

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2007**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix, Chair
Bob Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community
Information & Referral Services
David Barnhouse, Governor's Office
*Maryann Beerling, New Arizona Family
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair
Kendra Cea, APS
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United Way
Erik Strunk for Steve Frate, City of Glendale,
Councilmember
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Mike McQuaid, HSC
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
Tom Pynn for Terra Masias, Chicanos Por La
Causa
Meggan Medina, AZ Dept of Housing
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
*Carolyn Mitchell, Wells Fargo
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach
Ministries
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
Jacki Taylor, ACEH
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa
* Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health
Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Rebecca Flanagan, HUD
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul
Gwen Henderson, WINR
Ken Einbinder, HUD
Kyle Hamblin, Home Base
Louis Kislin, HUD
Brittany Lane, MAG
Barb Lasater, Southwest Behavioral Health
Mike Levy, Nova
Paul Ludwick, Maricopa County
Christopher Magee, Recovery Innovations of
Arizona
Penny Martin, ABC
Jenny McLellan, ABC
Brande Mead, MAG
Elizabeth Morales, ABC
Kimberly Nuzman, HRE
Janice Parker, Save the Family
Tom Pivonka, Homebase
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti
Amy Vogelsson, Southwest Behavioral Health
John Wall, CASS

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or
videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2: 09 p.m. Chair Greg Stanton welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Stanton noted that there will be a new comment card protocol. He explained that the blue comment cards were for the call to the audience agenda items and the yellow cards are for comments on other agenda items. He stated that the cards were to be brought to a MAG staff member during the meeting. Chair Stanton said that the public will receive three minutes per agenda item with a total of 15 minutes for comments. No comments were made from the audience at this time.

3. Approval of the January 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the January 22, 2007 meeting minutes. Trinity Donovan asked that the minutes be amended to show that Nanette Lubin attended the meeting as a proxy for her. Kendra Cea also requested that the minutes be amended to show Louis Moskowitz attended as her proxy. Don Keuth made a motion for approval of the minutes. Mike McQuaid seconded the motion. The motion with the changes was passed unanimously.

4. Membership Subcommittee Report

Don Keuth, Chair of the Membership Subcommittee, provided a report on the March 13, 2007 Membership Subcommittee meeting. He stated that the Membership Subcommittee recommends the following names be forwarded to the MAG Regional Council Chair, Mayor Cavanaugh, for appointment to the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness:

- Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services

Mr. Keuth also recommended contacting the following people to see if they are interested in becoming members:

- Michael Pyatok, ASU Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family
- Melissa Morado, formerly homeless woman who spoke at the Continuum of Care Appreciation Luncheon

The following names were recommended to be forwarded to the MAG Regional Council Chair, Mayor Cavanaugh, for appointment to the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee:

- Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of Sun United Way
- Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the Membership Subcommittee recommendations. Annette Stein moved to approve the recommendations. Bob Duvall seconded the motion. The motion to accept the recommendations was passed unanimously.

Chair Stanton stated that the Committee is continuously looking to add members of the business community and would be open to any suggestions.

5. Planning Subcommittee Report

Annette Stein, Chair of the Planning Subcommittee, gave a report on the March 19, 2007, Planning Subcommittee meeting. She stated that Brande Mead provided a report on the FY07 HUD McKinney-Vento funding announcement, which will be discussed later in the meeting. Ms. Stein reported that Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments, led a very good discussion on developing a Homeless Capacity Paper. The Subcommittee decided to use an expanded definition of homelessness more in line with the Department of Education definition and also discussed what homeless indicators that should be considered.

Ms. Stein stated that Mattie Lord and Heather Ellis from the Department of Economic Security provided information from the National Conference on Ending Family Homelessness that took place on February 8-9, 2007 in Oakland, CA. She reported that Elizabeth Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, led a discussion on ways to measure performance for permanent housing programs. Ms. Morales handed out a survey and reported the results at the Arizona Evaluation Project meeting. She added that Ms. Mead provided an update on the Homeless Street Count process which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the Planning Subcommittee report. Tom Canasi moved to approve the activities of the Subcommittee. Kendra Cea seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the Committee.

6. Homeless Street Count Update

Brande Mead, MAG, provided an update on the January 30, 2007 Homeless Street Count. Ms. Mead thanked the coordinators, cities, towns, and volunteers who participated in the Street Count. She stated that 25 cities and towns participated in the count. The MAG region had a total of 2,853 homeless individuals, a region-wide increase of 38 percent from 2006. Ms. Mead stated that the region had approximately 400 volunteers this year, with 250 volunteers in the City of Phoenix alone.

Darlene Newsom asked whether or not the weather was a factor and if so how did it factor in. She added that it is really difficult to count families because families are often not seen on the street. She said that it is hard for agencies to raise dollars for families because the numbers in the street count are so low. Chair Stanton replied that the Continuum does the very best that it can in counting people but knows that the street count doesn't accurately reflect the total number of homeless people in the region. He continued that this is a critical issue that needs to be clarified with the media.

Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, commented that he wondered if the staff has a perspective on why the count increased this year. He stated that he believes that an increased number of volunteers will result in more homeless individuals being counted. Brande Mead replied that the number of volunteers probably

affected the increase. She stated that the training is better now than it has ever been and that staff is more proactive in training volunteers on how to identify and count homeless people. Ms. Mead said that more homeless people may also contribute to the increase as well.

Don Keuth reminded everyone to consider the increase in population. He asked how many volunteers counted in previous years. Deanna Jonovich stated that the City of Phoenix has been tracking volunteers. In 2006 there were 160 volunteers. Ms. Jonovich said that they cannot conclusively say that the homeless increase is related directly to the number of volunteers. Annette Stein mentioned that there were more homeless volunteers in the Street Count. She said this may have had an impact as well since they better know the locations where homeless people can be found.

Chair Stanton asked if MAG knew how the Continuum compared to other regions of the same size. Ms. Mead replied that she did not have this information but could obtain it. Chair Stanton requested that MAG track the region's numbers over the years and try to also consider the impact of weather conditions.

Ken Einbinder stated that the key number is the chronically homeless number. Ms. Mead said that there has been an increase in the number of chronically homeless people from 2006 to 2007. Mike McQuaid added that the contributing factors are important. He said that the economy is not nearly as strong as it was a year ago, and a lot of people are on the edge of homelessness and end up at Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). Chair Stanton asked if the Continuum could get some sort of academic analysis on the numbers.

Rebecca Flanagan mentioned a recently released HUD report on homeless individuals generated by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system, which will enable HUD to track homelessness for a longer period of time. She stated that Maricopa County had 7,500 homeless individuals tracked through the HMIS system. She did note that not every homeless person is in that system, but that it is probably one of the better ways to try and count homeless people. She added that HUD recognizes the street count is a snapshot of the community.

Chair Stanton asked what the Street Count is used for. Ms. Mead stated that it is used for the HUD application, MAG's own planning purposes, and for other grant applications done by local agencies. Ms. Flanagan stated that HUD uses it for the application and understanding it is important. She stated that it is used to show congress this is why there is a need for the \$1.6 billion McKinney-Vento dollars. She claimed that the report that she was referring to was released in February and that there are about 754,000 homeless people in the nation based on HMIS and various street counts. Chair Stanton questioned if this meant that the street count is becoming less important. Ms. Flanagan replied that she did not know. Ken Einbinder stated that HUD will be comparing the numbers in relation to the 10 year plans.

Ms. Mead added that there is a shelter count also done on the same night as the street count. She said that when the numbers are complete they will be shared with the Committee.

Erik Strunk stated that the City of Glendale also looks at the CDBG as another way to look at the numbers. Don Keuth said that hopefully HUD is looking at overall trends and population increases.

Dede Yazzie Devine stated that Native American Connections had a great group of volunteers this year, and that the volunteers were paid the next day to stay home and sleep. She thanked all of the agencies who participated. John Wall said that the Continuum should recognize Nick Margiotta with the City of Phoenix Police Department for all of his hard work with the City of Phoenix Street Count.

Chair Stanton said there should be more connections with the police departments and the Continuum. He thanked all officers who participated in all of the cities and to talk to him or Mr. Margiotta if they had any questions about how to get involved.

7. Legislative Update

Matt Clark, MAG, provided the Committee with a report on the current Federal and State legislation items. He stated that the HR 840 the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act, or HEARTH act was introduced by Representative Julia Carson from Indiana and currently has 48 co-sponsors. The bill was introduced on February 6, 2007 and was referred to the House Financial Services Committee. He stated that it was his understanding that there are no hearings or mark-ups scheduled for this legislation at this time.

He continued by saying the President's FY 2008 discretionary Budget request includes reductions of \$630 million for the Community Services block grant Program. The mandatory Budget includes \$17.1 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, \$6.9 billion for Foster Care and related programs, \$4.0 billion for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support, and a proposed reduction of \$500 million to the Social Services Block Grant.

He said the President's FY 2008 Budget request also includes reductions of \$735 million for the Community Development block grant Program for a total of \$2.97 billion. Other programs, including Brownfield's, in the Community Development fund would be consolidated into CDBG.

He stated that at the state level, the House and Senate are currently in the process of crafting the budget. Currently, two issues that are of importance to the committee are not funded in the subcommittee appropriations approvals are:

Domestic Violence Shelter Funding- \$3.3 million from the General Fund to provide operational funding, for 283 additional shelter beds that would serve approximately 3,000 more victims of domestic violence victims annually.

Independent Living stipend – Foster Youth- \$2 million from the General Fund to increase from \$558 per month to \$1,078 per month for 319 older foster youth. This assistance helps these young adults pay for rent and other living expenses.

Megan Medina stated that the CDBG senate budget is going to be marked up on March 28, 2007 and that the chair is putting in \$3.8 million dollars. She encouraged everyone to continue to fight for CDBG dollars.

Mr. Clark stated that the President's budget has proposed cuts six years in a row, but that money has increased. He said that the likelihood of passing the cuts is zero. Chair Stanton noted that Arizona does not get its fair share of federal dollars. He said that the states representatives should go to battle for the state.

Jacki Taylor noted that one of the voids in the current budgets being proposed is the lack of increases in funds for childcare subsidies.

8. 2006 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Awards

Rebecca Flanagan, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development presented the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness with a symbolic check for the 2006 McKinney Vento funding awards. She congratulated the Continuum, and thanked them for their hard work.

Chair Stanton accepted the check on behalf of the Continuum of Care. He said that this is the one area where the region gets more than their fair share of federal dollars. He stated that the quality and professionalism of providers, cities, and MAG staff are the reason why the region receives more than the average. Chair Stanton thanked everyone and stated that the region would not do as well without the Continuum's professionalism, dedication, and expertise.

9. Comments from the Committee

Chair Stanton presented Tom Canasi with an award and a symbolic check for his dedicated service to the homeless population and for being a founding member of the Continuum. He thanked Mr. Canasi for everything he has done.

Mr. Canasi stated the he would like to donate his symbolic check to the cause of homelessness. He said he began this process when the City of Phoenix was completing the HUD application for cities and providers, and when Maricopa County was considering doing the same. Mr. Canasi thanked the Committee and shared his experience about how he became one of the founding members of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. He said everyone should feel very proud of the outstanding leadership by Chair Stanton, Don Keuth, Annette Stein, and MAG staff, especially Brande Mead and Amy St. Peter. Mr. Canasi said that he is ready to step down.

Darlene Newsom commented that on March 8th UMOM had a special dedication for the new shelter, which will house 45 new domestic violence beds. She said that it was all made possible through a special funding stream for faith based agencies. She also mentioned that the new project is in Chair Greg Stanton's district.

Dede Yazzie Devine also commented that Native American Connections has opened up 36 new permanent housing units for elderly Native Americans, which also happens to be in Chair Stanton's district.

Mike McQuaid announced that on April 19th the Human Services Campus will open 45 new NOVA beds for homeless clients with serious mental illness. He also stated that an old building has been renovated and will be now be the Human Services Success Center.

Erik Strunk invited everyone to CDBG Day, Thursday April 12. He asked anyone with questions should call 623-930-6370. The event will be held at the Civic Center in City of Glendale.

Chair Stanton requested that a future agenda item to discuss summer relief efforts and to report on how prepared the region is for the summer heat.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 21st, 2007 from 2:00- 3:30 p.m. at the Maricopa Association of Governments in the Saguaro Room.