

MINUTES OF THE  
MAG REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 3, 2014  
MAG Office Building, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Celeste Adams, Save the Family
- Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Vice Chair
- # John Belatti, City of Chandler  
Prosecutor's Office
- Candice Hewitt for Libby Bissa, City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
- John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
- Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Chief Steve Campbell, City of El Mirage Police Department, Chair
- \* Michael Celaya, City of Surprise
- \* Councilmember Samuel Chavira, City of Glendale
- Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- \* Lieutenant Brian Coley, City of Phoenix Police Department
- Councilmember Ginny Dickey, Town of Fountain Hills
- Blaine Gadow for Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- \* President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
- # Maria Garay, Sojourner Center
- # Donna Gardner, City of Avondale
- \* Will Gonzalez, City of Phoenix  
Prosecutor's Office
- Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security
- Constance Halonen, City of Apache Junction Police Department
- \* Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Department
- \* Lynette Jelinek, City of Glendale Fire Dept.
- \* Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
- \* Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, Inc.
- \* Councilmember Suzanne Klapp, City of Scottsdale
- \* Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, City of Goodyear
- \* Councilmember David Luna, City of Mesa
- Leah Meyers, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
- Mayani Jina for Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa
- \* Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department
- \* Lynn Selby, City of El Mirage
- Kathleen Sullivan, Town of Gilbert
- Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

- \* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
- # Attended by telephone conference call.
- + Attended by videoconference

## OTHERS PRESENT

Donna Bartos, Purple Ribbon Council  
Melissa Certo, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office  
Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Bill Hart, Arizona State University-Morison Institute for Public Policy  
Kate Henderson, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Rosalie Hernandez, A New Leaf  
Lynn Howe, AZ POST  
Carl Mangold, Private Practice  
Teisha Portee, Surprise Police Department  
Sandra Robertson, A New Leaf  
Iva Rody, City of El Mirage Police Department  
Rena Tenney, MAG  
Nikki Oxford, MAG

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Steve Campbell, El Mirage Police Department, called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

Chair Campbell welcomed two new members to the Regional Domestic Violence Council: Donna Gardner from the City of Avondale and Kathleen Sullivan from the Town of Gilbert.

Chair Campbell asked the Committee members and audience members to introduce themselves. Introductions ensued.

### 2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Regional Domestic Violence Council on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Chair Campbell requested audience members not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

There were no comments made from the audience.

### 3. Approval of the February 6, 2014 Regional Domestic Violence Council Meeting Minutes

Chair Campbell called for approval of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes from February 6, 2014. Chair Campbell asked for any revisions to the minutes. John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, noted a need for a revision on page four of the minutes. He asked that "he" referring to Larry Grubbs be changed to "the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission." Hearing no other revisions Chair Campbell entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Blackburn made a motion to

approve the minutes. Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Vice Chair, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### 4. Criminal Disposition Reporting

Jerry Landau, Chair of the Arizona Supreme Court Criminal Justice Commission Workgroup, provided information about efforts to improve criminal disposition reporting and discussed the fingerprinting protocols currently being used by law enforcement. Mr. Landau began by stating the issue of improving criminal disposition reporting is very complicated. Mr. Landau stated the issue is not trying to find a way to “fix” the system but rather it needs to be completely revised.

Mr. Landau explained in 2013 the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission initiated a strategic assessment project to assess the nature and extent of issues affecting disposition reporting and arrest warrant management. This project involved an interagency taskforce including the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ-DPS), the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology (ASET). The AOC’s Rule 37 Project Team agreed to expand their scope to include analysis of issues in the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) database.

There are two key issues related to records in the ACCH that the Simplified Segmented Approach/Rule 37 Project Team identified and focused on: missing criminal history and incomplete criminal history. Mr. Landau explained the way the current system operates every disposition entered into ACCH needs to line up exactly the same or else AZ-DPS will send the disposition back. Mr. Landau clarified this is not AZ-DPS’s fault but rather this issue is a result of the system.

Mr. Landau noted the criminal justice system does not operate well with the way the current system for tracking criminal history is set up. Mr. Landau compared this disconnect to a game of telephone. He explained that his workgroup is looking to move away from the current system in order to create a more automated system. Mr. Landau explained this is not just a problem for Arizona, but this is a problem nationwide.

Mr. Landau began speaking about the issue in the fingerprinting protocols currently being used by law enforcement. He explained the fingerprinting method is a biometric-based criminal history record. Mr. Landau noted it is not easy to get fingerprints and for the biometric system to work there has to be a certain type of fingerprint obtained; not just from one finger but from all of them. Also, some agencies can only afford to fingerprint at certain times thus making it difficult for police to fingerprint every person they arrest. Mr. Landau mentioned to keep in mind that for those agencies that have counties very spread out, like Coconino County, it can be difficult to obtain fingerprints because there may only be one or two locations that conduct fingerprinting.

Mr. Landau noted the importance of accurate criminal history record and fingerprinting because of the expanding number of jobs that require a background check for employment.

Missing criminal history information can result in a convicted offender working in a sensitive area with vulnerable citizens. He emphasized that this issue reaches across all professions.

Chair Campbell stated the information provided by Mr. Jerry Landau was very informative and asked the Council for any questions. Hearing none, Chair Campbell noted from a law enforcement standpoint knowing what we need to fix is very helpful.

John Belatti, City of Chandler Prosecutor's Office, commented that this project will have a huge impact because prosecutors are often unaware of other crimes committed in different municipalities because the criminal justice system makes it difficult for cities and towns to share criminal history records easily.

##### 5. Protocol Evaluation Project Training Event

Ms. Tenney started by reviewing the purpose of the Protocol Evaluation Project training event. She stated a statewide training event is coordinated annually to highlight local and national promising practices in the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence. Areas of focus are identified through the various affinity group meetings with law enforcement, prosecutors and victim advocates. Ms. Tenney noted these areas of focus provide ideas for potential workshops for the statewide training event. She referred the group to the handout provided in the meeting materials.

Ms. Tenney noted the chart provides a summary of the areas of focus. These are the areas that were identified as needing additional attention by the various affinity groups. This chart indicates which groups identified the area of focus during their conversations. From this chart, the list of ideas for topics and speakers for the training event was developed. Ms. Tenney if there were any questions about the information provided in the handout.

Ms. Tenney noted that the chart indicates there are three areas of focus that arose in all three of the affinity group meetings. These topics were the use of lethality assessment tools or programs, how the different professions interact and contribute to the successful prosecution of a domestic violence case, and interviewing techniques for law enforcement based on the impact of trauma on victims. She suggested that these three areas be showcased during the training event through keynote addresses and/or plenary sessions.

Leah Meyers, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, asked why there were 11 focus areas but only four potential workshops on the handout. Ms. Tenney clarified that the 11 focus areas were divided up under the four outcome areas: help more victims be safe, hold more offenders accountable through increased prosecution, enhance implementation of the protocol model, and increase communication and coordination throughout the criminal justice system.

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, suggested that Ms. Tenney meet with Yvonne Taylor at the Coalition to ensure that the training event and the Coalition's September conference do not duplicate efforts. Ms. Tenney agreed. She noted

that she plans to attend the End Violence Against Women International Conference in Seattle and hopes gather information about some additional speakers to consider.

Blaine Gadow, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, suggested contacting Dr. Rebecca Campbell to provide a presentation that is victim-centered while also relevant to law enforcement. Ms. Tenney noted that Dr. Campbell has conducted research into the neurobiology of trauma and trauma's effect on victims' ability to report to law enforcement. She agreed with Mr. Gadow that Dr. Campbell would be an excellent speaker.

John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, made a motion to approve the proposed areas of focus for planning the Protocol Evaluation Project Training Event in consultation with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, in order to ensure workshops and speakers are not duplicated. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### 6. Serving Victims of Domestic Violence Study

Chair Campbell introduced Bill Hart, Senior Policy Analyst from Arizona State University Morrison Institute for Public Policy. Chair Campbell noted Mr. Hart will be presenting findings of a study conducted to assess the service needs of victims of domestic violence in Maricopa County. The study was conducted in partnership with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and the O'Connor House.

Mr. Hart clarified the study was conducted for the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and the O'Connor House, and was funded by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

Mr. Hart explained when he uses the word "advocate" he uses it as a general term which can include many different professions working within the domestic violence community. Mr. Hart cautioned this study was not a random sample study and thus conclusions that can be drawn from the data are limited.

Mr. Hart noted the purpose of this report was to supply new information on the service needs of Maricopa County victims of domestic violence, a common criminal justice/public health problem that annually injures or kills thousands of Valley residents, shatters families, and imposes other serious social costs.

Mr. Hart stated throughout the past several decades, individuals and agencies in the Valley have made great strides in responding to this pervasive social ill. But key questions remain about how best to serve its victims. The urgency of these questions is compounded by the current reality of high unemployment and poverty rates, declining public sector funding, reductions in key public social services, and a state economy slowly recovering from the Great Recession.

As a researcher, Mr. Hart noted there also are increasing questions about whether delivering services primarily through an informal network of individually operated group shelters,

which apparently are not utilized by most victims, remains the most cost-effective model for meeting most victims' needs.

Mr. Hart explained the study had three goals: to survey domestic violence victims and advocates concerning the needs of Valley victims; to review utilization rates and other aspects of the Valley's 10 emergency domestic violence shelters; and based on this information, to suggest questions regarding the Valley's campaign against domestic violence that would prompt useful discussions among stakeholders and practitioners.

This study is believed to be the most extensive effort to date to survey Valley domestic violence victims and advocates. However, it should be noted that two-thirds of the victim respondents were or had previously been in shelter; research has shown that shelter residents tend to differ in some important ways from domestic violence victims as a whole, so their majority presence in the survey could influence the results.

Mr. Hart highlighted that the majority of victims are not represented in this study because they do not come into contact with law enforcement or domestic violence shelters. Mr. Hart pointed out that little is known about the population of victims that never access services. This population is extremely difficult to reach.

Mr. Hart pointed out some of the differences between victim responses and advocate responses from the survey. First, when victims and advocates were asked "why don't domestic violence victims leave the abusive relationship" victims were often cited saying to "save the relationship" or because "they had nowhere else to go", whereas advocates often cited reasons as being due to child care. Mr. Hart noted there were several instances where victims' answers and advocates' answers did not align.

Mr. Hart then explained another key finding from the study. He found that the number of beds available for victims has doubled since 2006, requests for shelter have declined, the number of new clients has flat lined, and turn away numbers have dropped. This suggests emergency beds are meeting the needs of the community. However, most shelters will report they are full all the time. Mr. Hart hypothesized this could be due to the way in which shelters report the number of beds available and how policies/procedures encourage shelters reporting behaviors. Mr. Hart also noted the length of stay for victims at shelters has been increasing, which could be contributing to the reason reports of available beds have changed over the years.

The study also found predominantly positive reviews of shelters. Most victims indicated they would enter shelter again. It is interesting to note that advocates emphasized physical protection as the reason for seeking shelter more than victims did. Mr. Hart learned through his interviews with executive directors that they felt victims need more help now than in the past.

Mr. Hart expressed his personal opinion that the reason for the decline in need for emergency shelter is because domestic violence incidents have dropped. Mr. Hart explained housing is a need for victims, but shelters have inadvertently become low cost or free housing. Mr. Hart posed the question of whether this should be the purpose of shelter.

Donna Bartos, Purple Ribbon Council, asked Mr. Hart if he would be reaching out to more victims who have never entered shelter. Mr. Hart responded by saying in short no, however useful that information may be it is very difficult to reach this population.

Kristen Scharlau, City of Tempe, talked about what it means to be an advocate and the varying responsibilities that fall under the “advocate” umbrella. She pointed out that the advocate message can get lost. She added there are many roles for advocates that can be conflicting. Ms. Tenney agreed, commenting these differences can arise from the definition of duties defined by advocates’ employing agency. Ms. Scharlau commented this can be very difficult for advocates.

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, commented it would be helpful to analyze the advocates’ responses by the type of agency employing them. Mr. Hart agreed with Ms. Bones. He pointed out that while advocates come from many organizations, most respondents were positive about advocates while negative toward the criminal justice system as a whole.

Leah Meyers, Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, noted the Office on Violence Against Women reports of federal money separates advocates organizations, making the distinction between victim advocates (non-government employees) and victim assistance (government employees).

Blaine Gadow, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, expressed that from a prosecutor’s point of view the goals of a victim advocate are somewhat at odds with law enforcement and prosecution. Mr. Gadow noted while some aspects of these relationships cannot be changed, it is important to recognize and acknowledge these differences.

Chair Campbell thanked Mr. Hart and members of the Council. In the interest of time the next agenda item began.

## 7. BLOOM for Healthy Relationships

Chair Campbell introduced Donna Bartos from Purple Ribbon Council (PRC). Ms. Bartos presented on the organization’s work in developing and integrating the BLOOM for Healthy Relationships curriculum into schools.

Ms. Bartos explained the mission of PRC is to educate youth, engage communities, and to empower families to promote healthy relationships. The vision of PRC is a world where future generations stand and work together to prevent teen dating violence before it starts. PRC aims to disrupt socially and culturally entrenched attitudes, behaviors, and systems that normalize abuse and violence in relationships. Ms. Bartos noted the core components of PRC are BLOOM for Healthy Relationships in schools, Project Butterfly for children orphaned by domestic violence, and other various Go Purple Projects targeted at the general population.

Ms. Bartos explained BLOOM for Healthy Relationships is aimed at preventing domestic violence before it starts by changing the culture in which we live. The program is designed for youth in seventh through twelfth grade. The curriculum provides schools and youth serving organizations with a place-based solution for healthy relationship education and teen dating violence prevention. Ms. Bartos stated the initial pilot of the program was introduced in the 2010-11 school year with a “single dose or lesson” reaching approximately 3,000 students, which led to 72 disclosures of teen dating violence.

Ms. Bartos stated an enhanced pilot was introduced in the 2013-14 school year with a “multi-dose or seven lessons” and six implementation sites. An evaluation of the new program will take place in July 2014. The enhanced pilot objectives were to increase the level of understanding and knowledge about teen dating abuse and healthy relationships among students in grades seven through 12, to enhance the capacity of teens to build positive communication and conflict resolution skills, to increase teens’ understanding about how and where to get help if they or someone they know is experiencing dating violence, and to enhance youth-led advocacy and civic engagement activities to ultimately prevent teen dating violence before it starts.

Ms. Bartos stated BLOOM provides a multi-dose curriculum supplement. Students learn through a media literacy lens that is interactive, has inspiring lessons, fosters skill-building for healthy relationships, teaches communication, is evidence informed, is aligned with common core standards for health education, and includes peer engagement in primary prevention strategies. Ms. Bartos pointed out the cost effectiveness of this program by breaking down the enhanced pilot materials budget. This budget included a total of \$30 per student which includes: \$20 full color curriculum guide plus posters, \$2 backpack tag, \$3 prizes or giveaways, \$5 Safety Plan and BLOOM Shoe Card.

Ms. Bartos introduced upcoming programs BLOOM is planning to roll out: BLOOM For Parents coming April 2014, BLOOM Puppet Theater piloting winter 2015 for Kindergarten through second grade, and BLOOM Readers’ Theater piloting winter 2015 for third through fifth grade students.

Chair Campbell thanked Ms. Bartos for her presentation and commented on the importance of her work.

8. Success Stories

In the interest of time Chair Campbell tabled this agenda item.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Campbell asked the Council for any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas. Hearing none, Chair Campbell moved on to the next agenda item.

10. Comments from the Council

Council members were given the opportunity to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Domestic Violence Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless a specific matter is properly noticed for legal action. No comments were made.

#### Adjournment

Chair Campbell thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2014.