

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2004**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ernie Calderón (Chairman), Calderón Law Offices
*Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Planning Subcommittee Chair
*James Cavanaugh, Mayor City of Goodyear
*Sandra Dowling, Maricopa County Schools
Ken Einbinder, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Michelle Ryan for Mike Franczak, Arizona Department of Health Services
Erik Strunk for Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember
Tim Klont for 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
John Gallagher for Area Agency on Aging, HIV Care
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Marvin Martin, Berean Baptist Church
*Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
Sara Moya, Homeless Trust Fund
Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Trinity Donovan for Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way
Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix, Councilmember
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
* Value Options
*Department of Public Health
*Mike Whalen, City of Mesa, Councilmember

*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Supervisor
Terri Wogan (Vice Chair), Governors Office,
Council for Children, Youth & Families
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Amy Caffarello, Home Base Youth Services
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the DisabledI
Debra Determan, MAG
Robert Duvall, CIR-HMIS
Jami Gates, LCSA
Rian Henkin, City of Phoenix
Vic Hudenko, MAG Consultant
Clint McDermott, Salvation Army
Matt McGilvray, Salvation Army-Project Hope
Allie Masters, Maricopa County
Elizabeth Morales, ABC
Sarah Catherine Phillips, AZ Coalition to End Homelessness
Cindy Richmond, Area Agency on Aging
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Katrina Torrez, Tumbleweed

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Ernest Calderón called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of the September 23, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Calderón called for a motion to approve the September 23, 2004 meeting minutes. Sara Moya motioned, seconded by Annette Stein. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Membership Guideline Revision

Don Keuth, Ad-hoc Chair of the Membership Subcommittee presented a proposed revision to the continuum of Care guidelines in the advocacy section to reflect the role of the Continuum of Care in the Community.

Chairman Calderón introduced the topic stating that the Continuum is close to finalizing the guidelines. There have been some suggestions received and that Don Keuth would present the proposed revision. Mr. Keuth said the only issue concerned the advocacy section and there have been meetings to address this concern. As a result, the title changed from advocacy to education and outreach. The process for submitting the HUD application stays the same, which seemed to be a main concern. Mr. Keuth made a motion to approve the revised guidelines. Terri Wogan seconded it. Chairman Calderón encouraged everyone to read the revision carefully.

Fred Karnas, Governor's Office, stated that he liked the change of name because it seemed more appropriate for the role of the Continuum as it is not an advocacy organization. He does have a concern about having issues approved through the MAG process however. Mr. Karnas explained that MAG stepping in a few years ago was critical and that the Continuum had been successful over the past few years. He expressed concern about finding the best way to move forward and to educate the community. In some cases, he said both intentional and unintentional policies by government causes homelessness and that government would have little motivation to approve on issues that confront their own actions. Since MAG operates on consensus, issues could be easily derailed. Mr. Karnas said that future projects like the ten-year plan to end homelessness could be in jeopardy given this situation.

Sara Moya expressed support for Mr. Karnas' comments. Stating that she has been involved in homeless issues for years, and has seen the different interests of cities cloud issues about homelessness. Ms. Moya moved to amend the motion to change the word "shall" go through the appropriate MAG process to "may." She said the Continuum needs to remove any chance of politicization. Mr. Karnas seconded the motion to amend. Eleven voted in favor of the amendment and two voted nay. There was no further discussion. The motion to accept the revised guidelines was approved unanimously with 13 voting in favor. Chairman Calderon said the language will be revised accordingly.

5. Regional Homeless Plan Update

Chairman Calderón asked Amy St. Peter to give an update on the progress made on the Regional Plan to End Homelessness and the activities of the work group.

Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone who had participated in the efforts to update the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. The report was created in 2002 on the basis of broad community input. Progress on the plan is being determined on the basis of such input as well. There was a Strategic Meeting on October 19, 2004 with 40 stakeholders from diverse areas. Elected officials, case managers, concerned citizens and many others gave a lot of information to inform the update. The Regional Plan Work Group has been analyzing this information in order to quantify progress made and draft a report.

From the 43 goals and community strategies in the plan, 7% have been completed, 33% are actively engaged, 37% have some activity and 23% of the goals have not yet been established. Much work remains, yet the Continuum should be proud both of the plan and of their efforts to end homelessness. Ms. St. Peter said the plan has received national attention and this is to the credit of the Continuum and the providers who offer these critical services. She said the work group is preparing a full report for their review at the January meeting and encouraged anyone wanting to be involved to contact her.

6. Process for Continuum of Care Leadership Appointment

As a result of the current chair and vice chairs retiring from their positions, Chairman Calderón, and Don Keuth, Ad-hoc Membership Subcommittee Chair, will discuss the process for selecting new leadership.

Chairman Calderón stated that he was appointed two years ago by the MAG Regional Council and that his term has come to an end. He said with the support of the Continuum we had done a good job of moving in the right direction. In order to continue this success, the Continuum needs to recommend new leadership to the MAG Regional Council. He recognized Terri Wogan and Jan Brewer for their tenure and thanked them for their efforts. He stated that he has reached out to identify new leadership and asked Don Keuth to present the process to the membership.

Mr. Keuth explained that the process of selecting new leadership grew from the effort to re-organize the membership and Chairman Calderón will present the names. Chairman Calderón said the elected officials wanted another elected official to lead the Continuum of Care because they wanted someone with technical ability and some who could inspire confidence. He stated that it's been a goal of the Continuum to have someone from the business community for the committee to move to next level. Chairman Calderón explained the membership is recommending people for the new Chair and Vice Chair positions are not being voting upon because MAG appoints these positions. He said Don Keuth is being recommended for Vice Chair and can represent the business sector. Tom Canasi will also be recommended for Vice Chair and will represent the public sector. Councilmember Greg Stanton will be recommended Chair and will give critical support and leadership.

Sara Moya said those were wonderful suggestions. Chairman Calderón said if there were no objections about this new leadership then these names would be recommended to the MAG Regional Council. He expressed confidence that the Regional Council would approve the appointments. Sara Moya thanked Chairman Calderón, Debra Determan and Amy St. Peter for great two years.

7. Evaluation Project Update

Chairman Calderón introduced Vic Hudenko, MAG Associate, who reported on the changed HUD requirements for the 2005 Street Count, as well as the local plans to accommodate these changes.

Vic Hudenko said Maricopa has been conducting annual street counts for three years now. He cautioned against comparing numbers from year to year since the methodology keeps changing in an effort to improve the count. Mr. Hudenko offered the background. HUD requires every community to conduct homeless street count of unsheltered people or those sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. New regulations require the count to take place in the last week of January. Across the country, all the continuums will conduct street and shelter counts on the same day. In Arizona, the three Continuum's of Care are working together in an effort to coordinate statewide efforts.

Another new change from HUD is that Continuums can no longer estimate numbers, which requires more planning, participation and counting. He presented a 75 page manual from HUD that described in detail the new regulations. Per HUD, Continuums can estimate only if they use statistical sampling and extrapolation with expert advice. The City of Phoenix is planning to do the sampling and the City of Tempe is considering the sampling method as well. Mr. Hudenko asked Riann Henkin to discuss plans for the City of Phoenix.

Ms. Henkin said they are very excited about the new methodology and that DES has offered to be their statistical expert. The Phoenix Police Department is preparing a grid of the city by square mile and will identify high and low density areas. Medium density areas will be identified if needed. They will use the grid to track movement of the homeless population. For the first time, the City of Phoenix will interview chronically homeless people at the winter overflow shelter during the same week as the street count. This information will also be plugged into the grid and database. Ms. Henkin said she is getting police officers trained in crisis intervention to count in the high-density areas. Stating that she is thrilled about the collaboration.

Mr. Hudenko continued his report. He said Maricopa is including homeless people in their street count planning, training and counting. Tucson is doing the same this year. The police department, sheriff, forest and parks departments will also be involved. Mr. Hudenko said he believed we will do a better job of finding and counting people this year but again cautioned everyone to be careful about comparing to last year if the numbers do go up. The count will take place on January 25, 2005.

Ken Einbinder said Vic Hudenko is one of the foremost people in the country on this topic and that we are fortunate to have him working with us. Fred Karnas expressed concern that the street count numbers would be misunderstood and misused politically. He encouraged the Continuum to share nuances about the count with press so they don't take the numbers at face value. He said counting homeless people on the streets is a very difficult task and precaution needs to be taken that people understand the process fully. Mr. Hudenko agreed that this is a very difficult task. Even if estimates can no longer be used, he said he hopes the narrative will reflect additional numbers estimated by the Continuum to show the true depth of the issue.

Debra Determan encouraged everyone to volunteer with the street count. Higher numbers of volunteers will help the count to be more accurate. Annette Stein asked who usually participates in the street count. Ms. St. Peter said the street count enumerators changes depending on the resources of the community. In areas where outreach teams and social service agencies are not prevalent, the police conduct the count. Riann Henkin said she encourages everyone to use homeless people and outreach workers when conducting their street counts. Ms. Determan said the Continuum would be notified about the training dates.

8. Call to the Audience

Katrina said Tumbleweed's Executive Director Janet Garcia leaving after 20 years and that Richard Eastland, formerly with Youth Etc will be taking that position.

9. Announcements

Riann Henkin said the winter overflow shelter is open and are seeing record numbers because of the cold weather. She thanked Robert Duvall for implementing HMIS at the overflow shelter and for training staff and assisting with data entry. Fred Karnas praised the winter overflow shelter program. Vic Hudenko said the winter overflow residents can be counted as street homeless instead of in the shelter count that will change numbers as well.

Chairman Calderón said the January meeting would be scheduled after the new leadership is appointed. He said the Continuum would coordinate a press conference with Councilmember Stanton's office to raise awareness and energy. Mr. Calderón recognized Ken Einbinder for being a juror in a high profile case and praised him for giving up three weeks to do so. He also recognized Fred Karnas for helping to coordinate the governor's plans for medical school in Maricopa County and said he's pleased that Fred is on the Continuum.

Chairman Calderon presented certificates to exiting members.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.