

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2011

Members Attending

Theresa James, City of Tempe, Chair
Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service
Agency
Robert Duvall, Community Information &
Referral
Gail Loose for Richard Geasland,
Tumbleweed
*Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police
Department
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Mattie Lord for Darlene Newsom,
UMOM New Day Center
Amy Schwabendlender, Valley of the Sun
United Way
Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
Jacki Taylor, Save the Family
John Wall, Arizona Housing, Inc.
* Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

Others Present

Chris Bartz, Recovery Innovations of
Arizona
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Cynthia Brooks, NOVA Safe Haven
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix
Jenny Day, Basic Mission
Hank Doss, U.S. Vets Phoenix
Esther Emadi, Southwest Behavioral
Health
Shari Lassher, U.S. Vets Phoenix
Greg Pereira, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Joanne Stryker, Homeward Bound
Michelle Thomas, Community
Information and Referral
Chris Wudarski, WINR Achievers
Holly Zoe, Human Services Campus

Rachel Brito, MAG
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 2:08 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 June 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Chair James called for a motion to approve the June 20, 2011, meeting minutes. Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service Agency, made a motion to approve the minutes. Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Chair James welcomed Paul Carlson, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to provide an overview of *Opening Doors*, the Federal Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Mr. Carlson gave an introduction of the plan and referred to the main goals of the plan.

Goals

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years
- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in five years
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

Important Elements

- Data and Outcomes
- Housing First

Mr. Carlson asked that the Continuum commit to the goals in the federal plan and work to align the Regional Plan to End Homelessness with the federal plan. He indicated that the prevention goals in the plan are critical pieces and suggested that communities also prioritize prevention activities.

In addition to prevention activities, Mr. Carlson indicated that there is an influx of funding for homeless veterans, if communities do a good job of planning for the funding. He suggested that the Veterans Administration work collaboratively with other agencies to make it work. Discussion ensued about the plan for preventing and ending homelessness for veterans.

Mr. Carlson said that the Federal Plan is in alignment with HUD's HEARTH Act and that they are working, at all levels, to integrate funding sources. He said that communities should be having funding integration discussions at the local level as well. Discussion ensued about alignment with the federal plan.

Mr. Carlson said with the focus on rapid re-housing many transitional housing providers are feeling uneasy. He added that the key to transitional housing programs is that they must have a transition strategy and that they are serving clients who need the high level of services that they provide.

Mr. Carlson mentioned the Continuum of Care Checkup and Technical Assistance process the Continuum is in the midst of. He said that participation in the checkup process is key to securing technical assistance from HUD. He said that he has been following up on the checkup process of the Continuum and is pleased with where the Continuum is currently and the goals established in the technical assistance plan.

5. CoC Technical Assistance Action Plan

Brandee Mead, Maricopa Association of Governments, reviewed the checkup and assessment process the Continuum is in process of. She said the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness approved the technical assistance plan at their meeting in July. They prioritized the following action steps:

- Develop a centralized intake/assessment system to ensure the most effective outcomes for the most appropriate populations.

- Clarify the process of navigating the CoC network of housing and services and strengthen the ability of outreach and shelter providers to link clients to mainstream resources and housing.
- Clarify the role of transitional housing in the CoC, and develop a plan for strengthening the performance of the transitional housing programs.

Ms. Mead said that it is unlikely that HUD will provide technical assistance for all of the steps in the action plan so the Continuum of Care Regional Committee has asked that the Planning Subcommittee prioritize items in the plan for implementation without technical assistance. Discussion ensued on items that should be considered a priority. The Planning Subcommittee agreed that the items prioritized by the Regional Committee are the most critical. In addition, they would like the Planning Subcommittee to focus on moving the action steps under the transitional housing strategy forward. It was agreed that the Planning Subcommittee will address this at the next meeting in October.

Members also discussed the importance of collaboration among the homeless and domestic violence providers. The need for productive outcomes in this area was expressed. Mattie Lord, UMOM New Day Centers, said that homeless providers often say that domestic violence is part of the homeless issue and that domestic violence providers often say that homelessness is part of the domestic violence issue. She added that there is some common ground and that the work being done in this area should focus on the common ground. Mr. Carlson suggested that training on trauma informed care could be beneficial. Ms. Mead indicated that discussion is underway with the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide a training session at the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Statewide Conference on Homelessness in October.

6. Regional Plan Report Card and Alignment with the Federal Strategic Plan

Chair James reviewed the Regional Plan Report Card that was provided as a handout to meeting participants. She asked members to review the action steps in the plan and to indicate any areas where progress has been made. Members reviewed the plan and reported that progress has been made in the following areas:

- Establish a Benefits Advocate position that will assist chronically homeless person who are eligible for benefits to apply for and receive SSI/SSDI: The Corporation for Supportive Housing is taking the lead on efforts to provide SOAR training that will start out at the Human Services Campus and then could possibly expand.
- Create a follow-up and support services teams to provide services to those in permanent supportive housing programs: This item can be moved to the “in progress” category as follow-up and support services teams are being created and implemented with each of the new rapid re-housing programs across the region.

Discussion ensued on the prevention-related steps in the plan. It was suggested that it would be good to have staff from the Community Action Programs engaged in the plan to work on the prevention activities. In addition, it was noted that the development of a centralized intake system will also help to prevent people from becoming homeless.

It was agreed that the action steps in the Continuum of Care Technical Assistance Plan should be woven in to the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. Ms. Mead said that she would do that and update the progress made on the implementation of the Regional Plan for the next Continuum of Care Regional Committee meeting.

7. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair James asked for input from Subcommittee members on items they would like to have considered for discussion at future meetings. It was suggested that the next meeting focus on action steps under the transitional housing strategy be addressed.

8. Comments from the Subcommittee

Chair James asked for updates from the Subcommittee.

Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, announced that the Coalition's new website should be live by Friday and that registration for the Annual Conference will be done through the new website.

Chair James said that the next Project Homeless Connect event will take place in Tempe on September 23rd at Bethany Community Church.

Rebecca Flanagan, HUD, announced that HUD is holding its' annual open house and awards ceremony on September 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the local HUD Headquarters.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Chair James thanked David Bridge at the Human Services Campus for hosting the meeting in their building.