

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

- +Mark Armstrong, MC Superior Court
- *Tracy Bame, Phelps Dodge Corp.
- *John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Anna Contreras for 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
JoAnne Del-Colle, Governor's Office
- *Susan Glawe, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Laura Guild, DES
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House
Sherri Lauritano 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
Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Wallace Kemp, Phoenix Police Department
- *Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
- *Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale
- *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
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
- *Keith Perkins, Never Again Foundation
- *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
Kris Scharlau for Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Sherri Lauritano for Kerry G. Wangberg, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Phillip Westbrook, Councilmember of Chandler, Chairman
Dale Wiebusch, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- *Rick Ybarra, Value Options

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Mary DeGuilio, JFCS-SWW
- Teresa Franquiz, MAG
- DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
- Amy St. Peter, MAG
- Dena Salter, MIHS

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Westbrook called the Council to order at 9:15 am. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the July 12, 2005 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve the July 12, 2005 meeting minutes. Connie Phillips moved to approve, Dale Wiebusch seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Chairman Westbrook introduced JoAnne Del-Colle, new Director of the Division for Women at the Governor's Office. Ms. Del-Colle provided an update on the current activities of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. She began by stating that at this time she has been with the Governor's Office for almost six weeks. She came from the City of Scottsdale, where she was the Manager of Victim Services for five and a half years. Ms. Del-Colle is a therapist and social worker by training, has been involved in the AmeriCorps national service program and is an adjunct faculty member at ASU.

Ms. Del-Colle announced that Commission would meet on Thursday of next week. Members will review the State Plan in October to see what progress has been made, and in November they will plan for 2006. On March 30 and 31, 2006 there will be a sexual assault conference at the Black Canyon Conference Center. They plan to cover some health issues and campus sexual assault. She stated that yesterday, her office hired an assistant to help Evelyn Buckner with administering the STOP program. The new hire is Jeremy Arp, who is also a social worker.

5. Subcommittee Update

Chairman Westbrook called for a report of the DV subcommittees.

EADV Subcommittee: Craig Mills, APS, stated that the Steering Subcommittee met this week to discuss activities for DV Awareness Month. One big event will be on October 6. EADV along with American Express are offering a free training at Encanto Park Clubhouse in Phoenix. Kim Wells, Executive Director from the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence will be the guest trainer. He thanked Ms. Franquiz for doing a great job in organizing and promoting this event. He asked Council members to please contact her by September 30 to RSVP. He added that at this time there is nothing new to report about the Walk. There is a plan for members of the EADV Steering Subcommittee to meet later in October to take a closer at the future of EADV and to begin plans for the next year.

Ms. Spencer, City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, commented that some women working with a temporary agency are sometimes fired or terminated from positions for taking care of issues related to their safety. She asked if EADV advocates on behalf of a woman in these types of situations. Mr. Mills replied that historically this has not been one of their objectives, but this raises an interesting point. He said he would raise this issue at the next Steering meeting. Ms. Spencer

also added that maybe it would look better having an employer call another employer about this kind of issue, rather than having the FAC calling for them.

Laura Guild, DES, asked Mr. Wiebusch if there is anything in the Arizona State Statute regarding this issue. He said that there would likely be a portion on employment issues in the new version of the federal Violence Against Women Act, but there is still a need to see how that legislation develops. There is no state legislation presently. State legislators and advocates need to see how VAWA is going to turn out first.

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve the promotional materials on the EADV Training. Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center, moved to approve the materials, and Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The materials passed unanimously.

HCAFV Subcommittee: Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center, reported that the module for nursing school training was completed. HCAFV is drafting a letter to go to nursing schools to ask them to implement the training. The training will be free and members of HCAFV will be available to provide the training. The subcommittee is working on getting endorsements from several organizations. The Arizona chapter of the American Medical Association unanimously voted to support the training. They are currently waiting to hear from the Governor's Office and AZ State Nursing Board. Ms. Del-Colle, commented that she would check on the status with the Governor's Office. Dr. Casaletto added that the subcommittee would likely go to the next state nursing board meeting to present the training.

Dr. Casaletto mentioned that they are also surveying emergency departments in the County to ask about the status of universal screening for DV. Fourteen of the 24 EDs have responded. Of those, eight are universally screening and six are not. All of them attempt to provide privacy during the screening. None are using validated questions, except for Maricopa Medical Center. All departments offer intervention by a social worker or an advocate. The survey also asked if a person screens positive, do they do a mandatory report, 13 of the 14 said yes. Maricopa Medical Center does not. Dr. Casaletto said that their physicians would want to stop screening altogether if they did have to mandatory report because there is not enough evidence proving that mandatory reports lead to victim safety.

Ms. Dena Salter, MMC, presented the new poster for Family Violence Awareness Month activities that will be offered through the Center for Healthcare Against Family Violence. Not all at events will be held at Maricopa Medical Center. They are working on updating the content of the trainings now to expand on particular areas. The training will now cover more than just basic DV 101. Every year they've progressed to add more information, such as warning signs and what the police must go through in responding to DV calls. All events are free and there is no need for an RSVP. She stated she had more copies of the poster for any committee member who needed them.

Chairman Westbrook asked if they had contacted any Catholic Healthcare West hospitals like Chandler Regional and St. Joseph's. If so, he wondered what are they doing to screen. Dr. Casaletto said that both hospitals responded to the survey and both do universal screening. The subcommittee received this information independently from both a nurse and a doctor. St. Joe's did not give a percentage on the number that they screen. Chandler said they screen about 90% of their patients. The Banner hospitals all use the same screening questions, but they are not good ones. Dr. Casaletto that that the "do you feel safe at home?" question is not a good one to ask because it is too vague. It's better to ask, "Are you afraid of your partner or someone you love?" and/or "have you been kicked, slapped, etc by a partner in the last year?"

Ms. Phillips asked if there would be difficulty in getting them to change their screening questions. Dr. Casaletto responded that they want to finish the survey first in order to get a full tally before they attempt to change any of the methodologies. She said that Banner hospitals would likely be the easiest to change because their hospitals are all part of one system. Ms. Phillips noted that this is a situation where members can really see the value of the Council. She encouraged members to offer their support to subcommittee in their efforts.

Carolyn McBurney asked if the screening was done in Spanish and in English. Ms. Casaletto replied that at Maricopa it is, but she is not sure about the others. Chairman Westbrook offered that at Chandler Regional Hospital, there is an interpreter available around the clock, so he is fairly certain that it be in English and Spanish there as well.

Chairman Westbrook commented that the next time HCAFV is looking for sponsors, they should contact Catholic Healthcare West, Chandler Regional Hospital or Mercy Gilbert for sponsorship to help with things like fliers and other promotional materials.

Ad Hoc DV Awareness Month Press Conference Planning Subcommittee: Ms. Franquiz provided the report from the Press Conference Planning Subcommittee. She informed members that the theme for this year would be prevention and that the chosen tagline would be "do YOU see it?" She said that there would be speakers from Peer Solutions, the Area Agency on Aging DOVES Program, as well as a school resource officer, former Miss Navajo Radmilla Cody, and a brief skit by Peer Solutions demonstrating instances of teen violence. Chairman Westbrook would be opening and closing the press conference as he did last year. Ms. McBurney reminded everyone to send details of their DV awareness month events to the Coalition so they can add them to the statewide calendar, which will be included in the press packets. Chairman Westbrook thanked everyone who's been working on the press conference this year. Ms. Franquiz asked Council members to review the chosen logo and tagline for the event.

Chairman Westbrook asked for a motion to approve the logo. Laura Guild moved to approve, with a second from Dr. Casaletto. The logo was unanimously approved.

Victim Service Subcommittee: Ms. St. Peter provided the update from the Victim Services Subcommittee. She noted that each Council member received a collection of maps in their packets. These maps are meant to demonstrate the geographic location of DV shelters and services in relation to various demographic factors, such as population concentrations. She thanked everyone for the information they provided, especially Lisa Melton from Community Legal Service who provided a great deal of assistance. She explained that they tried to show all domestic violence services by location, except for shelters, which are shown only by zip code in order to keep their locations confidential.

Ms. St. Peter also pointed out the bar chart that shows need for DV services on a regional basis. She noted that it was interesting to see what information was easy to find and what information actually was not available. For example, she was able to locate the number of orders of protection that were requested, but not the number of orders actually served. On behalf of the subcommittee, she thanked the police departments for providing this information.

She added that the bar chart is a companion document to another project. The subcommittee is currently working on a DV shelter capacity white paper and has partnered with two professors from ASU West. She thanked Laura Guild from DES and Community Information & Referral for assisting with the project. She said that it should be done within the next month and will then be brought before the Council for their review. The white paper is meant to show, in a statistically reliable way, the unduplicated number of calls for shelter in a one-month period and the number of callers who were turned away due to lack of space. She thanked all the shelters for their outstanding response and support of the project.

Ms. St. Peter stated that while the need has always seemed huge, the paper will show that meeting the need may not be so far out of reach. It would take about another 325 shelter beds to serve the need as indicated by the local domestic violence shelters. She commented that while it is no small task, it is a goal to work towards. This information reflects only current need, not projected. People can use this information to advocate for more funding in a statistically reliable way. A finished draft of the white paper should be available to the Council by November.

Mr. Weibusch, AzCADV, asked how soon the Council could get this information. Ms. St. Peter commented that it is not yet ready for public use until it is approved by the Council, but that the subcommittee can share the information with him.

Mr. Pombier asked for clarification on why the bar chart seemed to indicate that almost 1200 were going without shelter but only 325 more beds are needed. Ms. St. Peter explained that the 1200 number on the bar chart included duplicate calls. Mr. Pombier stated that this chart should be used delicately for advocacy purposes,

especially when using it to approach the legislature, because it makes it look like supporters of the issue have been overstating the need. Ms. Phillips responded by saying that with this information, we can point to this as the final number, which is the point to work from.

Mr. Pombier asked if it would be possible to just show the number of unduplicated calls on the bar, instead of the duplicated calls, because it can be very misleading otherwise and the actual need may get lost in the translation. He pointed out that while it may be very thoroughly explained in the white paper, the paper may not be read in its entirety. The information will need to be presented in an easier way.

Ms. Spencer said that she was surprised that the number of people going without shelter was not higher because she had always heard that two people were turned away for every one that is placed. Ms. St. Peter replied that the subcommittee found that on average, people were placed in shelter on their second call. Dr. Casaletto asked if this meant the second shelter that was called or the second call in time. Ms. St. Peter replied that it was on the second call in time, which potentially could have been placed to the same shelter or to CI&R the second time. She thanked everyone for their work, especially the subcommittee. She said the feedback from the Council has been helpful.

Chairman Westbrook commented this was a great job and a wonderful project, but that it could potentially be used by people looking for a reason not to support it. He asked if the subcommittee was able to find how many calls it took on average to find shelter. Ms. St. Peter said that the data from the CONTACTS shelter hotline indicated that the majority had to call twice. He said that for someone in that type of urgent need, having to call twice clearly indicates that we are not meeting the need. He added that once this issue of emergency shelter is addressed, then we must look at transitional housing availability. He noted that this project is really just a first step.

Ms. Spencer asked if the bar indicating the number going without shelter could be colored red to make it stand out more. Twelve hundred women and children going without shelter every month is a huge number. She said that overall, it's a very powerful message and thanked the subcommittee for their work.

Ms. Guild noted that there is a clear distinction between a call for service and the number that ultimately receives shelter. Every caller does not necessarily request shelter, but may need some other form of help. The number of calls doesn't necessarily need to be translated into a shelter bed. The question is whether the calls that were counted in the shelter survey were actually calls for shelter. Ms. Phillips said that the methodology is explained more fully in the white paper. She said that when callers are turned away and the calls are logged as "no room", it means that shelter is what the callers were looking for. Other callers requesting other services were screened out of the survey.

Ms. St. Peter suggested maybe putting off on approval of the bar chart until the white paper is available. Kris Scharlau, Tempe Care 7, asked if it is still possible to change the bar chart if the Council does not approve it today. For example, she suggested that it may be helpful to show the number of calls it takes to get into shelter. Ms. St. Peter replied that it may be possible, but the subcommittee would need to ensure that the data are complete. Dr. Casaletto suggested taking out the number of duplicate calls from the chart, and possibly having a second chart that shows the number of calls it takes to get into shelter. Ms. Scharlau agreed. She noted that if it takes more than one phone call to get shelter, the chance that the victim will pursue assistance really goes down. Ms. St. Peter said that this might be possible to demonstrate with a line graph.

Mr. Pombier asked if there would be any way to show how many callers no longer pursue assistance if they do not get service on the first call. Ms. Phillips said that they do not have access to the people who do not call again, so at this point that information is not available. She added that she would like to use the study to encourage the community to take the next step. Recently, the Governor added \$1.5 million to the budget for more shelter services, so it may be relatively easy to add 325 more beds. She suggested maybe doing another study with the FAC or other hotlines to find out if victims called for shelter once, but then never called again. She added that MAG plans for the future all the time, but that is not what happened with the shelter system. They simply did not do enough the first time. This project gives advocates the opportunity to show that it is time to take another step and that it is time to get angry. Mr. Pombier agreed and said that if we are going to put our resources together, we need to be careful to show the right numbers to take to the legislature.

Ms. Guild suggested taking the chart back to Victim Services to look at it again. Ms. Scharlau asked if it would be possible to show a negative number of those not getting into shelter so that it is more prominent. Ms. Guild said that they will take this feedback to the subcommittee and will work on the chart again. The Council agreed to wait on approval of the bar chart and instead only take action on the maps. Mr. Pombier moved to approve the maps, with a second by Mr. Weisbusch. The maps were approved unanimously.

Ad Hoc Membership Subcommittee: John Pombier, City of Mesa, reported that the subcommittee met a month ago to look at the balance of representation on the Council. They also checked if there were any gaps in representation and/or any overrepresentation. He noted that the breakdown of membership is shown on the handout. Mr. Pombier said that the group talked about the optimal size and structure of the Council, as well as succession planning. Mr. Pombier referred members to the list of recommendations formed by the subcommittee for their consideration. The six recommendations were:

1. Address areas where there is duplication in membership by asking member agencies to appoint only one official member. This will assist in making room for broader representation.
2. Request all agencies to officially designate at least one standing proxy, with the option of designating more than one.
3. Formalize a structured executive committee that is empowered to make important and/or time-sensitive decisions.
4. Address the issue of succession planning. The MAG Regional Council chairperson must officially appoint new chairs. The role of the DV Council would be to offer names for consideration.
5. Address attendance issues by having the Chairperson personally call members who have not attended or sent a proxy for three consecutive meetings.
6. Recruit new membership from the following agencies:
 - Relevant foundations
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Maricopa Community Colleges
 - United Way
 - AZ Foundation for Women/Men's Anti-Violence Network
 - Cities/Towns:
 - i. Peoria
 - ii. Buckeye
 - iii. Scottsdale
 - iv. Gilbert

He stated that the first area of consideration is in reducing duplication. For example, the City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office and the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office both have two members on the Council. He suggested that the Council could ask those agencies to appoint just one person, while the other can be a proxy, unless there is a distinct reason to have two.

The group suggested that each agency designate a proxy. They also suggested forming a formal executive committee, so the Council can get a quorum on short notice. The entire Council could be kept up to date through email. The group agreed that it would be important to address succession planning. He reminded members that the MAG Regional Council chairperson, currently Mayor Keno Hawker from the City of Mesa, officially appoints the chair. The Council's role is to offer names for consideration. He noted that it would be important to involve persons who are up for consideration so they can be informed. The fifth recommendation was to address attendance by having the chairperson call non-attending members if three meetings have been missed in order to either secure their commitment or to ask them to appoint another member who is more available to attend. The members are:

Keith Perkins, Never Again Foundation
 Sgt. Mike Stedman, El Mirage Police Department
 Councilmember Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale
 Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Chief Dan Hughes, City of Surprise Police Department

Mr. Pombier noted that it is important to keep the Council to a manageable size in order to ensure a quorum. The hope is that once new members are added and duplication is reduced, there will be roughly the same number of members as there are now. There would be 40-45 people, which he personally feels is still too big.

He thanked all those who participated in the membership subcommittee. He noted that it was a relatively long meeting, and there was even some disagreement between the participants, but that is why they are going before the Council now with their recommendations.

Sheri Lauritano, City of Phoenix, recommended looking at ASU as another potential area for recruitment.

Ms. Guild asked if the Council wanted to move in the direction of having an executive committee. Mr. Pombier said that there has never been one as a part of this Council, although the members have always struggled with the issue and it has been brought up numerous times. He said that it would be very important to clearly determine who would be on it and how big it should be.

Ms. St. Peter commented that having an executive committee could mean different things. They could meet only in cases of emergency, for example. The Council would set up the tasks of the executive committee to make sure that the Council as a whole continues to move forward.

Chairman Westbrook said that he is personally in support of an executive committee and has been for a while. This is not because they can make decisions outside the Council, however. Decisions would still need to be within the Council, but if a quick decision is necessary, then having an executive committee provides that option. If it is impossible to get a quorum from the full Council together, then a quorum of the executive committee can be much more manageable.

Mr. Pombier went through the list of other recommendations, aside from the executive committee, one at a time to see if there were any others that required further discussion.

- Eliminating duplication: No further discussion needed.
- Requesting proxies: No further discussion needed.
- Succession planning: Everyone agreed that this should be done and asked to see recommendations from the membership subcommittee at the next Council meeting.
- Calls from the chair to non-attendees: No further discussion needed.
- Area for recruitment: ASU will be added to the list. It was suggested that more men be encouraged to get involved, as well as letting congressional staff know about the meetings.

Ms. Spencer asked what percentage of the Council should be elected officials. Mr. Pombier replied that this was talked about at the subcommittee meeting. That group also agreed that it's very important to make sure that elected officials are present. Making it happen is a little more difficult. Ms. Scharlau suggested that in attempting to involve elected officials, their peers might have a better chance of getting them interested in the topic. She suggested a system of having peers contacting peers when it comes to recruitment. Chairman Westbrook said that may depend on how the succession planning is structured; for example, would the chairmanship turn over every six months or every year. He suggested sending a letter to all the city councils and requesting that someone participate from each. Mr. Pombier added that the Council has been very fortunate that our two elected official chairs have been very committed to the issue. It would be tougher if there is someone at the helm who is not necessarily as committed to it. He said that the Council must make membership beneficial to them in order to draw them into the Council.

Ms. Spencer moved to accept the recommendations, noting that the membership subcommittee would come back to the Council with additional details on what an executive committee would look like, as well as suggestions for succession planning. Dr. Casaletto seconded the motion. The recommendations were unanimously passed with those stipulations.

6. Overview of Public Input Activities for the 2006 Update to the Regional Human Services Plan

Ms. Franquiz who provided an update on the results of the domestic violence focus groups held over the summer. She referred the members to the summary of feedback and the trends that emerged. She thanked all of those Council members that assisted with the focus groups. The feedback presented today, if approved, will be used in the DV chapter of the 2006 Regional Human Services Plan. There were no further comments or questions that this time. Laura Guild and Chairman Westbrook complimented MAG staff on their good work.

Chairman Westbrook called for a motion to approve the trend data for inclusion in the 2006 Regional Human Services Plan. Mr. Parascandola moved to approve the data, and Ms. Guild seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Announcements

Ms. Phillips announced that Sojourner Center has started construction on their new transitional living campus. When completed, it will have 29 units. They are now working on the first nine units. She thanked all of the donors and noted that a private contributor gave \$1 million. CDBG from the City of Phoenix provided another source of funding. They are now in the middle of the capital campaign. They will need another nine million to finish the campus, and already have two million. They will have an open house at the end of April 2006.

Ms. Spencer announced that Unite for Life, the first DV conference targeting African Americans, will be on Saturday, October 1 from 8 a.m. – noon at Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, located at 1401 E. Jefferson. Dr. Oliver Williams from the University of Minnesota will speak at the event. For more information please call 602 534 3072. She thanked the Governor's Office for their sponsorship.

Mr. Wiebusch commented that last Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted VAWA to the Senate floor. They are currently working on some provisions in the House, after which time it will go to a conference committee. The Coalition is getting feedback that the reauthorization is not going to be a problem. At the moment, only the dollar amount is contentious. He also announced that there would be a ceremony in honor of murder victims on September 23 at 8:30am outside the Executive Tower at the capitol building. He encouraged members to attend.

Judge Mark Armstrong announced the opening of a new Maricopa County Northeast Courthouse. The new Superior Court building includes a family violence prevention center, where there will be advocates and victim assistants. He also announced that effective January 1, 2006 a new law would allow for limited scope representation for victims needing legal assistance. The Supreme Court bench book dealing with DV will be elevated to the order of rules, which means it will be elevated to a higher level. Mr. Pombier asked if the rules with limited scope of representation deal with the position the prosecutor is in; for example, if the victim has an attorney, can prosecutor speak to them. Judge Armstrong replied that the limited scope law applies only in family court and does not affect operations in criminal cases.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am. The next DV Council meeting will be the Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, November 1 at the Flinn Foundation from 9:00 am to noon.