

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 2005**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage  
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &  
Referral Services  
\*Eddie Basha, Basha  
Maryann Beerling Thomas, New Arizona  
Family  
Allie Bones, DES/CPM  
\*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way  
Brad Bridwell, US Vets  
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair  
\*James Cavanaugh, Mayor City of Goodyear  
\*Kendra Cea, APS  
\*Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United  
Way  
Rebecca Flanagan for Ken Einbinder, US HUD  
\*Mike Franczak, Arizona Department of Health  
Services  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember  
Mike McQuaid for Mark Holleran, Human  
Service Campus, LLC  
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-  
Vice Chair  
Riann Henkin for Doug Lingner,  
Councilmember of Phoenix  
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
Marvin Martin, Berean Baptist Church  
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Social Services  
Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living  
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach  
Ministries  
Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa  
Brenda Robbins, ValueOptions  
\*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges  
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family  
Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,  
Chair  
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS

Nichole Ayoola for Mike Whalen,  
Councilmember of Mesa  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,  
Supervisor  
\*Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health  
Corporation  
\*Kit Wood, Maricopa County Schools  
Margot Cordova for Diana Yazzie Devine,  
Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Anita Barnes, ValueOptions  
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the  
Disabled  
Bahney Dedolph, CSSWV  
Robert Duvall, CI& R  
Charlene Moran Flaherty, DES  
Nicole Hoffman, HomeBase Youth Services  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
John Gallagher, Area Agency on Aging  
Jami Gates, LCSA  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
David Goodman, Streets of Joy  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Shelter  
Gloria Hurtudo, City of Phoenix  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Tim Klont, ADOH  
Sheri Lopez, Safe Haven  
Nanette Lubin, VSUW  
Paul Ludwick, Work Group by Design  
Brandee Mead, MAG  
Amber Moyer, Andre' House  
Jeff Nichols, REN  
Leonard Perinette, META/Another Chance  
Margaret Reiber, YWCA  
Shane Rebiebrandth, Streets of Joy  
Carl Roberts, REN  
Ayanna Rutherford, MAG  
Amy St. Peter, MAG

Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission  
Keely Varvel Hartsell, Governor's Office

Erik Strunk, City of Glendale  
Rena Tenney, The Salvation Army  
Sherri Wagner

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Stanton called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of the March 24, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The following corrections were reported to the meeting minutes:

Steve Frate and Eric Strunk were both in attendance at the last meeting but not recorded in the minutes; Tim Klont should be reflected in the minutes as an interested attendee not as a member; Margaret Reiber should be reflected as an attendee and the minutes should be changed to say that she announced the documentary on the Haven House.

Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the March 24, 2005 meeting minutes with changes. Councilmember Steve Frate moved to approve the motion, Roberto Armijo seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. New Member Welcome

Chairman Stanton welcomed new members and thanked them for participating in the Continuum of Care. He commented that members are welcome to contact Brande Mead to set up an appointment to get additional information about the Continuum if interested.

5. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton asked Annette Stein, Chairperson of the Planning Subcommittee to provide a report on the activities of the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Stein provided the following comments:

- Meetings were held on April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership of the Planning Subcommittee is official and referred the Committee to the membership roster included in the meeting packet.
- The April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was to review the progress made on the 2004 goals listed in last year's HUD application and to strategically plan the 2005 goals for submittal in this year's application. The committee spent time identifying achievable goals and organizations to carryout those goals.

- The May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was to review the ranking and review process completed by the Valley of the Sun United Way for the ranking order of local HUD applicants.
- The Planning Subcommittee also discussed a Homeless Immersion Experience that will be coordinated by Riann Henkin of the City of Phoenix. The Homeless Immersion Experience will be done as an effort to help our decision makers understand what it is like to be homeless. The idea is to run them through various activities that expose them to the realities of what it might be like to be homeless. There will be three focus groups, one in the East Valley, one in the West Valley and one in Phoenix. The focus groups will meet in June to start the planning process for the experience.
- The Planning Subcommittee will meet again on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. then will be taking the summer months of July and August off and will resume meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at MAG.

Riann Henkin commented on the Homeless Immersion experience and reiterated that it will be a positive way for decision makers to get involved in the issues of homelessness, focus groups have been identified to plan the event. Fred Karnas mentioned the Urban Plunge Handbook, stating that it might give the focus groups some ideas of similar things done in other cities. Chairman Stanton agreed that this sounds like an exciting experience but wants to make sure that it is done in a non-patronizing way.

#### 6. Approval of 2005 HUD McKinney-Vento Applicant Ranking Process

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead to explain the applicant ranking process. Ms. Mead thanked the Valley of the Sun United Way for facilitating the ranking and review process again this year. She also thanked the volunteers who sat on the Ranking and Review Committee and the applicants who submitted proposals this year.

Ms. Mead explained that local applications were due to MAG on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and that MAG staff accepted applications and then took the local application to the Valley of the Sun United Way that afternoon. The Valley of the Sun United Way coordinated the recruitment of volunteers to sit on the committee to review the applications. Each application was read and scored by three reviewers then an average score was given for each application. Each applicant was given time to present their project to the Ranking and Review Committee and was then scored on their presentation. The average score of the application was added to the presentation score to come up with the overall application score. Next, MAG applied weights to each application in three areas: leverage on a 0-5 scale, performance on a 0-5 scale and participation in the Continuum of Care on a 0-3 scale. The total of the weight score was added to the application score to determine the final ranking of the applications. The only caveat to the process is that the new project had to be placed as the number one project and the three Shelter Plus Care applications had to be placed last, per direction by HUD.

She referred the Committee to the handout listing the completed rankings of the applicants. Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the ranking process.

Don Keuth motioned to approve the ranking process, Guy Mikkelson second the motion was approved unanimously. Rebecca Flanagan excused herself from the vote because of a potential conflict. The motion carried.

7. Approval of 2005 Goals

Ms. Mead referred the Committee to the Chronic Homeless and Other Homeless Goals handout and explained that the Planning Subcommittee is recommending the goals for approval by the Committee. She asked that members take a moment to review the goals to see if they are achievable, if the right person/organization is represented as the responsible entity and whether or not the target dates are achievable.

Leonard Perinetti of META Services recommended that under Chronic Goal 3 an action step be added to address substance abuse and or drug addiction. He said that he could be listed as the responsible person for carrying out the action step. Maryann Beerling Thomas agreed and said that New Arizona Family could also be mentioned as responsible entity. Allie Bones asked that under Other Homeless Goal 2, item 6 and 7 be changed from the Department of Economic Security to the Interagency Community Council on Homelessness. It was also recommended that under Other Homeless Goal 3, item 1 and 2 be changed to reflect the correct year.

Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the goals with the changes as mentioned. Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa moved to approve, Brad Bridwell seconded and the motion was approved. Rebecca Flanagan excused herself from the vote because of a potential conflict. The motion was approved as presented with the noted changes.

8. DES Pilot Projects

Chairman Stanton introduced Charlene Moran-Flaherty, DES Program Administrator for Human Services to provide a report to the committee on a couple of pilot projects that they are implementing. Ms. Moran-Flaherty explained that the pilot projects focus on services. The Department of Economic Security is partnering with the Interagency Community Council on Homelessness to put together pilot projects to increase services. She informed the Committee that the State Plan has been split into 2 areas: services and housing.

The first pilot project is being called “Family Connections” and is made up of a team that manages families exiting Shelters. The goal is to increase the number of families accessing TANF and foster care and increase long term self-sufficiency. Initially, they are targeting a team for families that are victims of domestic violence at UMOM, Vista Collina, New Life Shelter and a shelter in Tucson. The team is made up of a former CPS worker, a Jobs worker, advocates, and a DES employee. Teams will partner with staff at the shelters to give post shelter follow-up and services. The hope is that this type of service will reduce recidivism by making an upfront investment and will reduce family’s need for services later on. Eventually, the goal will also be to link the families to housing. Ms. Flaherty explained that they hope to expand to 10 teams by the end of the year.

Charlene Moran Flaherty introduced Allie Bones to talk about the other pilot project. Ms. Bones explained that it had become apparent that families in shelters had more needs than just being signed up on TANF. They looked at ways in which a Family Assistance Administration (FAA) worker could do more than sign people up with TANF. Now, they have cross-trained an FAA worker to do additional DES forms, child support, can notarize documents and are cross-training on Jobs eligibility. The FAA worker is now responsible for three benefits programs at DES. They are hoping to expand this pilot to reduce the steps that a person has to take to access mainstream benefits. Laura Skotniki asked if they were planning on doing any cross training in childcare. Ms. Bones replied that they are looking at pursuing that as well as making it easier to access food stamps.

Rebecca Flanagan asked how long the teams are planning to follow the families in the Family Connections pilot. Ms. Bones answered that it will depend on the individual family and the amount of time it takes to achieve their goals as identified in their case plans but are looking at an average of about nine months.

9. Volunteer Advocacy Network

Chairman Stanton introduced Amber Moyer from Andre House to discuss the Volunteer Advocacy Network. Ms. Moyer explained that the Volunteer Advocacy Network is a group of over 150 volunteers that is committed to take action to advocate for the people they serve. They are currently working on a way to best approach the issues of homelessness and are also focusing on education. Ms. Moyer mentioned that she left handouts on the table, which includes a calendar of events and a flyer on an Immigration Forum taking place on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Day Resource Center. The forum will bring people together to think creatively about the issues of immigration and how it affects their agency. They will also focus discussion on the Federal Immigration Reform Bill. Ms. Moyer thanked Michael McQuaid for working with her on the issue.

Ms. Moyer encouraged members of the Continuum to become involved and is actively seeking involvement from agencies and social workers. A long-term goal is to get social workers to commit to focusing on advocacy for up to 2 hours a week. Jeff Taylor asked if the group is planning on doing any advocacy work at the legislature. She replied that they did participate in advocacy during the last legislative session. Maryann Beerling-Thomas thanked her and recommended that the Planning Subcommittee possibly look at this as a forum for advocacy. Councilman Stanton suggested that the group network with Make a Difference and the Volunteer Center.

10. Focus Group Discussion

Ms. Mead explained that the MAG Human Services Department will be revising the Human Services Plan and have asked the Committee to identify homeless subpopulations in which to hold focus groups to include in the Plan. She explained that the Committee would need to identify subpopulations, volunteers to facilitate, note takers and a timeframe for the meetings. Ms. Mead mentioned that some previous focus groups have been held on youth, domestic violence and on veteran's

issues. Other focus groups that are planned on behalf of other Human Services Committees are: youth, domestic violence, aging, and individuals with disabilities. The Committee identified the following areas as possible subpopulations:

- Serious Mental Illness
- Substance Abuse
- Criminal Justice (Sexual Offenders)
- Families
- Undocumented

The Committee agreed that another meeting should be held to determine the subpopulations, volunteers and timeline. Theresa James volunteered to take the lead on the focus group work group meeting and the following people also volunteered to participate: Brenda Robbins, Brad Bridwell, Jeff Taylor, Maryann Beerling-Thomas, Leonard Perinetti, and Margaret Reiber. The results of the meeting would be discussed at the next Continuum of Care Committee meeting. Ms. Mead agreed to setting up the meeting and would email everyone with the date and time.

#### 11. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

#### 12. Announcements

Rebecca Flanagan mentioned that William Herman from the AZ Republic is doing an article on homelessness issues. She will be referring him to members of the committee.

Sara Catherine Phillips invited members to attend the Homeless summit on June 3rd.

Fred Karnas commented that the HUD budget allocation may be enough money to protect HUD funding and possibly expand the McKinney-Vento bill. However, other funding may be needed to fill in services.

There was consensus from the meeting to draft a letter to HHS signed by the Chair of the Continuum encouraging our support of HHS funding services. Chairman Stanton asked MAG staff to draft the letter and to have it go through the MAG process.

Jeff Taylor commented that he was recently at CASS and saw the work being done on the Human Services Campus. He thanked Don Keuth, Annette Stein, and Mike McQuaid for all the work being done. He emphasized the importance of the Campus as an opportunity for homeless people to get a safe bed and meal. Mike McQuaid informed the Committee that the Human Services Campus is ahead of schedule and should be complete in October with a walk through planned for November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Allie Bones mentioned the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the Conference is going on right now.

Maryann Beerling-Thomas suggested that the Committee approach HHS on the issues of families versus individuals. Fred Karnas recommended going to ICCH with that

for now. Maryann stressed the importance of focusing on families, Margaret Reiber agreed with her on this issue.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05. The July meeting was cancelled, the next Continuum of Care meeting is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30 at MAG.