

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 12, 2005

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Mark Armstrong, MC Superior Court
*Tracy Bame, Phelps Dodge Corp.
Anthony Vidale for John A. Blackburn, Jr.,
AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Jerry Boone, Maricopa County Department of
Public Health
Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center
*Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
*Gene D'Adamo, The Arizona Republic
*Susan Glawe, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Juan Aristizabal for Gabriella Guerra, Value
Options
Laura Guild, DES
*Cindy Hallman, Marley House
Barbara Parascandola for Vicki Hill, City of
Phoenix Law Department
*Dan Hughes, City of Surprise
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix,
Public Affairs Bureau, Vice Chair
*Roger Illingworth, Dept. Of Public Safety
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Wallace Kemp, Phoenix Police Department
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale
Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear
*Marie Lopez-Rogers, Councilmember of
Avondale
*JoEllen Lynn, American Express
Carolyn McBurney, Envision Project
Management
Marna McClendon, Office of the Attorney
General
*Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services
*Craig Mills, APS
*Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear
Laura Jansen for Janice Parker, Save the
Family Foundation
*Keith Perkins, Never Again Foundation
Karla Houston for Don Peyton, City of
Phoenix Fire Dept.
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
John Pombier, City of Mesa
*Lynn Potts, City of Mesa
Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear
Ginger Spencer, Phoenix Family Advocacy
Center
*Mike Stedman, City of El Mirage
Bernita Clark for Patricia Stevens, Maricopa
County Attorney's Office
Andrea Vance for Judy Tapscott, City of
Tempe
Lynn Timmons for Kerry G. Wangberg, City
of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Phillip Westbrook, Councilmember of
Chandler, Chairman
Dale Wiebusch, Arizona Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

OTHERS PRESENT:

Francine Akin-Arbuckle, Enrichment
Evelyn Buckner, Governor's Office
Joy Carter, Banner Good Samaritan
Mary DeGuilio, JFCS-SWW
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Lou Grubbs, ACJC
Bill Hart, Morrison Institute
Lindsey Higginson, MAG
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Coy Johnson, Mesa Police Department
Anna Maria Leff, DES/DCYF
Sharon Rauch, Chrysalis
Dena Salter, MIHS
Andrea Sierra, Mesa Police Department
Richard Toon, Morrison Institute

* Those not present or represented by proxy
+ Those attending by video/audio conference.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Westbrook called the Council to order at 9:10am. He welcomed everyone and introduced Judge Armstrong as a returning member to the Council. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the May 10, 2005 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve the May 10, 2005 meeting minutes. Dale Wiebusch requested a change on page four of the minutes, point number five. The minutes should read that the Coalition would be working to get a new bill passed in the *next* legislative session. Councilmember Scott moved to approve with revisions. John Pombier seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Working Group Progress Reports

Chairman Westbrook asked Teresa Franquiz, MAG, to provide an update on the Employers Against Domestic Violence subcommittee, as neither co-chair was present.

Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV)

Ms. Franquiz noted that Craig Mills, co-chair of EADV, had intended to be at the meeting today, but had just recently begun a new job as EAP Manager at APS. She added that JoEllen Lynn, the other co-chair of EADV, would be out on medical leave until the end of July. Once both chairpersons are available, EADV will be scheduling an evaluation/strategic planning session towards the end of the summer. She also reported that EADV will be holding a training for member organizations on October 6, 2005 for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Kim Well, Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, will be the trainer. Details will soon follow. She and Menyon Scott, co-chair of the EADV Training and Awareness Subcommittee, have been working recently with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) to discuss potential opportunities for additional domestic violence training for DES employees. Ms. Franquiz, Ms. Scott, Leah Meyers from the Coalition, Laura Guild, and Allie Bones from DES recently attended a training managers' meeting at DES to provide information about domestic violence, existing workplace policy, EADV, and training provided by the Coalition. She commented that since that meeting, DES had become an official member of EADV, bringing approximately 10,000 employees statewide into the organization. She noted that this new member would provide a significant opportunity for EADV to reach a large number of people in the state. She added that it was necessary for the director of the agency, David Byrne, to agree to the affiliation and welcomed their membership.

Chairman Westbrook thanked Ms. Franquiz for her update and agreed that DES joining EADV was an exciting development. He asked Carolyn McBurney if she had additional information on the final outcomes from the 2005 Walk to End Domestic Violence.

Ms. McBurney reported that the total amount raised this year was \$290,000 and that about \$240,000 would be dispersed to area shelters. This total disbursement is up about 37-38 percent over last year. The development of the event is coming along as it was intended. There was a wonderful turnout from the community and participation from sponsors was up. Internet contributions were also up over last year.

Chairman Westbrook thanked her for her efforts, as well as Gene D'Adamo from the Arizona Republic. He asked about the final number of participants. Ms. McBurney answered that there were about 4200 participants actually walking this year. The number of team participation increased substantially. This year they had ninety teams participate, up from approximately thirty last year. She attributed this to the fact that it was much easier for the general public to sign-up. Also more EADV companies participated, along with more cities and towns. A total of eight municipalities participated this year. Chairman Westbrook noted that there were also more elected officials at the Walk.

Chairman Westbrook asked about the process for distributing the funds to the shelters. Ms. McBurney said that the letters and money had not been distributed yet, but should be in next couple of weeks. Patricia Klahr added that all of the shelters had to apply through a request for proposal (RFP) process before the Walk, which went through Republic Charities. Chairman Westbrook thanked the representatives from EADV for their updates.

Victim Services

Laura Guild, DES, provided the update from the Victim Services Subcommittee. She reported that the group is in the data analysis process right now. Their primary goal has been to come up with an accurate measure of the need for DV shelter in Maricopa County. The subcommittee organized a shelter survey that all shelters participated in from March 15-April 15. Those answering calls for shelter assisted in the survey by gathering the number of people who received shelter and the number that did not. In this way, the subcommittee plans to get an unduplicated count of the number of individuals seeking shelter that were turned away. Two professors from ASU West are assisting with the data analysis. Ms. Guild reported that the subcommittee should have an outcome to the study by the September meeting. She reminded the Council that the MAG Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department is currently working on a map of DV resources in the region. The map will include shelters (by zip code only), and other agencies that provide DV specific services, in an effort to see where there might be gaps. Ms. Franquiz added that MAG has received a renewal of the Innovative Grant from the Governor's Office for the continuation of this project. Over the next year, as a part of the new

grant, the two professors at ASU West will be working on an economic case statement to demonstrate the cost incurred by the cities when providing DV services.

Chairman Westbrook said that it is very important to develop a case statement that demonstrates what the cost of DV is, in order to appeal to both the compassionate side of a person, as well as economic interest.

Health Cares About Family Violence (HCAFV)

Dena Salter introduced Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, from the Maricopa Integrated Health System and the new chair of HCAFV. Dr. Casaletto provided a brief update of the subcommittee's activities over the last three months. HCAFV has developed a training program for nursing schools in the Valley to educate nursing students on DV. The module is intended for pre-hospital personnel all the way through the end of a hospital stay. She referred the Council to the slide show provided in hard copy. She added that members of HCAFV have also made themselves available to go out to nursing schools to conduct training. Currently, the subcommittee is working with schools in the area to get the training out in time for the upcoming academic year. In looking at university level nursing training programs, the University of Arizona and Midwestern have already adequate DV training in place, but the subcommittee members would be willing to provide the module and in-person training for those classes as well.

Dr. Casaletto went on to say that the next step is to see which hospitals are already implementing universal screening, as they are required to do. The subcommittee knows that it is not being implemented everywhere. There will be an assessment of which hospitals are screening and how they are doing so. It will be necessary to determine this information before establishing next steps.

Chairman Westbrook asked Dr. Casaletto to provide a definition of screening. She replied that there are actually several ways to screen, though the most effective ways are through verbal or computer based screening. This was found through a study of English and Spanish speaking women age twelve and older. She said there are five typical screening questions, but two of them provide most of the information. Both are yes or no questions; if a patient screens positive to either, they are referred to a social worker. The first question refers to the abuse assessment scale: Have you ever been hit, slapped, kicked, or punched by someone you've lived with in the past year? The second question is: Are you afraid of someone that you live with?

Carolyn McBurney provided information on a separate HCAFV project that was recently completed. She reported that MAG had received an Innovative Grant about a year ago to work on screening for pediatricians in order to reach abused mothers who might be coming to doctor visits in that setting. HCAFV worked with Dr. Anu Partap, former co-chair of HCAFV, to develop a web-based training for

pediatricians. In previous meetings, subcommittee members have shown other materials developed through this Innovative Grant, like age-appropriate flyers and brochures, a coloring book available in Spanish & English, and laminated information/referral cards that can be posted in doctors' offices. Ms. McBurney noted that MAG has recently gotten more funding to be able to print more coloring books. However, the web-based training module is now done, which has been a long process. It is very comprehensive, covering DV 101 and being available on the web will allow users to go at their own speed. Continuing education units (CEUs) are available for the doctors who use it. There is also some information specific to pediatrics in the training. *At this time, the Council viewed a brief clip of the training module.*

Chairman Westbrook commended HCAFV for a doing a great job and for taking on the important task of educating health care providers. As an employee of a hospital, he said that he recognizes how important it is to have the infrastructure in place to make screening possible. Ms. McBurney said that she would be confirming which website will be hosting the training. In the meantime, it will be available in limited quantities on burned DVDs. She noted that the module is about an hour and twenty minutes long and was too large to email.

Councilmember Scott asked if the training materials could be made available to other doctors as well. Ms. McBurney explained that the grant was originally designed to assist children who have witnessed DV, but she saw no reason that the material could not be made available to others.

Marna McClendon asked of the police officers in the room, in terms of law enforcement, what training is given to them on strangulation injuries versus "choking" injuries? She explained that in San Diego, physicians train police officers on how to recognize strangulation injuries and how to document them for use as evidence. She asked if we have specialized training on this issue in Maricopa County. Lt. Joe Kemp answered that there is some training provided on this topic, but it is mostly directed toward detectives, rather than responding officers since detectives do the follow-up after receiving the police report. Ms. Salter added that at MIHS, police will usually take an initial set of injury photos on patients who come through saying they have been strangled, they are then encouraged to come back 24-48 hours later so the hospital can take a second set of pictures. She noted that it often takes that long before some bruises show up. Lt. Kemp agreed and said that police officers also encourage the victim to do go back for additional pictures. Ginger Spencer added that in these cases of strangulation, it is an indicator of a high lethality case. In addition, she said that as a newer member, she wanted to commend the subcommittee because they are achieving results. She said that the training and collaborations are wonderful, as well as the data collection that is being done by the Victim Services subcommittee.

Chairman Westbrook asked for a motion to approve subcommittees' direction, progress, and products. Dale Weibusch motioned to approved the work of the subcommittees, seconded by Ginger Spencer. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Update on Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Chairman Westbrook introduced Evelyn Buckner from the Governor's Office, Division for Women and thanked her for attending. Ms. Buckner remarked that her office is happy to report that they have hired a new director for the Governor's Division for Women after going through a long process of interviewing. Approximately sixty applications were submitted and three rounds of interviews were held. JoAnn Del-Colle, formerly with the City of Scottsdale, Victim Services Division, will be filling the position. Ms. Del-Colle assisted with the development of the Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center and originally comes from Tulsa, OK. Ms. Buckner said that her division is excited to have her come on board.

Since the Governor's signing the fatality review teams bill, the Division for Women has been reaching out to municipalities from across the state to help them develop teams. There will be a fatality review teams conference on August 15 and 16 to provide access to expert advice and give municipalities an opportunity to gain tools to establish teams. Dr. Kathleen Ferraro will continue to give technical assistance to new teams after the conference. There has been interest from Pinal, Pima and Yavapai Counties, and the City of Phoenix, to have teams in their areas. Ms. Buckner added that establishing and participating in fatality review teams will be strictly voluntary, there is a lot of work involved; however, the outcomes can be invaluable in changing systems.

Ms. Buckner continued by saying that AZPOST, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the Governor's Office have funded the Morrison Institute on Public Policy to do a statewide law enforcement survey on attitudes and knowledge regarding domestic violence. The intent of the survey is to identify training opportunities and identify any need for changes in policies.

Also, the Governor's Office is planning to have a sexual assault conference next year. They will not be having a domestic violence conference this year because of all transition that has occurred in the last year. The intention now is to alternate sexual assault and domestic violence conferences.

Additionally, STOP grant proposals were due on July 8 for new programs. The Governor's Office will be awarding those in August. Ms. Buckner added that the Division for Women's new director would be participating on this Council in the future.

Judge Mark Armstrong asked if there is protocol for fatality review teams to follow and if so, where is the protocol. Ms. Buckner replied that there is no formal protocol, but that one will be developed through working with Dr. Kathleen Ferraro. She added that if any Council members are interested in learning more about the

teams, they are encouraged to sign up for the conference, as there will be an opportunity to network with people from across the United States who have been working with fatality review teams. Judge Armstrong thanked Ms. Buckner and said that he is interested in this topic because he has participated in fatality review teams before elsewhere.

Chairman Westbrook thanked Ms. Buckner for all her work and for the work of the Governor's Office.

6. Results of Domestic Violence Phone Survey

Chairman Westbrook introduced Bill Hart and Richard Toon from the Morrison Institute on Public Policy to provide a report on the results of the domestic violence phone survey.

Mr. Hart explained that he would be speaking on the progress of the statewide law enforcement survey that Ms. Buckner had mentioned earlier. He said that the Morrison Institute was interested in assisting with the phone survey of the general public in order to compare the results with the outcomes of the law enforcement survey. It would be interesting to see how the responses may differ or are alike. Mr. Toon first provided details of the Maricopa County domestic violence phone survey, noting that the survey had generated a great deal of data.

Mr. Toon noted that if anyone had a question of whether or not a specific difference in outcomes along demographic lines is significant, if the difference is more than 20%, one could be assured that it is a statistically significant difference. Mr. Toon then went on to note some of the most interesting outcomes of the survey by going through each table individually.

Table one: There are high numbers of those who have personal knowledge of DV. He noted that one of the disadvantages of the survey was its ethnic distribution, as there were not enough Hispanic respondents to accurately draw conclusions from the data. He said that in looking for differences between ethnicities, it is necessary to read the results with caution. Only seventy of the respondents were Hispanic.

Table two: Among sources of awareness of DV, a significant amount seems to be TV news related.

Table three: Results here are common to national studies, with 40% reporting direct personal experience with DV or knowing someone who does. He noted the lack of personal experience among those 55 and older. It would seem that the number of those with personal experience should rise naturally with age, all other things being equal. He suggested that the decline in positive responses among this age group might have been a definitional issue.

Table four: 72% of respondents thought that DV is a major problem, while 21% think it is a minor problem. In total, 93% of respondents thought that DV is a problem on some level.

Here, it was noted that most of the police survey was complete in Maricopa County and that this question is similar in both surveys, it was possible to make a few preliminary comparisons in responses. Among the police surveyed, somewhere in the mid-80th percentile think DV is a major problem. Mr. Toon noted that there is a powerful difference in responses by gender. Many more women think DV is a problem.

Table five: This question was another version of a similar questions included in the police survey. The question asked the respondent if they felt that arrest is a good policy in dealing with DV. Among Maricopa County residents, 89% think that arrest is a good policy. However, it seems that the police attitude is more nuanced and ambivalent. Many officers question how effective arrest is as a policy. Just less than one-third of respondents think that the victim is often at fault for DV as well, which is similar to the police attitude. Mr. Toon noted that this outcome is somewhat disturbing, as it represents a significant minority. Two-thirds said that DV is best handled as a police issue. This result is consistent with the police survey, as well as nation surveys.

There was significant overlap between what the general public feels and what the police feel about the most effective method of dealing with DV. However, it seems that the public has a stronger faith in police than police do themselves. Police officers have said that they see a lack of follow through from prosecutors. The public sees stronger enforcement of existing laws as the most effective method of dealing with DV, of those methods that were supplied to them. Police were much more ambivalent.

Table seven: Over one-third of the public would call 911 in nonviolent circumstances; however, more women than men would call in nonviolent situations. Again, the police were more ambivalent about this question. Mr. Toon noted that there were essentially two questions here: what counts as DV, and whom would you call upon in each circumstance. 41% of females would call 911 in nonviolent circumstances, while 34% of the general public would call under this scenario.

Mr. Hart reported that at Morrison, they have been administering questionnaires to patrol officers and sergeants with the cooperation of several police departments, including the Cities of Mesa and Phoenix. So far, they have covered the Valley and have received over 400 questionnaires back. They have been interviewing supervisors and detectives; there will be about thirty-five interviews completed. About 700 questionnaires were distributed statewide.

The study tries to determine how well DV training for police is working. Even though the study is not completed, there are a couple of things already coming out of the data. For example, officers feel that DV is a problem, and that it is a high

volume and dangerous call. The thing that comes through the strongest is the high degree of frustration on part of officers, regardless of how long they have been on the force. This frustration stems from two sources: the sheer volume of DV calls and number of repeat calls. Officers express frustration about victims who do not leave abusive situations, but keep calling for help and then do not follow through on receiving services. They also feel that prosecutors do not file on all DV cases that they feel should be filed. Officers are NOT saying they should not arrest abusers (Mr. Hart's emphasis). They strongly endorse an arrest policy. However, they feel that some other approach needs to be added to make the policy more effective.

Mr. Hart noted again that these are preliminary findings, but that the data is good. The surveying will be completed in September. Mr. Toon reiterated that one thing Morrison will be looking at is whether police officers have different attitudes about DV than the general public. So far, there seems to be great congruence. Their views are pretty similar, but experiences with the issue are very different.

Dr. Jennifer Casaletto expressed concern that the way the questions were worded may have affected the answers, as they are significantly higher than a 4th grade reading level. She said that in other large studies, bringing the reading level down led to bigger numbers. While the police officers may have understood easily, the general population may not have. Specifically, on page thirteen, the second scenario may have been hard to understand.

Commander Kim Humphrey explained that there were two different surveys going on and that each had different questions. The general public was asked to respond to different questions than the police officers. Mr. Hart said that this was true, though Dr. Casaletto's concern still holds if the questions were difficult to understand for the general public.

Ms. Lynn Timmons asked if there was any baseline data from a decade ago to measure if any progress has been made. Mr. Hart replied that information specific to Arizona may not be available from a decade ago, but there have been universal significant changes in attitudes on the part of police officers and the entire criminal justice system. The common refrain used to be, that DV was a nuisance issue and arrests were seldom made. Officers used to improvise at the scene, but there has been significant change in that. An obstacle, it has been said, was police culture and "macho" attitudes, but they are hearing from officers that this is greatly reduced.

Ms. Ginger Spencer asked if there is any breakdown for other ethnicities. Mr. Toon replied that as in the case of Hispanic respondents, the number of "other" ethnicities participating in the survey was very small - maybe only 81 of the total. Again he warned the Council to be very careful in looking at ethnicity. He added that the Behavior Research Center can provide all of the data in order to see exactly how many respondents of each ethnicity participated. .

Commander Humphrey emphasized that this study is very important, as it is the first time it has ever been done in the state. At least, it is the first one based in research. He said that the Morrison Institute has tackled looking at national studies and identifying best practices for this survey. He feels that it will have ripple effects beyond our borders in Arizona. With this study, they are attempting to address two things: knowledge of officers about DV and attitudes towards DV. They hope to find how they mix together, why officers feel the way they do and are more ambivalent than the general public. He stated that while it is interesting to hear numbers, the point is what will be done with the information. The first and foremost goal is to provide a guideline for policy and training for police officers. This research will allow policy makers to make solid decisions based on research. He added that he hopes everyone appreciates what the Morrison Institute has done on this project.

Commander Humphrey also noted that the phone survey was a secondary piece of research that was tagged onto the Behavior Research Center's standard quarterly phone survey. The law enforcement survey may yield much more significant results. Mr. Toon added that the researchers at the Behavior Research Center are very experienced surveyors. If there is any question about how confident one can be in the results, it is helpful to note that the results are very comparable with studies done in other states. The results are also very close to what the Morrison Institute is getting from the law enforcement survey. Mr. Toon said that this is a good measure of their expertise at BRC.

Dr. Casaletto said that it may be necessary in thinking about the results to add 12-15% for those people who didn't understand the definition of DV. Ms. Spencer pointed out that the conclusion section stated that non-white residents had the highest levels of DV experience, but knowing that the number of ethnic minority participation was low, this may not be accurate. Mr. Toon agreed and stated again that it is important to be careful about drawing any conclusions in regarding to ethnicity. He also added that the concluding remarks included in the written report were written by the BRC. Dr. Casaletto noted caution in looking at the outcomes according to income data as well. She said that according to national surveys, personal experience with DV seems to be more equal among the different income levels.

Ms. Spencer said that overall this is a good survey, especially if you compare the results to the sentiment that was prevalent before. She referred to a study done in 1980's out of ASU that showed that DV is generally seen as a family matter. Since that time, the predominant aggressor and mandatory arrest policies have been put into place. Now people recognize DV as public safety issue and progress is being made. Anna Maria Leff noted that in Table three, the 55 and over demographic may have reported less personal experience with DV because the term "domestic violence" is a taboo to that population. She cautioned that the number may be artificially low.

Mr. Juan Aristizabal asked what happened when a non-English speaking person answered the phone. Mr. Toon replied that BRC does another survey that is completely done in Spanish. However, for this survey, he thought that the surveyor did not continue the call if a monolingual Spanish speaker answered. The separate survey is called Hispanic Track. He suggested that at some point, the Council might want to include a question or two in the Hispanic Track survey. He again cautioned Council members to be very careful in the interpretation of minority results.

Mr. John Pombier asked if the statewide survey of law enforcement officers was simply the first generation, and if eventually prosecutors and representatives of the courts would also be surveyed and interviewed. Commander Humphrey replied that the original goal was to do all of it at the same time, but due to funding constraints, the Governor's Office chose to focus on one aspect. He said that the hope is that through follow-up conversations, and if the survey of police officers goes well, moving on to prosecutors and the courts could be next. He commented that they have a partner at DPS who may be willing to fund additional surveys. Mr. Hart added that Morrison would love to continue with those pieces. He added that police officers at the city level and county level are being surveyed and that thus far, city prosecutors tend to get good marks from law enforcement in the Phoenix area and in Tucson. It has been the County attorneys who do not fare as well in the view of law enforcement. Mr. Pombier said that over the years, he has seen lots of reports on police attitudes, but none for prosecutors and courts. He said that he feels it is very important to complete a whole study of the law enforcement system.

Ms. Laura Guild referred to Table two on page four and asked why the number receiving their DV awareness from TV news was so high. Mr. Toon said that he also noticed the high rate on TV and noted that the original question had asked what they had heard about DV over the last six months. Ms. Guild pointed out that at the time the survey was done, the Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence was going on and there was lots of media around that. Ms. McBurney added that it was also at the same time as the ASU shooting, which was in the news a great deal.

Councilmember Lieberman noted that another important issue was that the public is not aware of the cost of responding to DV. In Glendale, the police department sends out two officers to each call. Responding to DV takes more police department time than any other single issue they have. They have now reached the stage where they cannot provide enough officers. Mr. Hart agreed and said that they are hearing that same concern in their interviews and surveys. In Tucson, one detective who has been working on DV issues for 15 years, said that DV tends to have a spreading effect. While officers may be following up on other crimes, it is likely that they will find DV as well, even if it was not the presenting issue initially.

Commander Humphrey asked Mr. Hart and Mr. Toon if they could come back to answer a couple of questions about confidence at the next meeting. Mr. Toon said that he would follow up with BRC and get more information for the next meeting in September.

Chairman Westbrook agreed with Councilmember Lieberman about the cost. Regarding the survey, he said that one of its purposes was to be thought provoking and to provide an opportunity to start drilling down to what the community believes about DV. He stated that the intent is to develop this information into an action tool for policy makers and those who make decisions about how to respond to and solve DV. He thanked the Council members for their support because this is the first survey of this scale. He also thanked Mr. Hart and Mr. Toon for helping to develop the survey and for their work with BRC. He hoped that this information would compliment the information that will be found through the shelter survey being done by the Victim Services subcommittee.

Chairman Westbrook asked for a motion to formally approve the survey results. Councilmember Fred Scott motioned, with a second by Councilmember Lieberman. The survey results were approved unanimously.

7. Domestic Violence Focus Group Schedule and Questions

Chairman Westbrook clarified with Mr. Hart and Mr. Toon that the results of the law enforcement survey may be available in a preliminary form in time for the September meeting. It will definitely be available in its entirety for the strategic planning meeting on November 1.

Chairman Westbrook asked Ms. Franquiz to provide the Council with a report on the DV focus group schedule and focus group questions. Ms. Franquiz said that the DV phone survey previously discussed is just one step being taken to gather community input for the update to the Regional Human Services Plan, as well as for this Council's Strategic Planning session in November. She said that MAG is seeking more qualitative information through conducting several focus groups around the Valley on a variety of human services issues. She referred the Council to the list of community hearings and focus groups that were supplied on the table outside the room.

She noted that the focus groups not listed were those looking particularly at DV, as those locations are kept confidential. However, if any Council members are interested in attending any of those, she would be happy to provide that information to them privately following the meeting. In total, there will be seven focus groups on DV, three of which have already been completed.

She went on to say that last June, the DV Council chairs and subcommittee chairs met to develop the questions that would be asked at the DV focus groups. She referred the Council to the list of questions. She noted that each focus group, regardless of subpopulation, would be asked the five general questions also provided. These general questions would be asked first, in order to make focus group attendees comfortable with the discussion and each other before moving on to the more sensitive and personal issues.

She asked if anyone had any questions about the focus group schedule for the summer or any of the focus group questions. No questions were asked at this time.

Chairman Westbrook asked for a motion to formally approve the DV focus group questions. Commander Humphrey moved to accept the questions, Ms. Spencer seconded. The focus group questions passed unanimously.

8. Wrap-Up of DV Council Evaluation Process

Chairman Westbrook asked Ms. Franquiz to provide a quick summary of the results of the DV Council evaluation process. Ms. Franquiz thanked all of the Council members for their feedback at the last meeting in May, as well as those that provided feedback via the written survey following the May meeting. She stressed that it is important to revisit the evaluation process because staff wishes to be as responsive as possible and to actually implemented some of the changes that were suggested.

She referred the Council to the written summary of the evaluation survey results. She said that through the anonymous survey and from comments made in the meeting, one issue that kept coming up was Council membership and ensuring that the right people were at the table and that there was broad representation. She said that the MAG Regional Continuum of Care Committee on Homelessness went through these same issues about one year ago. That group chose to form an ad hoc subcommittee to look critically at their membership roster and to identify any gaps in representation. They chose to go a step further and determine optimum Committee size and how many representatives there should be from each sector. She went on to say that although the DV Council does not necessarily need to be that prescriptive, the action of forming an ad hoc group to look at the DV Council's membership roster and to determine areas where strategic recruiting is needed might be helpful. This group might find it useful to go through this process once per year, or every other year, to ensure consistently balanced membership.

Chairman Westbrook said that he would specifically like to see the faith community better represented on the Council. He said that he supports the ideas of having an ad hoc group look at membership and recruitment, to work for a couple of months, and then report back to the Council. He made a request for four volunteers who would be willing to work with MAG staff on this issue. Dale Weibusch, AzCADV; Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis; Connie Phillips, Sojourner; and John Pombier, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office all volunteered to form a membership ad hoc group.

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve to formation of an ad hoc membership subcommittee to working on membership and recruiting. Councilmember Fred Scott motioned to approve, with a second by Laura Guild. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Plans for DV Awareness Month Kick-Off Press Conference

Chairman Westbrook said that this year, the planning for the DV press conference would be beginning much earlier this year. He reminded the Council how successful the event was last year and thanked Commander Humphrey for allowing the Council to use the Phoenix Police Department as the location for the conference. He asked Ms. Franquiz to give an update on the progress for this year's press conference.

Ms. Franquiz said that this year, Detective Coy Johnston from the Mesa Police Department is again spearheading an effort to organize the multitude of DV awareness events that will be going on throughout the Valley. Last year, Det. Johnston organized a law enforcement round-up among several police departments state-wide. The results of the round-up were announced on the same day as the Governor's proclamation. He will be organizing another round-up for this year. Ms. Franquiz and Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, attended a DV Planning meeting in Mesa in June to discuss potential dates for the various events. It was decided that the DV Press Conference would be held on Wednesday September 28, while the round-up and Governor's proclamation would be later in the first week of October. The goal is to have several media-worthy events throughout the month, but to space them enough apart so that each can receive coverage.

Ms. Franquiz asked for volunteers to assist in the planning process for this year's press conference. Vice Mayor Westbrook, Commander Humphrey, Carolyn McBurney, Marna McClendon, and Dena Salter volunteered to assist. Ms. Franquiz noted that Kristen Scharlau from the City of Tempe had volunteered at an earlier meeting, though she was not present today. Ms. Franquiz thanked the volunteers for their assistance and said that she would be organizing the first meeting shortly.

Councilmember Scott asked for clarification regarding the police round-up of DV offenders. He asked whether the warrants should not have already been served without the special event. Mr. Pombier replied that often warrants must go unserved for sometime as it is difficult to have adequate manpower to serve all of them. He said that the annual round-up is important because it represents a special effort to go out and serve the outstanding warrants.

10. Announcements

Commander Humphrey announced that, as Ms. Buckner mentioned earlier, the DV STOP grant proposals were submitted recently. The Phoenix Police Department put in for one to provide training for law enforcement and prosecutors on DV that will be focused on distance learning. He said that if the grant is awarded, they will need help in identifying individuals to put together a multi-disciplinary curriculum. He asked that if anyone is interested to please let him know after the meeting. John Pombier suggested that for any training, it is help to have police officers and prosecutors in the room at the same time. This facilitates the groups working together rather than against each other. Mr. Pombier volunteered to help with the development of the training curriculum.

Connie Phillips announced that Sojourner Center will be breaking ground on their new transitional living campus next month. She looks forward to giving updates to the Council as they move forward. She said that hopefully by this time next year, the facility will be complete and have people living in it.

Ginger Spencer announced that Sistas of Arizona and the City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center will be holding the first annual African American Response to DV event on Saturday, October 1. The planning committee for the event meets on the second Monday of every month from noon until 1:00pm. She stressed the importance of this conference as African Americans represent a large proportion of the DV homicides, but not a large proportion of those seeking services. Oliver Williams, Executive Director of the African American institute at the University of Minnesota will be the keynote speaker. She invited Council members to attend the event planning meetings if they are interested.

11. Adjourn

Chairman Westbrook thanked everyone for attending and reminded the Council the Strategic Planning Session will be on Tuesday, November 1. The next Continuum of Care meeting will be Tuesday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m. at the MAG offices in the Saguaro Room.