

MINUTES OF THE
MAG REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2016
MAG Office Building, Ironwood Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING –

Celeste Adams, Save the Family
Zach Altman, City of Gilbert Prosecutor's Office
Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Chair
*John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office
John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
*Serene Carney, Apache Junction Police Department
*Councilmember Samuel Chavira, City of Glendale
Councilmember Eddie Cook, Town of Gilbert
*Tiffany Copp, Surprise City Prosecutor's Office
Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Kristin Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
Heather Maldonado for Troy Finley, Phoenix Police Department
*Maria Garay, Sojourner Center
*Donna Gardner, City of Avondale
Amy Offenbergl for Will Gonzalez, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security
#Elizabeth Herbert, City of Chandler Prosecutor's Office
*Lynette Jelinek, City of Glendale Fire Dept.
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, Inc.
*Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, City of Goodyear
#Councilmember Kathy Littlefield, City of Scottsdale
Gerardo Pena, Chicanos por la Causa
D.C. Ernst for Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department
*Iva Rody, El Mirage Police Department
#Councilmember Terry Roe, City of Chandler Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department
*Kathleen Sullivan, Town of Gilbert Police Department
*Yvonne Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
Councilmember Thelda Williams, City of Phoenix, Vice Chair
#Councilmember Cecil Yates, Town of Fountain Hills
#Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

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

OTHERS PRESENT -

Riann Balch, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Donna Bartos, Go Purple.Org
Christian Bell, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Julie Bordelon, City of Phoenix
Teresa Fyffe, City of Phoenix Law Department
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Michelle Gamiz, City of Phoenix
Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Shannon Johanni, City of Phoenix
Betty McEntire, Secretary of State's Office Address Confidentiality Program
Deputy Susan Monroe, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Stephanie Smith, Peoria Police Department
Steve Valdivia, Federal Bureau of Investigations
Shelly Ward, Mesa Police Department
Amy Robinson, Maricopa Association of Governments
Brande Mead, Maricopa Association of Governments

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. 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. Moises Gallegos, Human Services Director City of Phoenix, addressed the committee. Mr. Gallegos informed the committee that Libby Bissa, formerly with City of Phoenix and member of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council had retired, and introduced Riann Balch, City of Phoenix, Director of Victim and Homeless Services Division.

3. Approval of the Regional Domestic Violence Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Barker called for any revisions and approval of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes from February 4, 2016. Chief Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes with the following change: change Mr. to Ms. on agenda item four, line one. The motion was seconded by JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. All voted and the motion passed.

4. Regional Misdemeanor Protocol Model

Chair Barker noted that the revised Misdemeanor Protocol Model was approved at the December, 2015 meeting and welcomed Amy Robinson, MAG, to provide an overview of additional revisions. Ms. Robinson advised the protocol is updated yearly through a collaborative effort, with the current set of revisions approved by the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council on December 3, 2015. Ms. Robinson noted there was inconsistent use of singular and plural references to both police and victims, and those inconsistencies had been corrected to refer to either the single or plural with the use of (s).

Ms. Robinson also informed the committee the Misdemeanor Protocol Model would be presented to the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council for approval and support at their February meetings.

Chair Barker requested motion to approve revision to the protocol model with revisions, and present the protocol to the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council. Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department, made the motion which was seconded by JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. All voted and the motion was passed.

5. Vice Chair Thelda Williams

Vice Mayor Barker, City of Apache Junction, Chair, introduced the new committee Vice Chair, Councilmember Thelda Williams, City of Phoenix. Councilmember Williams provided an introduction and brief history of her experience working to end domestic violence to the members of the committee. Welcomes ensued.

6. Domestic Violence Training Video

Amy Robinson, MAG, provided a brief history of the training video project, and thanked the video speakers which included Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Chair; Chief Roy Minter, Peoria Police Department; Chief Lawrence Rodriguez, Tolleson Police Department; Ashley Bridwell, LMSW, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow Concussion and Brain Injury Center, Barrow Neurological Rehabilitation Center; Mike Hutt, Chrysalis Shelter; and survivor speaker Tauheedah Jabaar, Someone Worth Accepting Now (S.W.A.N.). Ms. Robinson encouraged attendees to watch the video after the meeting concluded, and noted the video was available on the MAG website and YouTube pages.

8. Domestic Violence Risk Assessment (Item heard out of order)

Ms. Robinson, MAG, noted that the Case Transfer Project completed in 2015 was a success, and the 2016 Domestic Violence Risk Assessment project would build on that success to evaluate the current methods of intervention and response to domestic violence crimes in order to determine the risk associated with each. This analysis will enable the region's leaders to make better informed decisions when addressing domestic violence. Ms. Robinson

explained that a request for quotations would be issued in solicitation of consultant proposals. The request for quotations would be published in the Arizona Republic as well as the MAG website, with an estimated publication date of February 18, 2016.

7. Case Transfer Project Update (Item heard out of order)

Ms. Robinson provided a brief background leading up to the case transfer project update. She advised a consultant selection process unanimously voted to select Business Enterprise Mapping and the project began in September, concluding within a few short weeks. Ms. Robinson acknowledged agency partners for their participation in these efforts. An overview of the process and seven outcomes were provided and were available in the December 2015 meeting handouts, available on the MAG website. It was noted that a set of actionable items for streamlining the process both in the short and long term were identified.

Ms. Robinson noted that Amy Offenbergh, City of Phoenix, had volunteered to serve as the lead for quick wins identified relating to municipal prosecution. A number of the quick wins had seen successes in implementation or planning, including digitizing charging assignment logs and improving communication with victims related to turn downs and furthers. Ms. Robinson noted additional strides had been made at the County Attorney's Office and in Law Enforcement Agency Policy. Ms. Robinson noted that many changes would take place over the long term despite being labeled as a "Quick Win".

Additional recommendations from the report included creating MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council workgroups to oversee the long term implementation and measure its impact.

9. Upcoming Events and Trainings

Amy Robinson, MAG, provided the committee with information on upcoming events and trainings. These included three planning meetings for the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence to be held on Tuesday, February 16 at the Peoria Police Department; Wednesday, February 17 at MAG, and another on February 17 at the Gilbert Police Department. Additional upcoming events include National Start By Believing Day, Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

10. Call to Action

Chair Barker asked the committee how they planned to use the information gained today. Vice Mayor Barker provided an overview of her involvement with Start By Believing in Arizona and recommended participation in this initiative by the members of the committee.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Barker asked for any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas. No requests for future agenda items was made.

12. 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.

Amy Offenber, Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, informed the committee of a new partnership with HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR), an animal assistance organization which would provide canine support to child victims and other victims of crimes with high emotional needs where a dog can provide comfort in the courtroom. Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, mentioned a new bill Sponsored by Representative Farnsworth that would require judges to allow assistance animals in the courtroom.

Mr. Eliason also mentioned they are working together on a new stalking bill as well, to expand the definition of stalking victim to include new romantic partners. A free training will be held in April in partnership with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and details would be shared by Mr. Eliason as they became available.

Ms. Robinson announced that the Protocol Evaluation Project received STOP grant funding from the Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family for the 2016 calendar year. Ms. Robinson also noted that a project satisfaction survey would be distributed after the meeting.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, announced the unexpected passing of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Grants Coordinator. He expressed his sympathies to her family.

Gerardo Pena, Chicanos por la Causa, announced a new partnership with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department to provide training to the community outreach team. There are hopes to establish a train-the-trainer session to help increase training to law enforcement responding to domestic violence.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Barker thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016.