

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MAY 20, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tammy Albright, City of Mesa
*Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing
Libby Bissa, City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic Security
*Kathryn Brown, Arizona Department of Corrections
*Rick Buss, Town of Gila Bend, Town Manager
Amanda Ripstra for Steve Capobres, Catholic Charities
*Kendra Cea, APS
*Krista Cornish, Town of Buckeye
Catherine Rea Dunning, Community Information & Referral Services
Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Councilmember
Jessica Blazina for Janeen Gaskins, City of Surprise
Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler, Councilmember, Vice Chair
*Ian Hugh, City of Glendale, Councilmember
Theresa James, City of Tempe
*Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix, Vice Mayor
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus
*Frank Migali, Arizona Department of Education
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Center
Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear, Vice Mayor, Chair
Sean Price, Arizona Department of Veterans Services
Gina Ramos Montes, City of Avondale
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way
Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Ayres-Benavidez, A New Leaf
Michelle Bachorski, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Brad Bridwell, Cloud Break
Gina Brockendorff, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Chris Burke, Recovery Innovations
Steve Camacho, Phoenix Rescue Mission
Mark Dobson, A New Leaf
Joe Elic, RIAZ
+Cindy Ensign, City of Scottsdale
Dick Geasland, Sojourner Center
Connie Hallett, A New Leaf
Vicki Helland, CBI
Rosalie Hernandez, A New Leaf
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Tom Hutchinson, A New Leaf
Miranda Jilek, Lifewell Behavioral Wellness
Margaret Kilman, Department of Economic Security
Karen Kurtz, Community Bridges
Terri Leveton, NOVA Safe Haven
Jodi Liggett, Phoenix Mayor's Office
Gilbert Lopez, City of Glendale
Mattie Lord, UMOM
Nancy Marion, House of Refuge
Kenneth McKinley, Tumbleweed
Mary Alice McKone, The Salvation Army
Brian Petersen, HOM Inc.
+Rob Schweitzer, City of Mesa
Charles Sullivan, ABC
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti
Kimberly Thompson, LCSA
Craig Tribken, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Kim Van Nimwegan, VSUW
Katie Wiening, Central Arizona Services
Gene Wikle, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Chris Wudarski, WINR

Homelessness

Ursula Strepshans, Maricopa County Human Services Department
Laura Skotniki for Jacki Taylor, Save the Family
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
Nicky Stevens for Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corp.
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

Rachel Brito, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Melodie Jackson, MAG

**Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.*

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Joanne Osborne, Vice Mayor, City of Goodyear, called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. Chair Osborne requested a roll call of the Committee and roll call attendance ensued. An introduction of the audience ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Committee. No comments were made. Chair Osborne advised this would be her last meeting as Chair of the Committee. She acknowledged everyone for their efforts and hard work over the past couple of years and encouraged them to continue the fight to end homelessness. Vice Chair Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler, acknowledged Chair Osborne for her dedication, efforts and leadership over the past two years.

3. Approval of the March 18, 2013 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

A motion was requested to approve the March 18, 2013 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus. The motion was seconded by Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic Security. The motion passed.

4. Leadership Transition

Chair Osborne advised that Vice Chair Hartke will be appointed as the new Chair of the Committee. Letters of interest are being sought for a new Vice Chair position. The letters of interest must be submitted by June 4th to the Chair of the MAG Regional Council, Mayor Lopez Rogers. The Vice Chair will be appointed by the MAG Executive Committee in June.

5. Continuum of Care Committee Evaluation and Feedback

Chair Osborne welcomed Amy St. Peter, MAG, to provide an overview of the Continuum of Care Committee evaluation and feedback and to lead discussion about the committee

activities and next steps. Ms. St. Peter provided a brief overview of the survey methodology. She advised that 829 surveys were distributed to committee members and stakeholders of MAG. The total Continuum of Care response rate was 23 percent. She informed the Committee the purpose of the presentation was to identify areas for further exploration and encourage open communication.

Ms. St. Peter reviewed a comparison of results from Continuum of Care members and MAG overall for nine specific questions identified in the survey. The questions focused on meeting the region's needs, collaboration, serving as an effective convener and forum for work on regional issues, openness to amend processes and procedures, leadership, and the importance of relationships with non-profit agencies. Upon completing the overview, an opportunity was provided for the Committee to provide input on the Continuum's strengths, areas for enhancement, raising the level of communication and next steps.

Mr. McQuaid noted the response rate is a relatively small sample. He noted the importance of addressing how the Continuum of Care, Valley of the Sun United Way, the Human Services Campus, and other agencies all fit into the overall effort to end homelessness. He commented on the positive efforts and effectiveness of working together stressing that these efforts should be highlighted more.

Donna Bleyle, Arizona Department of Economic Security, inquired about MAG's value in the efforts to end homelessness considering the staffing levels and ability to participate in numerous meetings. Ms. St. Peter advised MAG has been committed to the Continuum of Care Regional Committee to End Homelessness since 1999. Throughout the years, no funding has been received from HUD to sustain these efforts. She reassured the Committee that there is numerous people at MAG that while not at the forefront, do support these efforts through the work they do.

Chair Osborne noted the Continuum of Care's efforts are not often mentioned in communications from MAG. She recommended there be a spotlight on the CoC's efforts to inform other groups of the work being done. Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County, suggested increasing the Committee's diversity in membership will help to bring greater awareness to this issue. Linda Mushkatel agreed and commented that the public needs more communication on homelessness.

David Bridge recommended that membership be developed in a way that is a transparent process and inclusive. Amy Schwabenlender suggested conducting another survey with a larger pool of stakeholders.

6. Continuum of Care Program and HEARTH Act Information

On May 6, 2013, Ann Oliva, Director, Office of Special Needs and Assistance Programs for HUD, released a letter to CoC leaders, grant recipients, and stakeholders. The purpose of the letter was to provide an update on key initiatives and issues that impact the CoC Program and ongoing implementation of the HEARTH Act. Chair Osborne invited Brande Mead to provide an overview of the letter and begin a discussion on next steps in preparation for the 2013 HUD funding application.

Ms. Mead provided a summary of the key points noted in the letter. She noted a requirement from HUD to plan for a 3.5 percent reduction in funding due to sequestration. Additionally, the CoC is reopening the public comment period on the interim regulations; the public comment period regarding the definition of chronic homelessness will end on May 28.

The letter recommends the following steps communities can take to maintain and increase progress on ending homelessness:

- Develop a community-wide plan to address homelessness, including a conscious strategy of how to use CoC and ESG Program funds to support the strategy.
- Direct assistance to those who need it most and in ways that promote ending homelessness.
- Invest in and use data to drive decision-making on homelessness, both for the overarching plan and for annual allocation decisions.
- Form strategic partnerships with mainstream agencies and funders to prevent and end homelessness.

Ms. Mead recommended follow up meetings to identify short and long-term funding priorities.

7. Continuum of Care HEARTH Act Implementation Update: CoC Governance Structure

At the March 18, 2013 Continuum of Care meeting, the Committee recommended a governance structure that meets the requirements of the HEARTH Act and includes a CoC Board, an Advisory Group and Ad Hoc working groups. The next step is to appoint members to the CoC Board and Advisory Group.

Ms. Mead advised a working group meeting is scheduled for June 3rd at 9:30 a.m. to begin to identify the Board and Advisory Group members. She referred the Committee to the handout on Governance Structure noting that the business community, mental health hospital, universities, homeless or formerly homeless, are not currently represented on the Continuum. Ms. Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections, recommended an affordable housing representative also be added to the membership.

Ms. Newsome expressed concern over not having enough time to fully understand the decisions being made before moving forward. She requested an opportunity to review what other communities have implemented to learn from their experiences and inquired about the timeframe. Ms. Mead advised the Governance Charter must be in place within two years of then the interim rule was released. She advised it benefits the Continuum to have this in place when the NOFA is released to be able to include these efforts in the Continuum's application. Ms. Bleye commented that there should be a formal reason to delay the process and recommended not delaying the processes for an extended period of time.

It was noted that the Department of Corrections have not been an engaged partner in the Continuum's efforts. Additionally, representation from foster care, child protective services and young adults is also necessary. The Committee inquired if there is enough time available to obtain information from other sites. It was noted the recommendation made during the last meeting was on the governance structure which would include a Board, and Advisory Board. Theresa James, City of Tempe, expressed agreement that additional information is needed, specifically on how the Continuum and the board will work, prior to inviting other people to join. Ms. Mead advised research on what other communities are doing has begun. Information gathered to date can be shared at the upcoming meeting on June 3rd. Additionally, Ms. Mead offered to reach out to the technical assistance consultants for additional support.

The Committee discussed the best timeframe for steps to be completed and implemented. There was mutual agreement to complete the research by the end of the third quarter with a goal for implementation by end of year 2013. Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun Untied Way, inquired how these efforts tie into the United Funding Act (UFA). Ms. Mead advised that designation as a UFA is a process that's applied for through the HUD NOFA and not currently part of the governance discussion. Ms. Mead advised the Governance Charter would address the Board, the Advisory Group, and Stakeholders groups.

Having no further discussion, Mr. McQuaid made a motion to approve studying and discussing next steps of the Hearth Act by the end of September and having the Board and Advisory Board established by end of year. Theresa James seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Rapid Results Housing Acceleration Boot Camp

Chair Osborne invited Ms. Schwabenlender to provide an update on the Rapid Results Housing Acceleration Boot Camp. Ms. Schwabenlender provided an overview of the Rapid Results Acceleration Boot Camps aimed at helping communities find ways of increasing the number of chronically homeless and vulnerable people housed every month.

The Boot Camp took place on May 14 through 16 in Chicago and was coordinated by the USICH, HUD, VA, Community Solutions and Rapid Results Institute. Ms. Schwabenlender shared a list of just under 20 representatives that represented the largest and most diverse team representing public, private nonprofit and government agencies. The team named themselves the County Crusaders of Maricopa.

Ms. Schwabenlender provided a brief history of similar efforts in 2012 aimed at housing chronically homeless Veterans. This experience was used to further refine and strengthen the 2013 boot camp curriculum while working with the Community Solutions' 100,000 Homes Campaign, and the Rapid Results Institute. Ms. Schwabenlender advised the 100-day Acceleration Goal is that the Maricopa County Region will house 55 people per month for a total of 165 chronic individuals by August 31, 2013 and will maintain a placement rate of 50-55 per month until 2015. Ms. Schwabenlender advised the next meeting of the County Crusaders of Maricopa will be on May 31st at the Disability Empowerment Center from 8:00 a.m. to noon. She encouraged everyone to attend and be part of the team.

9. 2013 PIT Homeless Count Results

Brandee Mead, MAG, offered an update on the 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count. She shared results from 2005 through 2013 for both street and shelter counts. Ms. Mead advised that the results from 2012 to 2013 are not a like for like comparison due to the change in methodology. Additional charts were provided to reflect chronic versus non-chronic, sheltered, unsheltered, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven as well as families, unaccompanied youth and singles, and gender. The Committee agreed that the methodology should not change and that the 2013 results become the base for moving forward.

10. Agency Spotlight: Encanto Point

Chair Osborne welcomed Diana Yazzie Devine to provide an agency spotlight on Encanto Point, a new permanent supportive housing program. Ms. Devine provided a PowerPoint presentation on Encanto Point, which is located at 4175 N. 9th Street in Phoenix. The grand opening of Encanto Point was held on February 5, 2013.

11. Announcements

An opportunity was provided for Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mr. McQuaid acknowledged Chair Osborne for her leadership. He stressed the need to publicize the Continuum's efforts and highlight what is working and what is being done right. He acknowledged Mayor Greg Stanton for his support of these efforts.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for July 15, 2013.