

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Annette Stein, Maricopa County, Chair
Maryann Beerling, New Arizona Family
Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed
*Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center
Theresa James, City of Tempe, Vice Chair
+Jeffrey Jamison for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
*John Landrum, The Salvation Army
Nick Margiotta, City of Phoenix
Ric Mason, Labor's Community Service Agency
Elizabeth Morales, AZ Behavioral Health Co
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries
Michelle Thomas, YWCA
*Michelle Ryan, Arizona Department of Health Services
*John Wall, CASS
* Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

David Barnhouse, Governor's Office
Mike Bell, St. Vincent De Paul
Kathryn Brown, Arizona Department of Corrections
Sarah Cullina, Guest
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health
Randy Gearhart, Phoenix Shanti
Teresa Grantham, MAG
Kim Hohman, Governor's Office
Stephanie Knox, Value Options
Rita Koppinger, City of Scottsdale
Mike Levy, Nova Inc.
Paul Ludwick, Maricopa County
Nancy Marion, House of Refuge East
Terra Masias, Chicanos Por La Causa
Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus
Marelna Pina, The Salvation Army
Tom Pynn, Chicanos Por La Causa
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Greg Stanton, Councilmember
Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa
*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Annette Stein, Planning Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of January 8, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Chair Stein asked for any revisions to the January 8, 2007 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she then called for a motion to approve the minutes. Dick Geasland made a motion to approve the minutes. Darlene Newsom seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Tempe Project Homeless Connect

Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator for the City of Tempe, provided a report on Tempe Project Homeless Connect that took place on January 22, 2007.

Ms. James stated that Project Homeless Connect is a national best practice model established in San Francisco. She explained that the Mayor of San Francisco realized that the issue of homelessness needed to be addressed by the entire community. Therefore, the mayor and staff put together a project that lasted one day under one roof with agencies that could immediately provide services for homeless individuals. Another goal of the project was to treat homeless individuals with respect and hospitality.

Ms. James said Sue Ringer who attended the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Conference heard about the Project Homeless Connect and decided that she wanted to host the project in Tempe. A planning subcommittee comprised of eight to ten people was organized in the middle of November 2006. On January 22, 2007, Tempe Homeless Connect took place. Numerous people came together, including shelters, service providers, outreach teams, and a variety of people from the City of Tempe. Ms. James recognized some of the providers who participated, such as IHELP, La Mesita, U.S. Vets, Community Bridges, Terros, Karma Racer, the Veterans Administration (VA), a massage therapist, a hair stylist, Changing Hands Books, Bashas, and a retiree kazoo band. Ms. James said that it was one of the most gratifying days of her professional career.

Ms. James reported that 110 people were served, there were 40 volunteers, 45 health checks, an ambulance, a nurse, and the VA completed 11 intakes and admitted two to three people. Ms. James stated that the clients were mostly single adult males. However, there were 25 youths and three families.

A debriefing session was held after the event and a discussion took place on lessons learned. Ms. James said that she promoted the event to homeless individuals and agencies in a variety of ways.

Ms. James stated that Tempe Project Homeless Connect will be held quarterly, with the next project being planned for Friday April 27, 2007. Terra Masias asked who to contact for volunteer opportunities. Theresa James said that volunteers should contact her at (480) 858-2360.

Darlene Newsom stated that it is important to tie the services into housing and she added that Tempe did a great job with the Project Homeless Connect.

Dick Geasland commented that a board member who attended the project was very emotional when talking about the results and was very impressed with the event.

5. Capacity Paper

Teresa Grantham, Maricopa Association of Governments, summarized the results and planning process for the recently completed Domestic Violence Fiscal Paper and provided lessons learned.

Ms. Grantham stated that the overall goal of the report was to show at least a piece of how much money cities and town spend in providing emergency services to domestic

violence victims. She explained that the group chose to focus specifically on costs to police departments, prosecutors and municipal courts. She said that it does not include all of the costs in providing emergency services, but it provides a starting point.

The group developed a survey with the input from local criminal justice officials, including police officers, prosecutors, and municipal court judges. The original intent was to provide the survey to all of the municipalities in the MAG region. After a small pilot study was done with just four cities, the group realized that gathering this volume of information within the allotted timeframe was going to be impossible. So, they decided to concentrate on getting the best data possible for the handful of pilot cities that were initially approached.

In the end, they ended up surveying the cities of Avondale, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale. She noted that this is not a random sampling meant to be representative of the entire region. Instead, this selection provides particular cases to examine. Ms. Grantham expressed her thanks to the police, prosecutors, and municipal court officials in the participating cities who took the time to provide feedback on the survey instrument itself and to respond to the survey.

Ms. Grantham said that very few studies like this have been done before. A number of studies have been done on the fiscal impact of domestic violence upon victims themselves, upon private business, and upon the health care system, but not much has been done on the cost of domestic violence to the public sector. She stated that it is really difficult to pull together standard data across different jurisdictions. Especially here in Maricopa, there are so many different municipalities that are unique. She continued that out of necessity, the municipalities all track this kind of data differently.

Ms. Grantham said that this report just barely scratches the surface of the issue. She said that there is a whole universe of costs out there that were not included within the scope of this study this time around, including prison costs, costs of supervised probation, costs to family courts, and others.

The study found that the average cost to provide domestic violence services across the MAG region would at a minimum likely range between \$18 and \$26 million per year. This range was arrived at by adding the costs to police departments, municipal court and prosecution costs among the pilot cities, extrapolating to the whole population for the Region, and including a 20 percent variance either higher or lower. Ms. Grantham stressed that this is just a piece of the costs incurred by municipalities because of domestic violence.

Ms. Grantham offered several lessons learned: focus on one city at a time, or do a longitudinal study of certain cases; complete an analysis of existing local policies and procedures to identify differences and commonalities; and identify and recommend applicable data collection and data sharing models.

6. HUD Application Leverage Training

Brande Mead provided training on obtaining and documenting leverage for the 2007 HUD Application Process. She reminded everyone that the HUD Application has not yet been released and that the 2006 grant awards have also not yet been announced. She

referred to a handout she shared with the group that provides leverage letter tips. She stressed the importance of working on getting documentation for leverage in advance of the application. Ms. Mead went over the following leverage letter tips:

- Letter must be submitted on letterhead;
- Include the date the letter was written;
- State the amount/value of the contribution;
- Type of contribution;
- Source of contribution;
- State the name of the project for which the leverage is intended;
- Include the date the contribution is available (must be available at start of program period of the calendar year following the year of the application. If more than one year, indicate the years.); and
- Include the signature of the authorized representative.

Ms. Mead said some common examples of leverage included in the 2006 HUD application were:

- Volunteer hours (valued at \$10 for non-professionals and going professional rates for professionals);
- Various in-kind services;
- Agency revenues;
- Rental income from tenants;
- Other funding sources;
- United Way contributions;
- Donated construction materials; and
- Donations of rent, materials or services at less than market value (the difference between charge and value is leverage).

Some unique examples used in the 2006 HUD application were:

- Donated laundry revenues;
- In-kind video productions; and
- Donated hygiene supplies (diapers, wipes, lotion).

Ms. Mead stated that written agreements could include signed letters, memoranda of agreement, contracts, and other documented evidence of a commitment. The value of commitments of land, buildings and equipment can be claimed only once and cannot be claimed by another project in another year. Ms. Mead gave the example that the value of donated land, buildings or equipment claimed in 2006 or before for a project cannot be claimed as leveraging by that project or any other project in subsequent competitions, unless just a portion of the building or land was initially claimed. Cash match can be used for leverage. However leverage can only be used for match if it is cash. Only costs attributable to activities serving the clients assisted by the proposed McKinney-Vento project may be claimed as match or leverage.

Ms. St. Peter clarified that costs attributable to serving the clients assisted by the proposed McKinney-Vento project may be used as leverage and not as match if they are in-kind, or not cash.

Elizabeth Morales clarified that funding can end at any point in the calendar year not just at the end of the calendar year. If leverage is available for a portion of the year, then only a portion of the leverage amount would be claimed.

Bob Duvall added that the time people spend putting information into HMIS can be used for leverage for the HMIS project. He said that he will be asking all of the agencies for letters documenting the time.

Ms. Mead mentioned that Value Options had written a letter to MAG stating that they will provide leverage letter to agencies that request one. Agencies just need to let Value Options know they would like a letter and provide them with some information related to the project.

7. Evaluation of Planning Subcommittee

Chair Stein led a discussion on the evaluation of the Planning Subcommittee and the lack of response from the surveys that were handed out at the January 8th Planning Subcommittee meeting. Chair Stein stressed the importance of the survey and encouraged members to fill it out.

Tom Pynn stated that he had offered to provide financial training and Margaret Reiber took him up on the offer. That led to a Brown Bag Information Exchange presentation at the YWCA and resulted in trainings in Spanish. Mr. Pynn encouraged agencies to seek the financial training as it is important and was added to the strategic plan.

Liz Morales said that she was happy that not all projects had to give presentations during the ranking and review process last year. She stated that the questions from the ranking and review committee were more specific and required specific responses. She suggested giving the agencies more notice and time to answer the question and to make sure that the committee knows what the projects are about.

Nick Margiotta suggested having more presentations from agencies throughout the year.

Liz Morales stated that she believe that the Planning Subcommittee has improved a lot in the past year and that she believed that the Committee is moving in a good direction. Ms. Morales stated that she doesn't believe that a lot of change is necessary, but to continue to gain information and resources.

Brande Mead mentioned that she is always open throughout the year for suggestions and appreciates any feedback.

Mike McQuaid stated that Theresa James' report on the Tempe Project Homeless Connect was a great way to foster collaboration and suggested that the Committee should do anything that could encourage collaboration.

Amy St. Peter said that Theresa James is coming back to give the report to the Human Services Technical Committee meeting and that this committee is comprised of municipal staff, which would hopefully foster more collaboration throughout the region.

8. Call to the Audience

Liz Morales stated that the Steering Committee for the Arizona Evaluation Project was looking for good indicators of on permanent supportive housing performance. Ms. Morales offered to have a roundtable discussion for sharing information and for networking opportunities. Ms. Morales stated that she would like to have that within the next month or two before the application.

9. Announcements

Chair Stein offered congratulations to Councilmember Stanton for the birth of his son. Councilmember Stanton thanked everyone and stated that baby Trevor wakes up early, stays up late, but is doing great, as is his wife Nicole.

Darlene Newsom stated the UMOM was awarded the faith based domestic violence funding, which would afford them 45 new beds.

Councilmember Stanton stated that he and Councilmember Johnson have partnered to lobby for Phoenix to get their fair share on human services dollars using their political offices to heighten awareness. They are leading a faith based and non-profit group to Washington D.C. in April.

Dick Geasland said that after not having enough beds for 18-22 year olds, Darlene Newsom has been working with him, and has provided six additional beds from UMOM including some for pregnant women. He also mentioned that on May 24th their Annual Dinner will recognize people who have made a significant impact for Tumbleweed. They are honoring Councilmember Stanton at that event.

Ms. Newsom said that UMOM now offers beds for transgender individuals who don't have appropriate placements. DES has also started to allow foster care youth who have aged out of the system to be able to come back for services.

Bob Duvall stated that HMIS is reassessing the goals and needs of the current HMIS system. Mr. Duvall said he is asking members of the community to take the Community Self Assessment Survey and a software survey on the Community Information and Referral website. He would like to get as much feedback as possible. He added that on February 28th, at 8:30 a.m. there will be a meeting to discuss HMIS at CIR located at 2200 N Center ste. 601.

Mike McQuaid stated that Nova Safe Haven has created 25 beds for clients with serious mental illness at the Human Services Campus beginning on April 1st. He also said that in the beginning of April the former healthcare for the Homeless building will be used for a business enterprise or success center for people who have graduate from the Campus.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 19, 2007 in the Saguaro Room from 2:00-3:30 p.m.