

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2011

Members Attending	Others Present
Theresa James, City of Tempe, Chair	Tia Allen, Area Agency on Aging
*Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service Agency	Donna Bleyle, Department of Economic Security
Robert Duvall, Community Information & Referral	Jenny Day, Basic Mission
Richard Geasland, Tumbleweed	Esther Emadi, Southwest Behavioral Health
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center	Greg Pereira, Central Arizona Shelter Services
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department	Marlena Pina, The Salvation Army
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County	Vicky Rainey, Recovery Innovations in Arizona
Mattie Lord for Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Center	Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way	Nicky Stevens, ABC
* Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family	Michelle Thomas, Community Information and Referral
Mark Holleran for John Wall, Central Arizona Shelter Services	
* Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections	Brandee Mead, MAG
	*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
	+Present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions
Theresa James, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Planning Subcommittee. No comments were made.
3. Approval of August 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Theresa James called for a motion to approve the August 23, 2010 meeting minutes. Bob Duvall, Basic Mission second. The motion passed unanimously.
4. HUD McKinney-Vento HEARTH Act Implementation
Ms. Mead reviewed the major changes that are being implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the HEARTH Act. She said that the major changes will emphasize funding for prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. HUD will focus on outcomes of the Continuum of Care funded programs as whole as well as individual programs. There will also be major changes implemented in the way

ESG funding is allocated. There will be roughly the same amount of funding for emergency shelters and new funding for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, similar to HUD's HPRP program.

Under HEARTH, HUD will measure outcomes based on preventing homelessness and lengths of stay in homelessness. Some of the other requirements under HEARTH are projects that serve families cannot refuse to serve families because of the age of the children, projects must identify a person who will be responsible for coordinating child's education, and the Continuum of Care is responsible for ensuring that everyone participates in HMIS.

There was discussion on HUD's goal for the number of days people experience homelessness. HUD wants communities to strive to a goal of 20 days homeless. Bob Duvall indicated that this goal also includes transitional housing. Bob added that some shelters average 10 day stays and some shelters have much longer stays. Bob indicated that communities are not required to be at 20 days average length of time homeless right away. However, communities will be expected to improve by 10 percent on their average length of time homeless. He said that according to information in HMIS, the current average for our community is 175 to 160 days.

Donna talked about the degree of difficulty that communities will have in meeting the goal of 20 days. As a community, we will have to overcome obstacles. Centralized intake would be helpful in this process. We will need to consider how to share the goals and expectations under HEARTH with the broader community.

Right now we have more bed nights in th than in emergency shelter. For people who aren't here from transitional housing.

Connie Phillips asked about transitional programs and asked if they are expected to turn them in to permanent housing programs. Donna Bleyle indicated that HUD is emphasizing permanent housing programs and that there may be funding and assistance available to help transitional housing programs make the transition into permanent housing. Mattie Lord indicated that many communities have already transitioned their transitional housing programs to permanent housing. There is also work being done to target the clients who are served by transitional housing programs. Some communities prioritize transitional housing programs for clients who need more assistance such as for people with a serious mental illness or with mental health issues. She added that the more expensive intervention is being used for the hardest to serve clients. She said that as a community, we should be having this conversation. Donna Bleyle added that there may be an economic incentive for communities to transition. There was discussion among the group on development of a centralized intake system to help prioritize the housing that is most appropriate for the needs of the clients. Valley of the Sun United Way is piloting a centralized intake at the Human Services Campus. Ms. Mead will ask her to present on the results of the pilot project.

Brandee Mead informed members that the Continuum of Care received a letter from HUD indicating that the Continuum is being invited to participate in an assessment process, be coordinated by HUD to determine how ready the Continuum is to implement changes under HEARTH. She said that our Continuum is one of nine being invited to participate. If the

Continuum participates, there will be an assessment process and an action plan will be developed on areas that need work. Also, technical assistance will be available to the Continuum to work on the areas in need of assistance.

Mattie Lord made a motion to recommend the Continuum to participate in the assessment process, to develop a HEARTH Implementation Working Group to solely focus on outcomes under HEARTH, and to research centralized intake models. Dick Geasland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dick Geasland indicated that under HEARTH, youth will need to be focused on as to how this will affect youth programs.

Donna Bleyle indicated that the state is planning ESG funding to fill holes that will need to be filled as a result of changes under HEARTH.

5. Regional Plan to End Homelessness Implementation

Brandee Mead referred the group to handouts including an Implementation report card and charts highlighting the implementation of progress made on action steps in the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. Ms. Mead reported that 17 of 30 total action steps have been completed, 8 have had steps made toward implementation, and five have had no progress. Under the area of leadership and community support, 100 percent of the action steps have been completed. Under the area of community awareness and collaboration, 66 percent of the action steps have been implemented. Under the area of prevention, 25 percent of the action steps have been implemented. Under the area of housing and services, 55 percent of the action steps have been implemented. Under the area of education, training and employment, 33 percent of the action steps have been implemented.

Ms. Mead pointed out the progress made under housing and services. She said the goal in the Plan was to house 25 chronically homeless people. She said that 106 chronically homeless people have been moved from the streets into permanent housing to date. She said that this is great progress and it should be acknowledged and celebrated. She thanked the City of Tempe, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, the Human Services Campus, Project H3, and the Valley of the Sun United Way for their great work in housing chronically homeless people.

Ms. Mead said that the Planning Subcommittee group will continue to track the implementation of the action steps in the Regional Plan. There were no questions or comments about implementation progress.

Planning Subcommittee could recommend implemented and on-going items.

Add HEARTH recommendations, adding action steps to the plan. Send a draft out to group.

6. 2011 Gaps Analysis Process

There was discussion on the process the Continuum has used in the past to determine the unmet need of shelter beds for the HUD application. Ms. Mead explained the method used

last year with included following the HUD unmet need formula, followed by community discussion. The consensus of the group was to continue using the unmet need formula and community discussion. However, because of HUDs focus on permanent housing, the group should look at increasing the numbers projected to go into permanent housing versus transitional housing. The Planning Subcommittee agreed that they would conduct the gaps analysis process at the meeting in April. Mattie Lord made a motion to use the same process for determining the unmet need as was used in the 2010 application. Dick Geasland seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

7. Brown Bag Training Session Recommendations

The Planning Subcommittee members reviewed the list of brown bag training sessions that have been held as well as topics for future sessions. Members suggested adding training targeted toward transitional housing providers interested in transforming their program to permanent housing. In addition, members suggested adding a training session on Legislative advocacy by Tim Schmaltz.

8. 2011 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Schedule

Chair James referred to the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee meeting schedule, which was handed out to the group. She asked the group if they prefer to continue to meet every other month or if they would like to move to a monthly meeting schedule. The group agreed that they would like to continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Members suggested forming an Ad Hoc Working Group to meet when needed to focus on action steps toward implementation of the HEARTH Act.

Bob Duvall made a motion to approve the meeting schedule and to form an Ad Hoc Working Group for the implementation of the HEARTH Act. The motion was seconded by Amy Schwabenlender and approved unanimously.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Theresa asked for input from Subcommittee members on items they would like to have considered for discussion at future meetings.

There were no comments on future agenda items.

10. Comments from the Subcommittee

Theresa James said that there is only one more unit in the Tempe Rapid Re-Housing Pilot program that has not been filled.

Greg Pereira was introduced as new Program Manager at the Central Arizona Shelter Services.

Bob Duvall announced that Roberto Armijo is currently on a medical leave of absence and will be back middle of March.

Amy Schwabenlender announced that the next Project Connect is taking place on March 17 in Tempe. She suggested that people interested in volunteering can register on line.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.