

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2012

Members Attending

Theresa James, City of Tempe, Chair
Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of
Economic Security
Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service
Agency
Michelle Thomas for Robert Duvall,
Community Information & Referral
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
Kim Van Nimwegen for Amy
Schwablenlender, 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
Eddie Caine, Valley Metro
Dave Clitheroe, The Salvation Army
Jenny Day, Basic Mission
Aaron Gouldthorpe, Southwest
Behavioral Health
Dan Greenleaf, NOVA Safe Haven
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Karen Kurtz, Community Bridges
Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound
Robert Ruocco, Homeward Bound
Brian Straub, Recovery Innovations
Brande 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 2:05 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 November 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Chair James called for a motion to approve the November 7, 2011, meeting minutes. John Wall, Arizona Housing Inc., made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service Agency, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Regional Homeless Data Overview Update and Recommendations

Chair James informed the Subcommittee that Margaret Kilman was unable to attend the meeting and this item will, therefore, be tabled to the next meeting.

5. Valley Metro Vanpool Program

Chair James introduced Eddie Caine, Valley Metro, to provide information about the Valley Metro Vanpool program. Mr. Caine thanked Ms. James for inviting him to present at the meeting and for the opportunity to present about the Vanpool program. He provided an introduction about the program stating that there are about 400 vans across the region providing services to around 3,000 people. Mr. Caine said that funding for the program comes from a Federal program called Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC). The purpose is to provide transportation alternatives to low-income households.

Mr. Caine discussed the details of the program explaining that a minimum of six passengers are needed to start and maintain a vanpool and a primary driver needs to be identified. The primary driver needs to undergo a credit check and a Motor Vehicle Division check. He further added that the vanpool program is to provide transportation to work and work-related activities. The Vanpool cost per month is less than a monthly bus pass. The average rider pays around \$50 per month for the cost of the program.

Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed, asked if organizations can help subsidize the cost of the program. Mr. Caine responded that yes, organizations can subsidize the funding and that many employers are doing that across the valley. He added that the drivers can take the van home, if needed, and that the vanpool hours are not confined to certain times of the day. The time in which the vanpool operates depends on the needs of those in the vanpool.

Mr. Caine noted that one person in the vanpool would need to be responsible for monthly reporting in an on-line system that keeps track of information such as miles, number of riders, and fares. Donna Bleyle, AZ Department of Economic Security, asked how the program has been advertised to the community. Mr. Caine said that the program is new and there is not an advertising campaign.

Mr. Caine thanked members of the Planning Subcommittee for the opportunity to discuss the program and said he is willing to meet with anyone who would like additional information.

6. Family Options Study Update

Chair James welcomed Matt White, Abt Associates, to the meeting and thanked him for attending. Mr. White updated the Subcommittee on the progress of the HUD Family Options Study. Mr. White said that the enrollment portion of the study is winding down. Out of 252 families referred to the study, 150 families have been enrolled. He indicated that our community has reached its' enrollment goal. Mr. White added that our CoC is one of only two study communities to be completed with the enrollment portion of the study. In addition, our site has enrolled more families in the study than any other participating site.

Mr. White continued with his update stating that since enrollment is complete, our community will begin the second phase of the study. During phase two, the study team will follow the families who have been enrolled in each intervention for an 18 month period of time. The study team will be checking in with families on multiple family stability indicators during the 18 month period. Once the 18 month follow up is complete, a report will be

written on the results of the study describing what programs work best for families with certain characteristics.

Mr. White explained that the findings will probably not be available for approximately two years from now. However, he added that we can already glean information from the study on the way in which the enrollment process worked. Mr. White stated that a mini coordinated intake was developed among the participating study providers. Mr. White reviewed a handout with his observations on centralized intake given his experience with the Family Options Study. He offered these planning considerations:

- What obligation or responsibility does the community have to all homeless persons, not just those enrolled in programs?
- If Centralized Intake requires system-wide processes and decision making protocols for assessing needs, making referrals, and enforcing enrollment decisions, who or how should centralized intake management be structured?
- What are the resource considerations – systems development, implementation, and ongoing management?
- How can technology be leveraged – HMIS, 211, public assistance systems, etc.?

Chair James thanked Mr. White for his update on the Family Options Study and also thanked the participating shelters for enrolling families as part of the study.

7. Implementation of the CoC Technical Assistance Action Plan

Chair James referred members of the Subcommittee to the Continuum of Care Technical Assistance Action Plan and asked Brande Mead to lead the discussion on this item. Ms. Mead said that HUD has not responded to the technical assistance request but they did ask for budget information from Piper Ehlen, HomeBase. Ms. Mead said she would provide additional information as feedback is given from HUD.

Ms. Mead referenced the Planning Subcommittee meeting from August where the Subcommittee discussed prioritizing the goals and action steps in the plan. The Subcommittee recommended shifting their focus to the following strategy, “clarify the role of transitional housing in the CoC, and develop a plan for strengthening the performance, and perceived performance, of transitional housing programs.” Ms. Mead suggested that the Subcommittee focus on developing and implementing a program evaluation methodology. Chair James agreed and added that the focus should be on assessing performance, evaluating performance, and incentivizing those who are performing well.

Ms. Mead discussed the Columbus, OH evaluation process and suggested that the Subcommittee consider modeling our evaluation process after theirs. Discussion ensued about the Columbus model and the importance of using a best practices approach. Members agreed to review the Columbus evaluation materials and come prepared to the next Subcommittee meeting to discuss the process and materials in detail.

Members agreed that the Columbus model should be reviewed as well as other possible performance evaluation models. Ms. Mead added that the Continuum of Care approved performance measures associated with HUD funded McKinney-Vento programs. Ms. Mead

provided a handout with the approved performance measures. She suggested that the group review the performance measures and consider these. Ms. Mead continued that all of the major items that HUD is asking for regarding performance are included in these already approved measures. The members agreed that using the performance measures, approved for the HUD application would be a great place to start from.

8. 2012 Meeting Schedule

Chair James referred members to a draft meeting schedule for 2012. She said that she recommends that the Subcommittee meet monthly rather than bi-monthly because of all the work the Subcommittee is tasked with in 2012. Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County, made a motion to approve the monthly meeting schedule as presented. Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral seconded the motion. The 2012 meeting schedule passed unanimously.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair James asked for additional items to be considered for future agendas. There were no requests for future agenda items.

10. Comments from the Subcommittee

Chair James asked for comments from Subcommittee members. There were no comments.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.