

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE STEERING SUBCOMMITTEE
APRIL 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

+Theresa James, City of Tempe
+Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections
Brande Mead, Maricopa Association of Governments
Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Donald Keuth called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

3. 2009 Continuum of Care Star Award Recommendation

Nominations for the 2009 Star Award were received for Joe Razo, Basic Mission; and Geraldine Boss, Magellan. Brande Mead, MAG, explained that the person receiving the award will be recognized and presented with an award at the April 20, 2009 MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Appreciation Luncheon. A motion was made by Theresa James, City of Tempe to recommend that Joe Razo, Basic Mission, receive the 2009 Star Award. The motion was seconded by Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Performance Evaluation Process

Members of the Steering Subcommittee discussed the performance evaluation process for projects receiving McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funding. Theresa James, City of Tempe, volunteered to lead a stakeholders group that will establish benchmarks for evaluating performance. The following areas were discussed for consideration by the Stakeholder's Group:

- Projects scoring low will be placed on probation for a year and will receive an action plan.
- Projects will be re-evaluated in one year to determine if they have made progress.
- Projects showing acceptable progress will be taken off probation.
- Projects showing some progress but making efforts will remain on probation with an action plan.
- Projects showing no progress and making no effort to improve will be considered for moving their funding to another project.
- Technical assistance will be made available to all projects.

Amy St. Peter explained that the purpose of the evaluation process is to improve project performance over the entire continuum and is not intended to de-fund projects. She indicated

that technical assistance will be made available with the hopes that performance will improve and projects will be successful.

Diana Yazzie Devine said that she believes that providers need to be held accountable for the performance of their projects. She continued that she is pleased that the overall goal is to improve performance and increase provider's success. She did note the importance of ensuring benchmarks are appropriate to the population being served.

Theresa James made a motion to develop a stakeholders group to establish evaluation benchmarks and action plan for agencies with low performance as determined by analysis of the Annual Progress Reports. The same group will provide or plan for the provision of technical assistance to the agencies. Volunteers for the stakeholders group will be recruited at the May 18, 2009, Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness meeting. Ms. James volunteered to help lead the stakeholders group. Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

5. The Impact of Housing and Services on Homeless Families Study

Brandee Mead, MAG, informed the Steering Subcommittee that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is conducting a new study on the impact of housing and services on homeless families. Abt. Associates has been contracted by HUD to complete the study.

Twelve communities across the Country will be selected to participate in the study. Ms. Mead said that the MAG Continuum of Care was contacted by Abt. Associates about being considered for the study. She explained that there are two phases in determining the Continuums that will be participating in the study. The first phase is to find out if the Continuum is interested in being considered. If the Continuum is interested in participating, Abt. Associates will determine if the Continuum meets the criteria they have established for the study. In phase two, 12 Continuums will be confirmed for participation and will begin the study. Phase two is expected to be done by June, 2009.

Diana Yazzie Devine commented that the study is important but she is concerned about the burden the study will place on providers. She added that providers are currently struggling with the impact of the slowing economy and adding a study on top of their current workflow might be too overwhelming. Ms. Devine supported the idea that the Continuum of Care committee members would have an opportunity to discuss the opportunity and to elect whether or not to participate in the study.

Theresa James, City of Tempe, made a motion to recommend ratification of participation in HUD's Impact of Housing and Services on Homeless Families Study. Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. Announcements

There were no announcements.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.