

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

May 17, 2011

SUBJECT:

Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project

SUMMARY:

Calls to 911 for domestic violence are among the highest number of calls received by law enforcement in this region. Domestic violence calls to 911 also generate the highest number of reports written on scene. When the incident moves from the crime scene to the courtroom, the majority of misdemeanor domestic violence cases are dismissed. This results in a significant cost to the criminal justice system and increased trauma to the victim. A MAG study determined domestic violence costs the region \$18-26 million in expenses related to law enforcement, courts and jails each year.

To address this issue, MAG received a \$250,000 STOP grant from the Governor's Office to evaluate the protocols used to arrest domestic violence offenders at the misdemeanor level through the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project. This is an important opportunity to make a difference in the criminal justice system that addresses domestic violence. It is important that leadership of MAG member agencies encourage their components within law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates to work on this issue in order to have more effective outcomes for victims and to lower costs for the municipalities.

A protocol inventory is being developed to ensure a fact-based assessment of the way the region responds to domestic violence through the criminal justice system. Additional activities include the development of enhancements to the protocols, training based on these changes, and a public service announcement video to raise awareness about what can be done to stop domestic violence. A report will be offered on the results of the project to date. Cooperation among local governments will result in additional opportunities to develop effective system solutions to mitigate the trauma and costs associated with domestic violence.

PUBLIC INPUT:

An opportunity for public input was provided at the MAG Management Committee meeting on May 11, 2011 and MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting on April 7, 2011. No comments were made.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: The Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project (PEP) will have a positive impact on holding domestic violence abusers accountable across the region. The project will reduce municipal costs for addressing domestic violence by streamlining existing processes used by law enforcement and prosecutors. The project is already showing benefits to the community by increasing communication across the systems. Collaboration has increased through conversations on lessons learned and strategies for coordination.

CONS: None.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: The project includes development of a regional protocol inventory, research into local and national promising practices, and strengthening working relationships across the law enforcement, prosecution, and advocacy communities. Assessment of the existing protocols based on promising practices and input from field experts will result in identifying strategies to enhance existing systems, and developing training curriculum for implementing the changes.

POLICY: The project will serve to increase cost efficiency when moving domestic violence cases through the criminal justice system. Increasing communication between law enforcement and prosecutors will strengthen existing collaborations, help to leverage limited resources, and provide opportunities for streamlining processes. The community will benefit as more victims feel safe and more abusers are held accountable. Local government will benefit from the cost savings generated by streamlining the criminal justice system. These savings can be used to meet other community needs.

ACTION NEEDED:

Information and discussion.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

On May 11, 2011, the MAG Management Committee heard a presentation on the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project, including opportunities for supporting the project by encouraging participation in affinity group meetings for developing a model policy for misdemeanor domestic violence offenses.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| Carl Swenson, Peoria, Chair | Bill Hernandez, Guadalupe |
| Charlie Meyer, Tempe, Vice Chair | Sonny Culbreth for Darryl Crossman,
Litchfield Park |
| # Matt Busby for George Hoffman,
Apache Junction | Kari Kent for Christopher Brady, Mesa |
| Charlie McClendon, Avondale | David Andrews for Jim Bacon,
Paradise Valley |
| * Stephen Cleveland, Buckeye | David Cavazos, Phoenix |
| Gary Neiss, Carefree | # Wendy Kaserman for John Kross,
Queen Creek |
| Wayne Anderson for Usama Abujbarah,
Cave Creek | * Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community |
| Patrice Kraus for Rich Dlugas, Chandler | David Richert, Scottsdale |
| Leah Hubbard for Spencer Isom, El Mirage | Michael Celaya for Mark Coronado, Surprise |
| * Phil Dorchester, Fort McDowell
Yavapai Nation | # Chris Hagen for Reyes Medrano, Tolleson |
| Julie Ghatti for Rick Davis, Fountain Hills | Gary Edwards, Wickenburg |
| Rick Buss, Gila Bend | Lloyce Robinson, Youngtown |
| * David White, Gila River Indian Community | Tim Wolfe for John Halikowski, ADOT |
| Collin DeWitt, Gilbert | John Hauskins for David Smith,
Maricopa Co. |
| Brent Stoddard for Ed Beasley, Glendale | * David Boggs, Valley Metro/RPTA |
| Mark Gaillard for John Fischbach,
Goodyear | |

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
Participated by telephone conference call. + Participated by videoconference call.

On April 7, 2011, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of next steps for the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project, including further exploration of protocol enhancement opportunities as identified through affinity group meetings and assessment of the regional protocol inventory.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- * Celeste Adams, Save the Family
Christina Avila, Avondale
- * Lt. Robert Bates, Phoenix Police Dept.
John Belatti, Chandler
Larry Grubbs for John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ
Criminal Justice Commission
Lindsay Simmons for Allie Bones, Arizona
Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Town Manager Rick Buss, Gila Bend
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
- * JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy
Center
- * Councilmember Roy Delgado, El Mirage
- * President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community
Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, Tempe
Will Gonzalez, Phoenix Prosecutor's Office

- Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic
Security
- Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police
Dept., Chair
- Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Dept.
- * Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter Inc.
- * Councilmember Suzanne Klapp,
Scottsdale
- * Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, Goodyear
- * Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale
- * Jodi Beckley Liggett, Arizona Foundation
for Women
Barbara Marshall, Maricopa County
Attorney's Office, Vice Chair
- + Linda Melendez for Surprise
Mary Murphy, Governor's Office for
Children, Youth, and Families

+ Those attending by video/audio conference

* Those not present or represented by proxy

CONTACT PERSON:

Renae Tenney, MAG Human Services Planner, (602) 254-6300.