

**Maricopa Association of Governments
Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence
FY 2012 Annual Update**

Introduction

Domestic violence in our communities is prevalent. In Arizona, there were 103 domestic violence-related deaths in 2011 (Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence). In response to this prevalence, significant strides have been made to eradicate domestic violence through intentional and strategic collaborations. Despite these successes, tragic events in this region and across the nation continue. These events remind us there is work to be done to ensure the safety and dignity of all people in the region. Ending the cycle of violence will require action from all facets and disciplines. The time for enhancing our coordinated community response is now.

Background

In 1999, the brutal reality of domestic violence shocked the community into action when a mother was killed by her husband in front of their children. She had tried to escape, but returned home when none of the shelters had room for her and her children. A sense of urgency grew within the community to mobilize and develop action plans that would prevent this tragedy from repeating. This motivation led a diverse group of community partners to come together to develop the region's first multi-disciplinary plan for addressing domestic violence.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Domestic Violence Plan was released in August 1999. The plan consisted of 41 recommendations including goals to raise awareness of the prevalence of domestic violence; to increase the number of domestic violence shelter beds; empower employers to respond to domestic violence; educate teens about dating violence as well as train healthcare professionals, law enforcement, and advocates on how to best respond to the needs of victims. Ultimately, the goal set forth by the community was to end domestic violence and improve the lives of those who have been victims of this brutality. At the time, the MAG region was one of only six regions to utilize the strength of a regional approach to address domestic violence.

One of the plan's recommendation resulted in establishing the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. The Council was formed to ensure implementation of the recommendations in the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan. The Council began meeting in January 2000 and continues to lead the region's coordinated community response for ending domestic violence today. The Council strives to reduce the incidence of and trauma associated with domestic violence.

In 2009, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council refocused its efforts through development of a new regional plan. The Council engaged the community in a strength-based process assessing what had been done well and what successes could be capitalized upon to continue making a difference. The results of this process are reflected in the [FY 2011 MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence](#). The work of the Council continues today with the guidance of the new plan's 15 strategies for increasing survivor safety, holding abusers accountable, and trimming costs through streamlined processes.

Thanks to support received from Saint Luke's Health Initiatives, the new regional plan was developed through the guidance of domestic violence survivors, advocates, and community partners. Participation in the strength-based planning process brought together many devoted to making changes for survivors of domestic violence. Their diverse perspectives and innovative ideas are reflected in the plan's strategies. The outcome of the plan will address sustainability of funding, raising awareness and education, enhancing multi-disciplinary coordination, and strengthening long-term supports.

The strategies and outcomes of the plan would not have been accomplished without the support and dedication of multiple partners across the region. The shared ownership and responsibility to implement change is reflected in the tremendous collaboration among municipalities, nonprofits, private agencies and citizens. It is also reflected in the statements from one victim of domestic violence who stated "*We don't have to fight for our lives by ourselves.*"

This document serves as an annual report highlighting the goals of the MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. This report offers an overview of the progress made on the 15 strategies identified to establish sustainable funding sources, offer training and education, and enhance coordination efforts among law enforcement, the judicial system, domestic violence advocates, healthcare professionals and the community.

Our gratitude is extended to the many partners who have taken a stand against domestic violence, worked to establish sustainable funding for programs and services, offered training, awareness, education, and resources. The lives of victims of domestic violence are enhanced through the communities' tireless efforts to stand together in a coordinated effort to end domestic violence.

Progress

The MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence is built on four primary focus areas: *Funding, Training and Education, Coordination and Collaboration, and Services*. Within these focus areas, 15 strategies provide the framework for successfully moving forward the goals of the plan. Each category addresses specific aspects to enhance processes for increasing victim safety, holding abusers accountable, and leveraging limited resources to make the most impact in ending domestic violence throughout the region.

Funding: Through support of the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) and the Arizona Foundation for Women (AFW), efforts are underway to determine how best to communicate the need for sustainable funding for existing programs and services. Legislative efforts to prevent the elimination of funding, increasing community awareness, fundraisers and corporate sponsorships, are all being researched as methods to sustain funding for programs and services. These efforts address the first strategy.

Training and Education: Strategies two through six address the need to raise awareness and educate the public about domestic violence. They also highlight the importance of additional training for the criminal justice system. Steps are being taken to develop a standardized, multi-disciplinary curriculum geared towards educating the criminal justice system; first responders, law enforcement and victim advocates. Collaborative efforts among the AZCADV, AFW, Purple Ribbon Council, Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, Governors' Division for Women, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZ POST) and MAG have made tremendous efforts moving forward. These efforts include collaboration with local and national organizations to educate the public through consistent messages; development of campaigns that speak out against domestic violence; domestic violence 101 training; and the Men's Anti-violence Network. Prevention awareness, training, and education are being delivered in schools, communities, churches and in partnership with multiple nonprofit groups, private agencies and public partners.

Coordination and Collaboration: These topics are addressed in strategies seven through ten. Efforts in this category seek to increase coordination and collaboration between shelters and service providers as well as increasing access to information on available resources. An enhanced coordinated community response will connect all critical resources for people experiencing domestic violence. Coordination and collaboration efforts are increasing through monthly Maricopa Domestic Violence Shelter Executive Directors meetings; residential program committee meetings, development of listserves to assist with ongoing communication among shelter staff and service providers, among other meetings. STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funding is supporting training and the development of protocols addressing the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Agencies working to increase collaboration and coordination are the AZCADV, Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Governor's Division for Women, and MAG.

Services: The final category addresses strategies 11 through 15. The goal is to create a model for culturally competent prevention and intervention services; develop support groups for teens who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence; address the transportation needs for individuals residing in shelter; and create long-term support systems to help survivors maintain their safety. Collaboration among several groups including AZCADV, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition, Arizona South Asians for Safe Families, Chicanos por la Causa, Governor's

Division for Women, Arizona Housing Alliance, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and MAG are seeking to address the short and long-term goals for these strategies. One outcome of these efforts has been the creation of a Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee. This committee will guide efforts to implement changes that address cultural competencies. Another effort involved a survey of transportation needs of individuals and families living in homeless and domestic violence shelters. Information gathered by the survey will help to expand transportation options for shelter clients needing access to employment centers, community action programs, hospitals and more.

The MAG Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project (PEP) is a direct result of the strategies laid out in the FY 2011 MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. The project was designed to coordinate a multi-disciplinary effort for assessing current protocols and practices used by law enforcement and prosecutors when responding to domestic violence offenders. The project includes evaluating current protocols, building a framework of promising practices as well as developing training tools and resources.

The work of PEP has increased collaboration among cross jurisdictional agencies, peer groups, and various stakeholders, providers, and others. This has been witnessed in their strong support for the project, their participation, dedication and commitment to putting an end to domestic violence. Support for the peer groups has opened lines of communications among agencies that are now sharing best practices and working together on collaborative efforts to implement seamless services across the region. Communication in peer groups has generated discussion, sharing of resources, and implementation of new ways of conducting improved processes.

Next Steps

Thanks to the dedicated partners of the MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence, tremendous strides were made in the past year. Many of these important efforts will be ongoing. For example, the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project has expanded to include development of training resources to assist with consistent implementation of felony domestic violence protocols. Training resources will be developed to assist in training law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates about best practices in implementation of the protocols. Ongoing communication and collaboration will ensure efforts outlined in the plan continue to make a difference as we strive to better serve those who have experienced domestic violence.

The strength and success of the regional plan is drawn from the dedication of the partners and community. Collaborative efforts are making impressive progress now and will continue to do so in the future. For example, an Orders of Protection Task Force has been established to address issues surrounding the issuance, service, and enforcement of protective orders. This project was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women and the Avon Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor

House. Other collaborations like this will ensure lives are saved and communities are safer. Together, we can make the difference the region needs.

Appendix

The appendix highlights efforts underway and progress made to date on each of the strategies identified in the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. While these efforts continue, on-going opportunities still exist to become involved and participate in implementing change to improve the lives of individuals affected by domestic violence. To find out more about the MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence or the PEP, please contact Renae Tenney, Human Services Planner II, at rttenney@azmag.gov or visit the [Regional Domestic Council website](#).

MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence			
FY 2012 Annual Report			
Strategies	Partners	Timeline	Progress
<i>Funding</i>			
1. Communicate the need for sustainable funding for existing programs and services.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), Arizona Foundation for Women (AFW)	FY 2011-2012	AZCADV approached a corporate sponsor to help conduct a fundraising event to benefit domestic violence shelters and programs statewide. The Coalition advocated on the impact of the loss of funding through ongoing legislative efforts and community awareness. AFW continued advocating with the Governor and at the legislature against service and appropriation cuts. In addition, AFW began discussions about creating an endowment.
<i>Training and Education</i>			
2. Develop avenues for systems to raise awareness and educate the public about domestic violence.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), Arizona Foundation for Women (AFW)	FY 2011-2013	AZCADV worked with local and national organizations to educate the public through a consistent message. The Coalition collaborated with the Avon Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor House on developing this year's "Speak Out" campaign poster. The new poster includes a call to action for those who know people experiencing domestic violence. In addition, the Coalition participated in the national "No More" campaign. AFW developed Domestic Violence 101 training for employers via Employers Against Domestic Violence and the Men's Anti-

			violence Network. The training is anticipated to be available online in early Fall.
3. Increase social capital through grassroots efforts focused on the prevention of domestic violence.	Purple Ribbon Council (PRC)	FY 2011-2012	<p>In 2011, PRC trained 41 volunteer Go Purple Ambassadors to help spread prevention awareness in their communities, schools and churches across Arizona. PRC partnered with 21 hair salons and spas to help spread awareness of domestic abuse prevention through the Pretty in Purple Days Campaign and the Cut It Out program. PRC engaged the next generation of advocates through Teens, Awareness, Respect, and Action (T.A.R.A.) Circles. These dialogue circles educated on teen dating abuse and inspired teens to turn their ideas into action for prevention. PRC also distributed 15,000 "Is Your Relationship Blooming or Wilting?" posters to schools, physician's offices, community groups, churches, sporting events and other public places across the state.</p> <p>In January 2012, the "BLOOM for Healthy Relationships" curriculum was shared during a Train-the-Trainer event in Tempe.</p>
4. Develop standardized, multi-disciplinary curriculum for providing domestic violence education to criminal justice system and first responders.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), AZ Supreme Court Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families	FY 2011-2013	<p>In September 2011, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was awarded a VAWA grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, to be used for education for judges and court staff.</p> <p>The AOC's Education Services Division led the training effort as well as coordinating other grant activities. The training provided under this grant highlighted best practices in responding to domestic violence in Arizona. Multi-disciplinary partners benefitted through an increased awareness of these best practices and an improved ability to collaborate with the court system. Grant activities included creation of a best practices workbook and webcast to accompany the domestic violence bench book. The grant will also fund the third</p>

			<p>Domestic Violence Summit in 2013, which included a collaboratively developed curriculum.</p> <p>Grant partners included the Glendale City Court, the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Avon Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor House.</p>
5. Develop multi-disciplinary training for victims about the criminal justice process, law enforcement procedures, and realistic expectations of these systems.	Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center	FY 2011-2012	<p>The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families administers the federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant. The funding can support training for the criminal justice system about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.</p> <p>In 2011, the Governor's Office funded the Maricopa Association of Governments and Glendale Police Department to provide training specifically for the criminal justice stakeholders who respond to domestic and sexual violence.</p>
6. Develop cross-training between law enforcement, criminal justice system, and advocates.	Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (AZ POST), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)	FY 2012-2013	<p>As part of the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project, affinity group meetings were held with law enforcement, prosecutors, crisis responders, and advocates. These meetings helped to identify and implement cross-training. AZ POST helped distribute the Protocol Evaluation Project's training resources as well as incorporating the misdemeanor protocol model into their trainings.</p>
<i>Coordination and Collaboration</i>			
7. Increase coordination and collaboration between shelters and services.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV)	FY 2011-2012	<p>AZCADV began hosting monthly Maricopa Domestic Violence Shelter Executive Directors meetings, re-instated the quarterly Residential Program Committee meetings, and developed listservs to assist in ongoing communication and collaboration among shelter staff and service providers. These efforts have helped to facilitate collaboration in place of competition.</p>

8. Increase access to information on available resources.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), AZ Department of Economic Security (DES)	FY 2011-2012	AZCADV and the Avon Program for Women and Justice at the O'Connor House held discussions about funding for developing a centralized database or website for listing resources. In addition, DES updated their website to include links to all domestic violence programs under contract with DES.
9. Coordinate multi-disciplinary effort for reviewing standard protocols and practices for responding to domestic violence.	Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families	FY 2011-2012	<p>In 2011, the Governor's Office funded the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project (PEP) to assess the response of law enforcement and prosecutors when handling misdemeanor domestic violence crimes in Maricopa County. A regional protocol inventory was developed and compared with national best practices. A new protocol model was created to ensure a more consistent response to domestic violence across the region. Training resources including an outreach video, training video, and webinar were developed to help with implementation of the model. The project's reach extended statewide thanks to the help of the AZ Criminal Justice Commission, AZ Association of Chiefs Of Police, AZ Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council, AZ Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, and AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence.</p> <p>With the support of 20 project partners, PEP was awarded a new STOP Grant in 2012. The project continues with the goals of maintaining the misdemeanor protocol model, assessing implementation of felony protocols, and developing training resources.</p>
10. Connect all critical resources for people experiencing domestic violence and homelessness through a coordinated community response.	Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families	On-going	The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness, and the Arizona Commission on Homelessness and Housing participated in discussions about the overlap of domestic violence and homelessness. Changes to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of homelessness to include victims of domestic violence and the implementation of the

			HEARTH ACT led to additional collaboration between these two communities in 2012.
Services			
11. Create an ideal model for culturally competent prevention and intervention services.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) in partnership with culturally specific organizations, such as Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition, AZ South Asians for Safe Families, Chicanos por la Causa, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families	FY 2011-2013	<p>In 2011, the AZCADV began implementing recommendations from an outside assessment of their cultural competency. This resulted in a variety of changes in the agency's materials and programs. A Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee was formed to guide these efforts. In addition, this strategy continues to be a main priority in AZCADV's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families administers the federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant. One of the State's priority areas for the STOP Grant is to provide culturally competent services.</p>
12. Enhance the process for appropriately meeting survivors' housing needs.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), Arizona Housing Alliance	FY 2012-2014	<p>In 2011, AZCADV co-hosted a regional training on Advocacy Beyond Leaving. This training included tips for working with victims to assess the most appropriate housing for their needs. In addition, this strategy was included in AZCADV's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Changes to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of homelessness to include victims of domestic violence and the implementation of the HEARTH ACT led to additional collaboration between these two communities in 2012.</p>
13. Develop support groups for teens who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence.	Governor's Division for Women, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	FY 2011-2012	No progress to report to date.
14. Develop more transportation options for those residing in	Maricopa Association of Governments	FY 2011-2012	MAG conducted a survey of transportation needs of individuals and families living in homeless and domestic violence shelters. A

shelter.	(MAG)		regional map was developed showing proximity of homeless and domestic violence shelters to transit routes, employment centers, community action programs, and hospitals. Research was conducted into possibilities for expanding transportation options for shelter clients. Valley Metro met with Executive Directors of domestic violence shelters, in December 2011, to discuss the viability of establishing vanpools for clients. In January 2012, similar conversations were held with the MAG Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee regarding vanpools for clients of homeless shelters.
15. Create long-term supports for helping survivors maintain their safety.	AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families	FY 2012-2014	AZCADV worked closely with the Secretary of State Ken Bennett's Office to establish the Address Confidentiality Program. The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families administers the federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant, which can fund victim services providing support to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims with their safety planning efforts. In 2011, the Governor's Office held contracts with eight victim service providers assisting survivors with maintaining their safety.