

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
 REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL  
 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2009

<p><u>MEMBERS ATTENDING</u></p> <p>Celeste Adams for Save the Family          Christina Avila, City of Avondale          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          Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community          *Councilmember William Conner, City of El Mirage          JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center          *President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community          *Will Gonzalez, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office          Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security          Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House          +Linda Melendez for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise          Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Dept., Chair          *Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Dept.          Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging          *Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter Inc.          Kristen Krey for Councilmember Phil Lieberman, City of Glendale</p>	<p>*Jodi Beckley Liggett, Arizona Foundation for Women          Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Vice Chair          Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families          Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos Por la Causa          Stephanie Olohan, City of Goodyear          Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center          Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa          DC Ernst for Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.          *Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services</p> <p><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u></p> <p>Angela Andrews, Maricopa County Attorney's Office          Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office          Jannette Brickman, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence          Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix          Katie Komar, Governor's Office          Dawn Meadows, UMOM New Day Center          Linda Scott, Jewish Family and Children's Services</p> <p>Brande Mead, MAG          Rachel Brito, MAG</p> <p>+ Those attending by video/audio conference          * Those not present or represented by proxy</p>
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1. Call to Order  
 Commander Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police Department, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Renae Tenney, MAG,

announced the MAG Executive Committee voted to appoint Commander Humphrey Chair and Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO), Vice Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. Ms. Tenney expressed gratitude for the work and support of President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, during her term as Chair of the Council. President Enos was unable to attend due to travel.

Commander Humphrey thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as Chair. He said he is looking forward to continuing the great work MAG and the Council have done over the years. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the audience to address the Council on non-agenda items that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on agenda items for discussion but not for action. No comments were made.

3. Approval of the September 14, 2009, Meeting Minutes

Commander Humphrey called for approval of the September 14, 2009, MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes. Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center, motioned to approve the minutes. Lynn Potts, City of Mesa, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Maricopa County Attorney's Office Presentation

Commander Humphrey introduced Vice Chair Marshall to report on the impact of budget cuts to the Family Violence Bureau of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

Vice Chair Marshall introduced Angela Andrews who has replaced Suzanne Cohen, former Chief of the Family Violence Bureau. She said Ms. Andrews previously worked in the Mesa facility but will now be working in downtown Phoenix. Ms. Cohen has transferred to the Homicide Bureau. Vice Chair Marshall advised Ms. Andrews will be the new contact for issues handled by the Family Violence Bureau such as felony domestic violence cases, child abuse, child fatalities and stalking. Ms. Andrews will also regularly attend Council meetings.

With regard to the economic crisis and how it has impacted the Family Violence Bureau, Vice Chair Marshall said a hiring freeze has been in place for more than one year. She said the freeze has created a hardship within the office as staff is doing the same amount of work with fewer people. She noted the quality of their work has not suffered. Additionally, Vice Chair Marshall said they have had many great candidates who were in line for employment opportunities that are now working as unpaid interns. She advised victim assistance funds, to date, have not been touched during budget reductions.

Vice Chair Marshall said another area impacting the bureau is the Court Master Calendaring Process – the way in which a court schedules a trial. Due to unpredictability with the calendar system and an inordinate number of out of state victims, the cost of purchasing refundable travel tickets has had a significant impact on their budget.

Vice Chair Marshall said due to the hiring freeze, the prosecutors are attempting to resolve cases earlier in the process. A benefit to early resolution is cases are at their strongest right after they have been filed. The longer a case goes through the process, the weaker it becomes. It is also a huge benefit to the victim and prosecution to resolve cases early.

Vice Chair Marshall said a process for early disposition offers has been implemented. The process involves making one single plea offer right after the case has been filed. The expectation is that the offer will either be accepted or rejected within 24 hours. However, one drawback to early disposition offers is the victim is still at the height of anxiety and it is difficult to see the big picture of prosecution. Another option which allows more time to work with the defense is the fast track process which allows 28 days to consider the offer. The goal of implementing these two new processes is to solve more cases earlier on, increasing convictions, and saving time and resources.

Stephanie Olohan, City of Goodyear, asked how MCAO determines whether to use early disposition or fast track. Vice Chair Marshall said generally straight forward cases go to early disposition while more complex cases are considered for fast track. Ms. Phillips asked for information on the volume of domestic violence cases in the County Attorney's office. Ms. Marshall reported quarterly numbers for the Family Violence Bureau indicate 122 cases disposed, 107 cases pled, and five trials. She said case loads for the 10-12 attorneys in the bureau at any given time is 50 cases. Vice Chair Marshall noted misdemeanor domestic violence cases are also handled by the bureau but are not followed through trial. She said she has not seen much change in the volume of domestic violence cases. However, the number of cases resulting in child fatalities has increased. Vice Chair Marshall clarified the term *disposed* indicates resolution of a case.

John Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, said state money is funneled into victim services to fill the gap in funding. He cautioned while those funds have not yet been mentioned during budget talks, they will likely be targeted for cuts. Mr. Blackburn said a large amount of funds were swept two years ago. He noted state funds are reimbursed from the federal government at sixty cents per dollar. Losing state funding would result in a loss of federal match funding. Mr. Blackburn said Maricopa County is very involved in the legislative process to protect those funds. He said nonprofit agencies may be called upon to assist in advocating to maintain the funding by showing the devastating impact budget cuts have on victims.

5. Legal Assistance Study Recommendations Update

Chair Humphrey introduced Jannette Brickman, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), to provide an update on activities to move forward the recommendations laid out in the Legal Assistance Study.

Ms. Brickman said the Legal Committee of AZCADV has been working with MAG on recommendations identified by the Legal Assistance Study. She provided an overview of the recommendations identified in the study and the progress made toward these goals:

- *Find additional funding to increase services.* Ms. Brickman noted this recommendation will not be pursued at this time due to the economic downturn.
- *Reach out to attorneys to provide more services on pro bono or sliding fee scales.* Ms. Brickman noted the Legal Committee's discussion on this recommendation led to the idea of creating a statewide directory. She said the Legal Committee is in the process of identifying who is creating lists and what steps they have in place for obtaining attorney participation. Ms. Brickman emphasized the group is planning to connect with other organizations already creating lists of pro bono attorneys such as the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Ms. Brickman said the Legal Committee has viewed presentations from FlatFee Lawyers and Modest Means – two programs that are still very new. While Modest Means is not ready to publicize their assistance, Ms. Brickman said they are able to provide a one-hour, \$75 consultation with a lawyer. Modest Means is obtaining participation from attorneys in Maricopa County. However, they are attempting to garner statewide involvement. Ms. Brickman noted the Council and Coalition may be able to assist in these efforts. FlatFee Lawyers provides a menu of services that includes the attorney's name, specialty, available services, and specific cost. More information may be viewed on their Web site: [www.flatfeelawyers.org](http://www.flatfeelawyers.org).

- *Provide educational material for self help.* Ms. Brickman mentioned completion of the AZCADV Self-Representation Manual, which is now available on their Web site at [www.azcadv.org](http://www.azcadv.org). She said the group is now working on mapping the family court system to provide individuals a visual map of what to expect as they go through the system. Additionally, they are meeting with family court judges to determine how to provide greater assistance throughout the process.

Ms. Brickman said the Legal Committee discussed judicial training and brown bag education days. Judges have expressed interest in the trainings and the Coalition has secured a scholarship to send a judge of their choice to attend intensive judicial training on domestic violence. Ultimately, the Coalition would like to offer training to judges in the state focusing on Arizona laws and domestic violence.

- *Create an awareness campaign on how to access available services.* Ms. Brickman said there has been limited discussion on this topic area because the focus has been on several of the other recommendations.

Ms. Brickman added that a "court watch program" is being developed to offer feedback to judges and receive feedback from them on how to improve the process. Ms. Brickman said volunteers will pilot the program. The goal is to complete training of the volunteers and implement the program by Spring.

Vice Chair Marshall asked if the AZCADV Legal Committee has connected with the Arizona State Bar and their family court division. Ms. Brickman confirmed representatives from the State Bar are involved in the group.

Ms. Tenney thanked Ms. Brickman and the Coalition for their work in this area. She noted the Coalition's willingness to collaborate with the Council to make a difference for survivors. Ms. Tenney acknowledged the importance of collaborative efforts already taking place in the meetings including the sharing of information about relatively new resources providing legal assistance. Ms. Brickman invited anyone interested in participating on the Legal Committee or seeking more information to contact her by email at [sa2@azcadv.org](mailto:sa2@azcadv.org).

6. Shelter Capacity Study Update

Chair Humphrey introduced Brande Mead, MAG, to provide an update on progress made on the Shelter Capacity Study. Ms. Mead expressed appreciation for the opportunity to update the Council and for their continued involvement in the process. Ms. Mead advised the study updates the 2005 MAG report *The Need for Increased Domestic Violence Shelter in the MAG Region*. The Shelter Capacity Study includes information for emergency shelters serving those experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. She said the purpose of the study was to identify the most common reasons requests for shelter are being denied, and identify how to maximize shelter capacity to better serve clients with available resources.

Ms. Mead said Christine Glass, MAG intern from the Arizona State University Community Action Research Experiences (CARE) program, completed the research in September 2009. The research included a review of screening policies of domestic violence and homeless shelters in Maricopa County, a survey of shelters on their policies, and aggregate data collection on the number of people denied or turned away, and the reasons why this occurred. The draft results of the study were provided to MAG staff in November 2009. The report is currently under review and will be presented to the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for review early next year.

Ms. Mead thanked Council members for their initial and ongoing support of the study. She thanked community stakeholders and the shelter providers that provided policy information and participated in data collection. Additionally, Ms. Mead acknowledged Ms. Glass and the ASU Care program.

Chair Humphrey asked for input from shelter representatives on current capacity levels. Ms. Phillips said Sojourner Center has recently had several available beds noting homeless shelters are full and overflowing. She said Sojourner Center has been serving homeless families with these beds regularly for the last month. She reported 23 open beds with more availability at their Heritage Campus. Ms. Phillips said this is a strange phenomenon that happened last spring and is now reoccurring. She said people may not be leaving their situation due to economic reasons as well as the decrease in publicity related to available resources. She voiced her concern about the situation, and questioned

how to let victims know space is available when they may still be turned away due to other issues.

Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa, said De Colores maintains the highest rate of occupancy because of the specific population they serve. Celeste Adams, Save the Family, reported their beds are consistently full, noting they have seen an increase in requests in the East Valley. She said they are seeing more families that have long-term disability issues.

Ms. O'Connell said De Colores was contacted by Spanish media Channel 33 with a request to focus on domestic violence issues and challenges faced by victims for an entire month. Ms. O'Connell said they were concerned the media coverage would inundate them with calls for assistance they would not be able to respond appropriately due to decreased staffing levels. Joanne Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center (FAC), said given the number of people from the Spanish speaking community calling for information and assistance, they also have concerns about the availability of resources. The FAC staff attempts to inform people about the limitations of available services, specifically noting their inability to provide counseling services. She said another Spanish-speaking domestic violence counselor is needed.

Ms. Mead said preliminary results from the Shelter Capacity Study indicate a lack of vacancy was the primary reason for denials at domestic violence and homeless shelters. A few additional reasons cited, in no particular order, included inability to accept pets, bunk requirements, and refusal to follow shelter rules. Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, agreed with Ms. Phillips statements in terms of public awareness. She said much of the information in the news speaks to shrinking services. People may assume help is not available. She agreed on the need to consider a public awareness campaign. Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families, acknowledged Ms. O'Connell's comments noting the Spanish media has been conducting more outreach. Kristen Scharlau, City of Tempe, advised they now have a bilingual victim advocate funded by federal stimulus funds. She offered assistance for clients with bilingual needs through this position at the Care Seven program.

Ms. Ochoa noted mental health and substance abuse were issues discussed in Community Conversation meetings. She asked if these two topics surfaced during the study. Ms. Mead advised mental health issues and substance abuse were not identified as major reasons for shelter requests being denied. Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, asked if information from the study is based on shelter data provided by DES. Ms. Mead said data was gathered directly from the shelters during a two-week study period. Ms. Adams commented their program has experienced situations in which individuals are not accurately reporting substance abuse history during initial screening processes. However, she said substance abuse comes to light later on during random drug testing. Ms. Mead acknowledged the study may not have initially identified these issues.

Chair Humphrey noted the benefit of tackling these types of issues from a regional perspective. He thanked Ms. Mead for her report. He stated the Committee would look forward to the results of the study.

7. Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Update

Chair Humphrey introduced Ms. Tenney to provide an update on strategies implemented to gather community input for the FY 2010 Regional Domestic Violence Plan. Ms. Tenney said the idea to develop a new plan was identified as a Council goal for the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program. She acknowledged St. Luke's Health Initiative for their assistance in funding the project.

Ms. Tenney said the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan was developed in 1999-2000. Since that time, the plan has guided the Council's efforts for the past ten years. The Council has made great strides in addressing domestic violence in the region. The development of a new plan will allow for an opportunity to assess how far we have come and how we can continue to be effective in this work.

Ms. Tenney said the goal to develop a new plan was launched at MAG's Annual Domestic Violence Press Conference in September 2009. The Council decided to use a strength-based approach by conducting Appreciative Inquiry (AI) interviews. The AI interview process will help to engage the community in determining what is working well and what can be capitalized on to better serve survivors in the future.

Ms. Tenney said a workgroup was formed to develop questions for the AI interview process. She reported the workgroup developed two interview guides: one for survivors of domestic violence and another for professionals in the field. The goal is to conduct 80 interviews before mid-January 2010. Ms. Tenney reported interviews have already begun and she encouraged everyone to engage in the process.

Ms. Tenney said initial AI interviews provided feedback indicating the interview guide for professionals included some redundancy, and was requiring a long interview time. She recommended MAG staff condense the guide from 18 to 10 questions. The Council provided non-verbal agreement to condensing the guide. Ms. Tenney advised a revised guide will be electronically distributed.

Ms. Tenney noted the information collected through the AI interview process will be used during the second phase of plan development. A community forum will be held with 100 community participants to further discuss topics revealed during analysis of the AI interview data. Ms. Tenney said the plan is slated for completion by October 2010.

8. FY 2011 Goal Planning

Committee members were given an opportunity to raise and discuss issues to be addressed as goals in the MAG FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Chair Humphrey recalled the work done over the previous year, including the Legal Assistance Study and the Shelter Capacity Study. He introduced Ms. Tenney to provide an overview of proposed topics for FY 2011. Ms. Tenney said a proposed list was developed during

the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee to End Homelessness joint meeting in September 2009. She provided an overview of proposed areas of focus:

- Coordinating transportation needs of domestic violence survivors enabling them to get to and from shelter and services.
- Working with the Department of Corrections regarding release of sex offenders.
- Working with foster care services to assist teenagers aging out of foster care.
- Working with Community Legal Services and the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence to approach housing authorities on eviction issues facing domestic violence survivors.
- Further coordination of service delivery
- Assisting with cross-training for shelter staff

Ms. Tenney noted while a number of topics were identified, the Council would have to identify viable funding for the goals they wish to address. Chair Humphrey opened the topic for discussion and input. Ms. Phillips recommended coordinating with the Purple Ribbon Council regarding teen dating violence. Additionally, she recommended working with the Sandra Day O’Conner House group on their focus on courts, serving orders of protection, and victim services. Ms. Phillips said coordinating efforts with both of these groups is important. Ms. Del-Colle expressed agreement. She suggested having representation from the Purple Ribbon Council on the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council.

Ms. Tenney asked if any coordination is needed to assist cities and/or municipalities to enhance their efforts. Vice Chair Marshall advised of the struggle to prosecute difficult domestic violence cases. She said it would be helpful to have other’s perspective on how to be more successful. Chair Humphrey referenced the Morrison Institute’s research regarding domestic violence cases, misdemeanors, and the number of cases being “scratched.” He asked for recommendation for goals that may address what is actually happening with these cases and why so many are not proceeding through the system.

Ms. Phillips referenced prior meeting discussions related to statistics gathered by the Governor’s Office. She asked for goals to be developed related to this issue. Ms. Phillips said having statistics on the number of domestic violence cases and their outcomes would provide better indicators on progress made. Ms. Ochoa noted participation in providing statistics to the Governor’s Office is voluntary and currently participation is less than 100 percent. She advised an update would be included in the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women report on January 14, 2010. Ms. Phillips requested the report also be shared with the Council. Ms. Bones expressed agreement with Ms. Phillips noting this would be a great project for MAG to assist in coordinating with the 24 cities and towns across the region. Chair Humphrey noted one issue may be getting agreement from cities and towns on definitions surrounding domestic violence.

Ms. Phillips said supporters of the Annual Domestic Violence Walk were disappointed with the low level of participation this year. She recommended increasing support for the walk. Ms. Bones said support for the walk is a topic for discussion at the quarterly Executive Directors' meeting this month. Discussion will include ultimate goals for the walk and how to accomplish those goals.

Ms. Del-Colle noted the importance of keeping the Council informed of the progress of domestic violence fatality review teams, including the various strategies developed by teams throughout the state. Mr. Blackburn noted the Chief's Association is also looking at efforts to regionalize domestic violence fatality review teams. He commented this could be a good connection for the Council.

Ms. Bones suggested engaging probation and offender treatment programs. She said a lot of discussion is occurring at the national level. She said offender treatment/batterer intervention programs are not currently represented on the Council. She noted the importance of including them in Council efforts.

Ms. Tenney summarized the additional recommendations:

- Coordinating efforts with the Purple Ribbon Council, Sandra Day O'Connor House group, offender treatment programs, and Governor's Commission regarding Fatality Review Team models.
- Looking at how to be more successful with prosecution of domestic violence cases
- Exploring process for data collection to help determine progress made
- Looking into training on how to collect data, especially with police departments and courts.

Ms. Tenney stressed the need to prioritize goals, review funding options, and explore collaborative efforts. Chair Humphrey asked for a motion to accept the proposed areas of focus for developing FY 2011 goals. Mr. Blackburn motioned to approve the recommended focus areas. Joanne Del-Colle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Committee Meetings and Evaluation

Members were given an opportunity to evaluate the Committee meetings and work from the previous year as well as determine the meeting calendar for next year. Chair Humphrey asked for any feedback on the current meeting schedule. Ms. Tenney noted previous requests to change the meeting start time to 1:30 p.m.

Chair Humphrey asked for a motion to approve the meeting schedule with a change in start time from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ms. Del-Colle motioned to approve the meeting schedule with the noted time change. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

10. 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 Governor's Commission met on October 8, 2009. Below is a summary of the meeting discussion.

Bill Hart, of the Morrison Institute, provided an analysis of data collected using the domestic violence screening instrument. The purpose of the assessment is to help judges set bail. The instrument helps to assess risk of future crime while the defendant is out on bail. Ms. Ochoa said the study confirmed the following findings:

- Assault was the most commonly alleged offense
- Males made up 80 percent of the suspects
- Most suspects were in their 20s and 30s
- A large percentage of suspects had prior criminal records
- One-third of the suspects were unemployed
- The time after a couple separates is especially dangerous, as one in four suspects had separated from their alleged victim.
- Four in ten offenders committed violence in front of children.

She said of particular interest, the findings indicate around half of domestic violence arrests are dismissed by the prosecution, leading to the questions, "Are officers making too many domestic violence arrests?" or "Are prosecutors dismissing too many viable cases?" She said additional research is necessary and recommended in order to answer those questions. Ms. Ochoa said the report may be found on the Morrison Institute Web site at [www.morrisoninstitute.asu.edu](http://www.morrisoninstitute.asu.edu).

Ms. Ochoa reported Chief Jerald Monahan provided an update on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team workgroup. She said since January 2009, as a result of the workgroup efforts, the following new teams have developed across the State of Arizona:

- Coconino County voted to approve the joint resolution the City Council in Flagstaff had already approved - October 2009:
- Mohave County Board of Supervisors voted to authorize the County Attorney and County Sherriff to have a team - October 6, 2009.
- Yuma County Board of Supervisors voted to authorize the County Attorney and County Sherriff to have a team - October 19, 2009
- Chandler Domestic Violence Commission continued to move forward and if they approve a resolution in the near future, Arizona will have seven teams in place around the state.

Ms. Ochoa said workgroups will continue their work for another year.

Ms. Ochoa also reported on the VAWA Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Workgroup. She said the workgroup is chaired by JoAnn Del-Colle of the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center. The first meeting has held on November 9, 2009. The meeting focused on Phase

II: Tracking Sexual Assault Legislation. The goal is to develop statewide brochures on Kaity's Law and VAWA exams.

Ms. Ochoa reported on STOP Grant renewals indicating the total amount was \$1.7 million with \$284,940 awarded to grantees in Maricopa County. The sub-grantees included: Chrysalis, Impact, Glendale Police Department, Goodyear Police Department and A New Leaf. The STOP Recovery Act also awarded a total of \$284,940 to 13 sub-grantees which included Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Glendale Police Department, A New Leaf, Chrysalis and Impact.

The Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women will meet again on January 14, 2010 at the Governor's Executive Tower, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Ms. Del-Colle acknowledged President Enos for providing \$16,000 through Tribal funds to help develop the VAWA brochures. Additionally, she acknowledged Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix, for her assistance in this effort.

Update from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, provided an update on Coalition activities. Ms. Bones announced Michelle Goodman is the new Director of Administration and Jessye Johnson, previously of the Salvation Army Elim House, is the new Director of Domestic Violence Services. Elizabeth Ditlevson has been promoted to Deputy Director and will oversee development of the Coalition's communication plan.

The Maricopa County Executive Directors meeting is being held next week at Sojourner Center. Ms. Bones said Nancy Dean from the Arizona Foundation for Women will be addressing the group about the Annual Domestic Violence Walk and future plans. A presentation will also be given by Dr. Jill Messing and several students from the ASU School of Social Work.

Ms. Bones noted the Coalition's involvement with the O'Connor House project. She said she has been involved in the group's discussions. They are exploring efforts related to serving orders of protection, including streamlining the process and taking the onus off of victims to get the orders of protection served. She said an IT workgroup has been convened to work with the Arizona Supreme Courts Administrative Office of the Courts on enforcement of orders of protection. This group plans to look at how documents get to the appropriate law enforcement agency to be served and who holds the responsibility to serve the orders. Ms. Bones said the group is looking toward a long-term goal of making this a paperless system.

Ms. Bones referred to the Coalition's legislative agenda for 2010 provided in the meeting handouts. She provided a brief overview and offered to present more information at a future Council meeting. Ms. Bones said the Coalition has a new Legislative Advisory Committee made up of a comprehensive stakeholder group including law enforcement, prosecutors, family law attorneys, psychologists, and former judges. This group was

created to assist with identifying the Coalition's legislative priorities and assisting with the development of legislative language for bills.

Ms. Del-Colle asked for clarification on the Coalition's goal related to representation on the Domestic Relations Committee. Ms. Bones said seats on the Committee are prescribed by statute. Currently, there is no seat for a representative of a statewide coalition on sexual assault. Ms. Bones said the Coalition is working to create another seat for this purpose.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members were asked to provide input on topics or issues of interest that the Regional Domestic Violence Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting.

Ms. Bones requested a formal presentation from the Friends of O'Connor House on their projects. Additionally, she referenced a study in Kentucky on the effectiveness of orders of protection. She said the outcome is a 10-year study that found orders of protection to be incredibly effective. She recommended the Committee review the study or have a presentation on the study's results. Ms. Bones recommended contacting the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence for more information on the study.

Ms. Phillips requested a presentation on the data collection from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families. Additionally, as was discussed at a prior meeting, Ms. Phillips requested an update from local police departments to provide information on what they are seeing in terms of domestic violence cases and outcomes. Lt. Robbie Bates, Phoenix Police Department, was requested to provide an update.

Ms. Del-Colle requested a presentation from Vice Chair Marshall related to issues with prosecuting domestic violence cases. She said the Committee could benefit from gaining a better understanding of the prosecution process and what advocates can do to assist in this process.

12. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided to Committee members to present a brief summary of current events.

Mr. Blackburn introduced Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. Mr. Grubbs will be attending the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meetings as a representative for Mr. Blackburn and the Commission. Mr. Blackburn noted Mr. Grubbs' expertise in the area of domestic violence. He also noted his commitment to having the content expert participating on the Council.

Ms. Bones acknowledged and congratulated Connie Phillips for receiving the Athena Award from the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

13. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Saguaro Room at the MAG offices.