

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Vice Mayor, Chair  
\*Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services  
\*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections  
Erika Larsen for Kendra Cea, APS  
\*Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye  
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Vice Mayor  
Christina Soto, Catholic Charities  
\*Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix, Councilmember  
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
\*Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance  
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of Arizona  
Judith Fritsch for Mattie Lord, Arizona Department of Economic Security/CPIP  
\*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department  
Holly Zoe for Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus  
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County  
Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Centers  
\*Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear, Councilmember, Vice Chair  
Gina Ramos Montes, City of Avondale  
Brenda Robbins, Arizona Dept of Health Services  
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way  
+Jacki Taylor, Save the Family  
Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Supervisor  
\*Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation  
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office for Children Youth and Families  
Chris Bartz, RIAZ  
Brad Bridwell, AZDVS  
Margot Cordova, Native American Connections  
Nicole Delgado, Florence Crittenden  
Esther Emadi, SBH  
Mona Frances, City of Glendale  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Anthony Irby, Department of Veteran Affairs  
Nancy Marion, House of Refuge  
Tim McCarthy, HUD  
JoEllen McNamera, Home Base  
Dottie O'Connell, CPLC  
Marlena Pina, Salvation Army  
Milon Pitts, homeward bound  
Maria Rodriguez, Basic Mission  
Travis Schulte, Az Dept of Veterans Services  
Joan Serviss, AZCEH  
Ted Taylor, Family Promise  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti  
Amber Wakeman, City of Tempe  
John Wall, AHI  
Tiffany Whitaker, SBH  
Christopher Wren Robin, The Underwood Types  
Chris Wudarski, WINR  
  
Rachel Brito, MAG  
Nick Lanza, MAG Intern  
Brandee Mead, MAG

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Committee. No comments were made.

3. Approval of the July 26, 2010 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellis asked for a motion to approve the July 26, 2010, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Mayor Steve Frate, City of Glendale. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix. The minutes were approved.

4. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee Report

Chair Ellis welcomed Brande Mead, MAG, to provide a report on the work of the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Mead advised Theresa James, Chair of the Planning Subcommittee was unable to attend. The Planning Subcommittee meeting was held on August 23, 2010. Ms. Mead advised the Subcommittee is in the process of developing a Regional Community Resource Guide for people experiencing homelessness. The work conducted is in response to action step number eleven in the Regional Plan to End Homelessness: Develop a tri-fold business card size community resource guide for persons who are experiencing homelessness. A draft resource guide will be presented at a future Continuum of Care Committee meeting.

Additionally, the Subcommittee received an update from Lora Reid, Valley of the Sun United Way, on the development of a hunger plan. Ms. Mead advised VSUW has created a hunger-free task force to address the link between hunger and homelessness. Other updates included Project Connect events and brown bag training sessions identified in action step number eight: Host brown-bag trainings for stakeholders. Ms. Mead noted the name was changed from Project Homeless Connect to Project Connect in an effort to reach people who may be on the verge of homelessness.

The Subcommittee also discussed plans for the 2011 MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the Stardust Foundation. This is the final year of confirmed funding for the event unless future funding is identified. Ms. Mead noted the Planning Subcommittee has indicated interest in planning the event. They have suggested highlighting memorable moments over the past decade and recent events as the theme for this year's luncheon. The event is planned for January however a date has not yet been confirmed. More information will follow. Ms. Mead asked for comments or questions from the Committee. Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department, made a motion to approve the Planning Subcommittee report as presented. Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services seconded the motion. The Planning Subcommittee report was approved.

## 5. Implications of Funding Reductions to Title XIX AHCCCS Eligible Clients

Chair Ellis introduced Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services and Stephanie Knox, Magellan, to provide an update on the impact of the Title XIX funding cuts for information and discussion. Ms. Robbins noted the process was both difficult and emotional. Magellan Health Services took a hands-on approach identifying what services each person was receiving. They attempted to maximize those services with those offered through community services. Community forums and meetings with local hospitals and stakeholders were held to ensure everyone was informed of what was occurring.

Ms. Robbins and Ms. Knox presented a PowerPoint presentation. An overview of funding impacts to non-Title XIX Behavioral Health Services included information on the following:

- Behavioral Health Services for non-Title XIX Members with a Serious Mental Illness
  - The Arizona Legislature appropriated \$40 million in State General Funds to provide a medication only benefit for Non-Title XIX members with a serious mental illness.
  - Services covered and not covered
  - Benefit Administration
    - 8,000 individuals were identified as non Title XIX members.
    - It was noted RBHA began efforts to immediately transfer any Non-Title XIX SMI members to community based services. Additionally, efforts were underway to identify individuals who qualify for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Services (AHCCCS) are covered.
    - SMI determination and review of requirements will continue.
  - Documentation Expectations
  - Court-Ordered Evaluations
- Behavioral Health Services for Individuals Experiencing a Behavioral Health Crisis
  - The Arizona State Legislator appropriated \$16 million in State General Funds for services to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
  - Required services and covered crisis benefit
  - Benefit Administration
- Behavioral Health Services for Title XIX SMI Members in Supported Housing
  - The Arizona State legislator appropriated \$5.3 million for Supported Housing
  - Population Served
  - Administration of housing state general funds
  - Other expectations
  - Partnered with Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation and UMOM to provide support services
  - 231 individuals who were non-Title XIX were identified. Of those, 137 were not able to receive assistance and were transitioned. 94 individuals were able to maintain their housing.
  - State funds cannot be used to pay for room and board. Magellan continues to fund room and board costs to ensure individuals continue receiving.

Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department, noted a recent Commission meeting in which Magellan was applauded by the state and community for protecting crisis benefits for our community. He noted that there continues to be a need for the crisis system to work better within the community as there remains a culture of resistance and territory. As providers, the most important objective is to enroll individuals in AHCCCS. Ms. Robbins noted a contract for proposals to provide train-the-trainer training to help individuals apply for benefits.

Ms. Robbins noted much concern in the provider community about the possibility of having to determine citizen status as this is not the providers' role. Additional information regarding documents accepted by AHCCCS to verify citizenship and identity will be distributed to further clarify requirements.

6. AZ Coalition to End Homelessness 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness  
Chair Ellis introduced Brad Bridwell, AZCEH Chairman, to provide an update on the conference. Mr. Bridwell introduced Joan Serviss, Executive Director of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. Ms. Serviss replaced Jacki Taylor who has joined Save the Family. Additionally, Steve Capobres stepped down as Board Chairman of the Coalition providing Mr. Bridwell the opportunity to assume the role of Board Chairman. In addition, previous Vice Chair Victor Hudenko has been replaced by Mark Clark.

The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness' 17th Annual Statewide Conference will be held October 18-19, 2010 in Phoenix. The theme this year is "*Challenging Times and Golden Opportunities*" and will include a veterans' track. Keynote speakers include Anthony Love, Deputy Director, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and Dr. Jim O'Connell, Director, Boston Health Care for the Homeless. Mr. Bridwell noted Dr. O'Connell is responsible for research related to the vulnerability index. Registration for the conference is available on the website at [www.azceh.org](http://www.azceh.org).

Mr. Bridwell advised the awards ceremony will no longer be held during the conference but will instead be held after the first day of the conference at 5:00 p.m. This will allow those interested to attend just the awards ceremony if they so choose. Mr. Bridwell acknowledged John Wall, Awards Chair, for putting the event together. Ms. Serviss addressed the Committee thanking everyone for the opportunity to participate on the Committee. She acknowledged the AZCEH Board noting the conference will provide an amazing opportunity to address the issues in the community.

7. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Application Score and 2010 Application Process  
Chair Ellis invited Brande Mead, MAG, to provide an update on the scores and feedback received from HUD on the 2009 McKinney-Vento application and provide an update on the 2010 application process. Ms. Mead referenced a handout of the 2009 score summary. The Continuum scored 86.25 out of 100 points which was well above the national average (75). Ms. Mead noted the Continuum scored better than average in all categories. The scoring process for 2010 will be similar therefore no major changes will be seen in this cycle.

For the 2010 process, HUD released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) September 20, 2010. \$1.68 billion is available in funding. The due date for the consolidated application is November 18, 2010. Ms. Mead noted there are some major changes that will impact the process which include the permanent housing bonus project. She noted the Continuum is required to demonstrate collaboration with education agencies and inform McKinney Vento of those identified as homeless. If families will be served, the Continuum has to demonstrate policies and procedures are established including a designated staff person to ensure children are enrolled in school.

The local HUD consolidated application process is now underway. Technical assistance training will be offered on October 5, 2010. Ms. Mead advised performance measures will be discussed and approved at a special meeting scheduled for October 25, 2010.

#### 8. Brown Bag Training Calendar

Chair Ellis introduced Nick Lanza, ASU Intern, to provide an overview of brown bag training sessions. Mr. Lanza advised the purpose for the brown bag trainings are to provide homeless service providers and stakeholders tools to increase coordination and deliver effective service. The brown bag trainings will also satisfy action steps eight and nine of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Mr. Lanza provided a handout to members listing the training sessions that are scheduled as well as topic areas in which sessions are being planned. He also indicated that some of the training sessions will be satisfying additional goals in the Regional Plan to End Homelessness, such as:

- Increase awareness and communication between domestic violence and homeless providers.
- Educate service providers about the navigation of the behavioral health system.
- Educate service providers and case managers about financial management techniques.

He noted that the effectiveness of the brown bag trainings will be measured by survey forms to participants. Anyone interested in registering for brown-bag training sessions may RSVP to Mr. Lanza at [nlanza@azmag.gov](mailto:nlanza@azmag.gov).

#### 9. Implementing the HEARTH Act

Chair Ellis introduced Ms. Mead to discuss the HEARTH Act requirements and begin discussion on the process for local implementation. Ms. Mead had the opportunity to attend the HEARTH Act training sponsored by HUD on September 14-17, 2010. Overall there will be system-wide level changes that will impact the Continuum and community programs. The HEARTH ACT was enacted on May 20, 2009 and was the first significant reauthorization of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs since 1992.

Ms. Mead advised major changes will be required as the HEARTH Act is implemented. Performance at the regional level will be critical, as there will be a paradigm shift on how HUD will rate performance as a community. Emphasis will be on prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing as well as on outcome measures. Outcomes will

be based on HUD-funded and non HUD-funded programs. Ms. Mead noted this is probably the most significant change and most concerning change for the Continuum across the country as HUD will measure decreases in length of homeless episodes, recidivism back to homelessness, and number of people who become homeless.

Additional changes include bigger capital grants, non-competitive renewals for PSH, and all permanent housing activities will be adjusted for inflation at renewal. For example, projects that received funding in 1999 have never been able to have an increase in funding. There are also major changes in the definition of homelessness. The reauthorization changed HUD's definition of homeless; the full definition is available on HUD's website. Ms. Mead advised the definition expands to include people at-risk of being homeless. Under HEARTH, the definition for chronic homeless includes families. Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds will be able to serve as prevention dollars.

Ms. Mead reviewed the general timeline noting the NOFA will be released sometime in 2010 and is expected to include some changes. She stressed communities need to begin planning for 2011 now. Under the HEARTH Act, there will be a consolidation of programs. The current NOFA separates funding into three programs. The new method will be combining all three into one Continuum of Care program. This will allow more flexibility on funding and up to ten percent administrative dollars for projects. With regard to formula and competitive funding, ESG will change its name to Emergency Solutions Grant. The ESG formula will continue to go to cities, counties and states. The application process will be similar however instead of a lead agency; MAG will become the collaborative applicant. MAG will receive up to three percent for administrative dollars. There will be an additional focus on performance as the consolidated plan requires coordination with Continuums across the region.

Ms. Mead advised grantees will be seeing some changes regarding match as under HEARTH match can be cash or in-kind as long as it is documented by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additional requirements include changes in the age restrictions for children, identifying persons responsible for coordinating children's education, and the collaborative applicant being responsible for ensuring everyone participates in HMIS. There will be some incentives for communities that do well performance-wise. Ms. Mead noted bonus dollars will be available for proven strategies based on HUD's approval. If a proven strategy is fully implemented a Continuum can get funding to "do anything".

The HEARTH Act will introduce a new way to distribute dollars called United Funding Agency (UFA). Ms. Mead shared a diagram of how funding is currently being distributed and how it would change. Under the UFA model, HUD contracts with the UFA and UFA contracts with the projects. The UFA is responsible for audits and fiscal controls under that model and for monitoring project performance as well as other administrative duties outlined in regulations. HUD indicated that the new model is the preferred model moving forward. Ms. Mead stressed the need for communities to start preparing for the HEARTH Act changes now. Additional information is available on the HUD website.

The Committee discussed concerns about duplication in monitoring. Ms. Mead advised more details are forthcoming. Darlene Newsome, UMOM, inquired how MAG will address domestic violence shelters in HMIS. Ms. Mead advised domestic violence shelters are exempt from participating in HMIS per federal policy.

Mr. Margiotta asked if there is additional flexibility in supportive service dollars. Ms. Mead advised HUD has indicated their priority is housing. She noted there are no expectations additional supportive services dollars from HUD. However, HHS and Veteran Affairs have been discussing the importance of collaboration among state agencies and potential partnerships for supportive service funding.

Gina Montes, City of Avondale, inquired whether or not MAG receives administrative funds from the Continuum of Care. Ms. Mead advised MAG has facilitated the process since 1999 but has not previously received funding. With regard to taking on the additional responsibilities HUD is encouraging; Ms. Mead said she feels the Continuum is in a good position to move forward.

#### 10. 2011 Homeless Street Count

Chair Ellis invited Ms. Mead to provide an update on plans for the 2011 Homeless Street Count. Ms. Mead advised plans are underway for the street and shelter count to occur on January 25, 2011. Cities and towns are being contacted and asked to identify who the coordinator will be for their respective area. Training for street count coordinators is scheduled at the end of October. Ms. Mead expressed gratitude to all who have participated in this event and encouraged others who have not participated to do so.

#### 11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Ellis asked for input from the Committee on any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas. No requests were noted.

#### 12. Announcements

Chair Ellis asked for announcements from Committee members.

- Holly Zoe, Human Services Campus, announced a “save the date” for November 5, 2010 to celebrate HSC’s five-year anniversary. The all-day event will include food and music. More information will follow.
- Mr. Bridwell announced HUD and VA will release a 400 project-based voucher competition on October 1, 2010. The competition will be to fill in gaps in development of units across the nation.
- A conference call is scheduled for September 30, 2010 at 2 p.m. Eastern time to discuss supportive services for veteran families. The grant opportunity is a new competition for re-housing and prevention solution for veteran families. Additional information is available by contacting Mr. Bridwell or on the website at [www.nchb.org](http://www.nchb.org).

- A V.A. grant and per diem training for providers will be held on November 19, 2010 at the Arizona Coalition for Military Families on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and McDowell Road.
- The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness' 17th **Annual Statewide Conference** will be held October 18-19, 2010 in Phoenix. The theme this year is "*Challenging Times and Golden Opportunities*". The event will include a veterans' track.
- A community briefing will be held at the Disability Empowerment Center on November 3, 2010 to discuss Project H3: Home, Health Hope.
- Chair Ellis reminded the Committee of the special meeting scheduled for October 25, 2010 at 2 p.m. to approve the performance measures. The Committee's next regular meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2010.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned 3:38 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for October 25, 2010, at 2:00 in the MAG Saguaro Room.