

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
OCTOBER 25, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Councilmember,
Chair
Bob Duvall for 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
Theresa James, City of Tempe
*Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix,
Councilmember
*Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of
Arizona
Judith Fritsch for Arizona Department of
Economic Security/CPIP
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Mattie Lord for 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
Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
*Christina Soto, Catholic Charities
Jacki Taylor, Save the Family
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates

*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Nicky Stevens for Ted Williams, Arizona
Behavioral Health Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Tia Allen, AAA
Mike Bell, SVDP
Brad Bridwell, AZDVS
Cynthia Brooks, NOVA Safe Haven
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix, HSD
+Mary Colson, The Salvation Army
Sonny Culbreth, City of Litchfield Park
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed Center for Youth
Development
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center
Jeffrey Jamison, City of Phoenix, HSD
Nancy Marion, House of Refuge
Frank Migalli, Arizona Department of Education
Marlena Pina, Salvation Army
Milon Pitts, Homeward Bound
Vicki Rainey, RIAZ
Amy Vogelsson, Southwest Behavioral Health
Services
Amber Wakeman, City of Tempe
+Chris Wudarski, WINR

Rachel Brito, MAG
Brandi Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, 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 2:11 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 September 27, 2010 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellis asked for a motion to approve the September 27, 2010, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Mayor Steve Frate, City of Glendale. The motion was seconded by Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral. The minutes were approved.

4. Approval of the Performance Measures for the 2010 Application for HUD McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Funding

Chair Ellis invited Brande Mead, MAG to discuss the performance measures for the 2010 HUD application. The performance measures were emailed to Committee members on October 22, 2010 for review. Ms. Mead advised the Continuum of Care responds to five Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) objectives each year. This year's performance objectives have not changed from the prior year but have been updated to include projects occurring within the community.

A draft of the performance measures was provided in the handouts. Short-term goals are proposed for completion within twelve months and long-term goals are proposed for completion within ten years. Ms. Mead requested input on additional projects and work happening throughout the community as well as input on how to strengthen the current draft. Recommendations for additional measures may also be submitted for consideration.

Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW), requested a correction to the number of permanent supportive housing units proposed by 2020. The handout reflects a goal of 3,000 units, however, the correct number is 1,000 units. Additionally, Ms. Schwabenlender noted VSUW is working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to help sponsor a state housing institute focused on supportive housing. A formal invitation will be distributed to anyone interested in applying in early 2011. Ms. Mead and Ms. Schwabenlender agreed to collaborate on rewriting the goal.

Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, addressed the Committee regarding homeless households with children. He noted the Continuum of Care's Strategic Planning Objectives for 2010/2011 does not identify youth providers or what their focus should be. He stressed the difficulty in offering permanent housing for individuals under age 25. Mr. Geasland asked if the language for the goal was written by HUD and if there is any flexibility on the goal.

Ms. Mead advised the goal to "*Decrease the number of homeless households with children*" was taken directly from the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). She agreed the objectives within the goal should be strengthened. Ms. Mead suggested strengthening the goal by adding short and/or long term planning objectives formed through community partnerships. Mr. Geasland recommended reporting on housing units that are available. He

stressed the importance of having a homeless liaison participate in the Continuum of Care meetings.

Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus, recommended consistency throughout the document regarding use of the words Permanent Housing (PH). He noted the narrative discusses supportive permanent housing. Ms. Mead acknowledged the recommendation to revise the document to state Permanent Supportive Housing throughout for consistency. Chair Ellis referenced Mr. Geasland's comments regarding households with children. She requested further suggestions or input from the Committee. Mattie Lord, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM), recommended using the bonus projects to make units for families as a long-term goal. She said there are several permanent housing developments for families, but was uncertain how to incorporate this as a goal.

Additionally, Ms. Lord noted shelters are not admitting many families. Ms. Mead questioned whether or not there are specific diversion programs. Ms. Lord offered to provide a list of diversion programs offered through UMOM. The Committee discussed the need to find alternatives to admitting families to shelter by offering immediate housing options. Jacki Taylor, Save the Family, recommended a triage approach to determine if permanent housing is a more appropriate as opposed to emergency or transitional housing options.

Mr. Geasland discussed the number of youth at the drop in centers. He recommended including statistics on the number of youth assisted and demonstrating the need for supportive services. Ms. Mead asked whether the intent is to expand the number of youth services reach out to or the number of youth impacted by services offered. Mr. Geasland agreed noting the ability to maintain services is also key along with early intervention.

Chair Ellis asked for further input from the Committee. Ms. Taylor discussed employment goals questioning whether or not to incorporate language that would target getting individuals employed at a higher than minimum rate wage. She noted skill building is a necessary component as it is impossible to maintain affordable housing on minimum wage. She said it would be interesting to track organizations where people are being located based on wage scale. Ms. Mead asked for input from Committee members whose agencies offer employment programs. Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services, said they have an employment specialist on staff. She noted difficulty obtaining jobs that pay more than minimum wage.

Ms. Lord asked for clarification on HUD's employment goal. Ms. Mead advised the HUD goal is based on the percent of clients who are employed at exit. While the goal is set by HUD, the Continuum's strategy can include education and training. Nicky Stevens, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, noted for the Serious Mental Illness (SMI) population, there is no expectation to increase wages, however, the goal is for individuals to maintain their housing. Ms. Mead recommended adding an objective that would address education and training.

Ms. Robbins advised DES and DHS have an agreement with regards to rehabilitation in which they share employees, employment goals, and salaries. She recommended including

this agreement as one of the strategies and offered to send additional information to Ms. Mead. Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of Arizona, said when working with the SMI population, the goal is on housing retention. She noted many individuals do volunteer work for some time before they gain employment. Ms. Lord asked if volunteer work is counted as employment. Ms. Robbins advised HUD does not consider volunteer work as actual employment. Ms. Mead noted that the difficulty for SMI individuals to gain employment is indicated as a challenge each year by providers serving that population. Unfortunately, HUD requires Continuum's to report on the number of individuals that are exiting the program employed.

Ms. Lord asked how the goal "*Increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 20 percent*" compares to the prior year and what the trend has been. Ms. Mead advised percentages are being compiled and will be provided at the November meeting. She further added the trend has been increasing and that she has heard concerns about the difficulty in meeting the goal. Additionally, Ms. Mead advised the Continuum has been above national standard for many years, but it is becoming more difficult.

Brad Bridwell, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, addressed the Committee offering to add context to the discussion. He indicated that if housing retention for persons with a disability is the main goal, then people will not be exiting the programs as often and will not be included in the overall percentage that's being measured. He clarified that the percentage is measured only on those who exit the program, not those who remain in the program.

Ms. Mead summarized the Committee's recommendations.

- Permanent Housing beds for chronically homeless persons
 - Changes wording to permanent supportive housing to be consistent throughout.
 - Change VSUW long term goal of 3,000 units by 2020 to 1,000 units by 2015.
 - Change the term *permanent housing toolkit* to *an institute for supportive housing*. Work with Ms. Schwabenlender on revising language.
- Increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 20 percent.
 - Add education and training to goals. Collaborate with Ms. Robbins to include information on the agreement between DES and DHS.
- Decrease the number of homeless household with children
 - Include information for drop in services.
- Additional items to be added
 - Allocate bonus funding for families
 - Long-term goal for diversion program
 - Follow-up with the NRP Group, LLC on their development of family units

Chair Ellis asked for a motion from the Committee. Ms. Robbins made a motion to approve the 2010 HUD McKinney-Vento performance measures with the changes recommended by the Committee. Vice Mayor Frate seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. 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.

Ms. Mead advised Vice Chair JoAnne Osborne was unable to attend but requested Ms. Mead share an email with the Committee. Vice Chair Osborne's email referenced the statement of concern regarding funding reductions that is being prepared by the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee. This document will be further discussed by Amy St. Peter, MAG. Vice Chair Osborne noted her attendance at the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness conference at which Anthony Love, Deputy Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, was the keynote speaker. Vice Chair Osborne expressed concern over Mr. Love's presentation and the federal government wanting to partner with Continuums yet taking a lead position. Vice Chair Osborne shared through her email, her belief that the cities, counties and state have what it takes to fight homelessness. Ms. Mead advised this topic can be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, advised the Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) has been working on a statement of concern about funding reductions and the impact in the region. The purpose for the statement is to raise awareness so people understand human services programs make assistance available but also put money back into the economy while helping individuals live independently. She advised the statement will be offered for approval in December to the MAG Regional Council. She noted Vice Chair Osborne's desire to share this with the Continuum as it impacts the work done by the Committee.

6. Announcements

Chair Ellis asked for announcements from Committee members.

Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus, advised the Ending Homelessness Advisory Board and VSUW's efforts to create 250 units is off to a good start. He said 33 out of 55 units in the Tempe pilot project are occupied and the ABC Human Services Campus offers 50 units for SMI, of which, 38 are occupied.

Additionally, the Human Services Campus will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on November 5, 2010. The celebration will offer events all day long.

Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral, advised the Maricopa HMIS project is a finalist for the Loadstar Collaboration prize which could provide additional funding for HMIS if they are selected as the winner. Prize recipients will be notified by April.

Mr. Geasland advised Tumbleweed and A New Leaf were awarded the Bank of America Excellence Award. Ms. Schwabenlender recognized Mr. Bridwell for his efforts on the AZCEH conference.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for November 15, 2010, at 2:00 in the MAG Saguaro Room.