Prevention Grant Program for making the program possible. Ms. St. Peter said the winners of the 2009 PSA competition were celebrated on April 27, 2009 at the Heard Museum. She thanked President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Community, for securing the venue and the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center for providing gift cards for the winners.

Ms. St. Peter said the event was well attended by more than 30 people including the teens participating in the event and their families. Presentations were given by Councilmember Neely, City of Phoenix, Martyna Sawicka, Avondale Youth Commission, and Libby Bizza, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter said Phoenix Know99 cable station taped the event which would be available for showing immediately following the Council meeting for anyone interested in viewing it. Ms. St. Peter said the winning entry of the Web banner has been produced based on feedback received at the April Council meeting and posted on www.WebofFriends.org. She said traffic on the Web site has reflected an 86 percent increase each month. The Web banner is also available for download to other Web sites.

Ms. St. Peter gave an overview of the concept for the print ad and noted it is still in production. She said the original entry contained words shaped in the form of an arm sling. She said, to complete the process, Renae Tenney, MAG, created an actual arm cast and the next step is to write the words chosen at the April Council meeting on the cast, photograph it, and format it into a final design. The goal is to distribute the final print ad by the end of June. Ms. St. Peter said the final print ad will be presented to the Committee in August as well as being distributed by email.

7. Client Principles Statement

Ms. St. Peter led a discussion on the MAG FY2010 Unified Work Program goal to develop a Client Principles Statement outlining standards of treatment of clients in domestic violence and homeless shelters. She said the idea originated at the December joint meeting of the Continuum of Care Committee and Domestic Violence Council.

She said this activity is included in the MAG FY 2010 Unified Work Planning Program approved by Regional Council last month. Ms. St. Peter said the principles will include standards of treatment for all people served in the MAG region and the impact will be clarification of and commitment to high quality services for people experiencing domestic violence and homelessness.

Ms. St. Peter asked for volunteers interested in establishing a work group to prepare a draft for the Committees' review and approval. She said the work group may only need to have one meeting and the rest of the correspondence can be by email and/or telephone conference. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter said she anticipates meeting over the summer to finish this activity in the first quarter of FY 2010. She asked for questions and comments from the Committee as well as for volunteers to participate in the work group.

Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department asked for further clarification. Ms. St. Peter said the goal is to receive input from the work group on creating a statement and what elements should and should not be included. Ms. Bones volunteered to have Elizabeth Ditlevson from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence assist with the project. Ms. Ramella also volunteered to participate in the work group. Sarah Youngblood asked

if the statement will also focus on transitional housing. Ms. St. Peter advised some aspects of the statement would be universal, while others would be more specific to sub populations such as transitional housing.

Ms. Ochoa advised the Governor's Office will assign someone to assist with the work group as well. Celeste Adams, Save the Family Foundation of Arizona, also volunteered to participate on the work group. Ms. St. Peter thanked the volunteers and said she looks forward to meeting with the group and sharing the final document in August.

8. Community Partner Updates

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

Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Women, provided an update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women.

Ms. Ochoa said the next quarterly Commission meeting will be July 9, 2009 on the second floor of the Executive Tower. She said the Governor's Office Division for Women has two funding opportunities open at this time. Information is available on the following Web site: www.GoCYF.az.gov. Ms. Ochoa said questions can be addressed to Procurement Manager Sarah Bean at email address sbean@az.gov.

Ms. Ochoa advised the RGA for STOP grant funds is currently open and will close on July 7, 2009. This will be one-time funding granted for a 19-month period. The award will be granted by September. The Governor's Innovative Domestic Violence Prevention grant closes June 19, 2009, and is contingent on the availability of funds. The grant will be awarded by July 1, 2009.

Ms. Ochoa introduced AmeriCorps Vista summer associates Melisa LePiane and Emily Winans, who are currently assisting at the Governor's Office. Ms. Ochoa said the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families has identified three areas of focus: veterans, homelessness and mental health. Ms. Ochoa said MAG's activities are right in line with priorities of the current administration. Chair Humphrey said the Commission is doing great work and has taken on a number of different issues. He thanked Ms. Ochoa for the update.

Update from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Ms. Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, provided an update on Coalition and legislative activities. Ms. Bones said the next meeting of the executive directors of domestic violence shelters throughout Maricopa County is June 19, 2009 at the Coalition. It will be the quarterly meeting.

Ms. Bones gave an update on the budget. She said the Arizona Senate passed a budget that has been sent to the House for a vote. She said the budget basically does not make any significant changes to the DES budget, however, the main concern is funding for community-based services. She noted one change is his budget does not sweep the

homeless lottery funds as the original bill in May did. Ms. Bones highly encouraged everyone to call the Governor's office at (602) 542-4331 and recommend the budget passed by the Legislature be vetoed.

Ms. Bones said the Governor released her five-point budget proposal which consists of the following elements: fix rainy day funds, improve long term revenue, mandatory cash balance, permanent limit on state spending, and \$1 billion tax increase. She said for the purpose of community services, the Governor's budget would have no further reductions to either domestic violence or homeless line items.

Ms. Bones said there are reductions to the hunger, emergency services, and Community Action Program line items in the budget. The Governor's budget would restore cash assistance benefits and restore funding so CPS could investigate 100 percent of cases. Ms. Bones said the Governor's budget is a better option although there are concerns about long-term implications of the plan and how tax increases will impact low income people. She said comparing the Legislature's and Governor's proposal, the Governor's plan has no further reductions; the Legislature's proposal includes a \$700,000 reduction to the domestic violence line item.

Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa, asked for clarification about the proposed cuts for next year. Ms. Bones clarified, based on her understanding, the Legislature's recommendation includes up to an additional five percent cut to the domestic violence line item. Ms. Bones added that she is happy the proposed cuts are not 10 percent or greater, but she stressed it is still not the best solution for Arizona. The proposed reductions place many at risk, cut many services, and does not account for increases in case load. She encouraged everyone to keep the pressure up and keep supporting more reasonable budget solutions.

Ms. Bones said a day at the legislature is planned for Tuesday, June 16, 2009. She encouraged agencies to join them and bring individuals along if they feel safe enough to do so. She said it is important to have a big presence. She said they are also looking for volunteers to assist on the evening of June 15, 2009 at which time they will be calling people to advise them to call the legislature.

9. Comments from the Council

Ms. Bones announced a *save the date* for August 28, 2009 Domestic Violence Awareness Night with the City of Phoenix at the Arizona Diamondbacks game.

Chair Humphrey noted the tragic events of the past weekend involving domestic violence issues. He said it is extremely important to keep moving forward and pursuing an end to domestic violence.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2009, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Saguaro Room at the MAG offices.