

MAG Human Services
Coordinating and Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2002

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ATTENDING

Kyle Jones, City of Mesa Council Member
Marie Lopez-Rogers, Vice Mayor for City of Avondale
Linda Huff Redman, Tempe Community Council

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network,
Chairman
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Margot Cordova, Valley of the Sun United Way
Debbra Detterman, City of Mesa
*Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
*Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department

*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
*Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community Service
Program

*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Lucille Butter for Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
*Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Neal Young, City of Phoenix

Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Maggie King, Volunteer Center
Jane Salas, Foundation for Senior Living
Bill Scheel, City of Phoenix
Sherry Whitener, Advocates for the Disabled

1. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Vice Mayor Rogers announced that she will be chairing the meeting today in Chairman Cahill's absence. Introductions of new members and guests ensued.

2. Approval of April 18, 2002 Coordinating Committee Minutes and the September 19, 2002 Technical Committee Minutes

Ms. Thomson explained the two sets of minutes provided to the Committee today. Kyle Jones motioned and Steve Wise seconded the motion to approve the April 18, 2002 Coordinating Committee Minutes. The motion was approved. Sandra Regan moved and Steve Wise seconded the motion to approve the September 19, 2002 Technical Committee Minutes. The motion was approved.

3. Presentation of Mapping Software and Discussion of Potential Applications

Ms. Thomson explained that the Valley of the Sun United Way and MAG are collaborating on an exciting project that involves the collection of detailed demographic and social indicator data, and will release this information to the community for use by non-profits, governmental organizations, and other agencies. The data release will be in the form of a graphical and narrative document, and is anticipated for presentation at the January 2003 Human Services Advance. Eventually, this project will allow users to select variables and map data via the Internet using GIS mapping software. This stage in the project is anticipated to take approximately 2 years. This project aims to respond to local concerns about data shortcomings; for instance, at the last Human Services Advance, committee members expressed concern over the lack of available data.

Margot Cordova added that the data is divided into 6 separate data categories, and that data will be displayed in user-friendly terms and formats. The VSUW/MAG partnership hopes to provide the community with a snapshot view of societal conditions and demographics.

Ms. Thomson then introduced Rita Walton, Information Technology Services Manager at MAG, to speak about GIS and its critical role in the data collection project. Ms. Walton spoke of the project's background, mentioning that MAG and VSUW collaborated with the software creators in order to best utilize the GIS product. The end result of this work will be available on the MAG website soon, and will be available to the general public to everyone.

Ms. Walton explained the opening page of the map and discussed the different layers available, including Freeways, Employment, Census Data, Development Areas, and others. Ms. Walton and Mele Koneya, also of MAG staff, demonstrated how the map can be used with employment. Census information has been loaded and the pair demonstrated how a user could find out about the population below poverty. A detailed list of census information is easily retrieved, and Ms. Walton spoke of some reports available through the mapping system. Currently, there are three different reports users may run with the census information. Users may also do thematic mapping. For instance, a thematic map of the average household income in Maricopa County was demonstrated. In addition, total population below the poverty level was demonstrated. Ms. Walton then suggested the Committee think about the different uses for this system. Steve Wise then asked about software, to which Ms. Walton responded that Environmental Systems, Inc. was the manufacturer, and that the product is known as an ARC product, and is a web based system. MAG staff have also added some HTML and java script. Kyle Jones asked where business information is collected and how often it is updated. Ms. Walton said MAG spent two years preparing the information needed from the census. All of the information was collected from Census and population projections. Employment will likely be updated once a year. The general plan data will be updated, as it is available. Carl Harris Morgan asked when this would be available? Ms. Walton said this website

should be running live by November, and additional census data will be updated. Ms. Thomson asked if the community could be trained to do queries on the system, and Ms. Walton responded MAG could incorporate training. Ms. Lopez Rogers thanked her for the presentation.

4. Human Services Plan Update

Ms. Thomson explained that the 2002 Human Services Plan has been revised to include some of the additional initiatives, including the Continuum of Care and the Domestic Violence initiatives. Ms. Thomson said some of the census data is outdated and she looks forward to having the information on the web.

Steve Wise commented that he thinks it is a fine piece of work and he has been able to utilize it. Ms. Lopez Rogers asked the committee to review the document and provide comments. Carl Harris Morgan said he tried to download it today but it is a large document Mr. Harris Morgan motioned for approval of the document, and Ms. Reagan seconded, the motion was approved.

5. Social Services Block Grant

Jerry Hancock relayed that a budget has not been passed and therefore no information on changes is available at this time. Mr. Hancock estimates that there will be no changes for the 2004 plan. The plan for 2004 is due February 1, and if there are changes, he will get distribute that as soon as it is available. He also hopes to have a budget out in the next few weeks.

Ms. Thomson then spoke about the CARE Act, federal legislation that would return Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funding to historic levels of \$2.8 million. Committee members were asking for support of this legislation, and its prospects looked good for a short while. Unfortunately, it now appears the bill is dead for this Congressional Session. They are looking at a three year extension for needy families under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Reauthorization.

6. Homelessness Initiatives

Charlene Moran Flaherty presented on the planning process including the draft recommendations developed from the planning groups that occurred between January and July 2003. She noted that the key elements involved in the planning process involved the following:

- Process involved in developing the recommendations
- Message that the planning subcommittee wanted to convey through the plan
- Key Elements/Goals involved in the plan
- Strategies for ending homelessness in our community
- Challenges for accomplishing the identified goals and strategies

Ms. Flaherty briefly reviewed the 2002 goals for the Continuum outlined in the HUD application. They include:

- Increase stock of affordable and permanent supportive housing unit.
- Develop and implement Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix.
- Increase and coordinate outreach to chronically homeless individuals.
- Complete comprehensive homeless plan for Maricopa County.
- Implement Phase One of the Maricopa HMIS.
- Improve linkages to mainstream resources.
- Conduct comprehensive street and shelter count.
- Identify strategies to improve program evaluation methods for McKinney Grant recipients.
- Support Housing for Sunnyslope Task Force and development of local continuum of care.

Ms. Flaherty then went on to review the process that involved convening the work groups to develop recommendations to be included in the plan. The task of the groups was to first research and compile existing recommendations both nationally and locally. The planning subcommittee then decided that groups should consist of the following populations:

- Housing
- Institutional releases
- Behavioral health
- Domestic violence
- Veterans
- HIV/AIDS
- Youth on their own
- Elderly/Undoc./Economically Disadvantaged

Developing the recommendations also included conducting focus groups with homeless people and conducting community review of plan and incorporating public input.

After the recommendations from each group were compiled there were key themes or strategies that were identified as common amongst all the various populations who are homeless. They were:

- To increase stock of affordable housing
- To establish an on-going and predictable source of funding for Continuum of Care initiatives
- To empowering Homeless People and include them in all decisions regarding their lives
- Improving coordination of services through the development of comprehensive systems of care: services integration and systems integration
- To create community benchmarks that can be used as a baseline to evaluate progress toward ending homelessness.

The challenges identified by the ad hoc review subcommittee convened to review the final draft recommendations were the following:

- Economy/Funding
- Community Support
- Regionalization
- Infrastructure

Chairman Lopez Rogers thanked Charlene for her hard work on the homeless planning process and opened the floor for questions from Committee members.

7. Domestic Violence Initiatives

Kristie Leshinskie provided an update to the Committee on various domestic violence initiatives. Ms. Leshinskie began by reviewing the Domestic Violence Council, and explained there are 57 members on the Council, and it meets bimonthly. In 1999, the Council developed the Regional Domestic Violence Plan which included 41 recommendations for providing a coordinated community response to domestic violence. The Plan was recently updated, and Committee members are asked to review the Update and share comments by October 31.

In addition, Ms. Leshinskie relayed that MAG was recently awarded STOP grant funds through the Governor's Division for the Prevention of Family Violence. These funds will be utilized to fill the Domestic Violence Specialist position within MAG, which will then staff several of the domestic violence related initiatives.

In addition, Ms. Leshinskie mentioned that the initiative to provide guidelines and train healthcare providers in screening for domestic violence is also underway. MAG staff, together with staff of the Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, drafted a kit for hospital staff and healthcare providers that includes information on identification of domestic violence victims, screening tools and suggested verbiage, documentation recommendations, and additional resources. The kit also includes buttons for providers to wear encouraging discussion about domestic violence, brochures, and other source information. The group is currently working with 4 local health systems to implement the protocol and distribute the kits. This project was made possible with funding from St. Luke's Health Initiatives.

Next, Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV) was generated from the original Domestic Violence Plan. EADV strives to raise local awareness and train employers to support and educate workers about family violence. EADV sponsors quarterly training forums; the next Forum is scheduled for November. 15. Brochures detailing the upcoming Forum are available today. In addition, EADV's Outreach Committee is working on a shelter outreach program that seeks in kind or service donations from local businesses to benefit our community domestic violence shelters. Finally, EADV is also working on the first annual "Walk Against Domestic Violence" scheduled for April 26, 2003. A race event coordinator was hired, and the goal is to

bring 6,000 walkers together and raise \$250,000 dollars. To date, the Arizona Republic and Channel 12 have agreed to sponsor the event.

In addition, Ms. Leshinskie reported the Governor's Division for the Prevention of Family Violence recently released their annual report. Copies of the report may be obtained by calling (602) 542-1773. Ms. Thomson commented this is the best report she has seen on domestic violence data in the state. Ms. Thomson thanked Ms. Leshinskie.

8. Call to the Public

No members of the public spoke.

9. Announcements

Ms. Thomson encouraged those Committee members who are supervisors and managers to attend the November 15 EADV Forum .

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Committee's Annual Advance is scheduled for January 30, 2003.