

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 23, 2007**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix, Chair  
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &  
Referral Services  
Jeremy Arp for 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  
Kendra Cea, APS  
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United Way  
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  
\*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  
\*Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services  
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

Deborah Forbes Baker, Salvation Army  
Mike Bell, St. Vincent de Paul  
Jennifer Bednarz, Chrysalis  
Maria Beltran, De Colores  
Jessica Berg, Lodestar Day Resource Center  
Michael Boos, Paz De Cristo  
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter  
Services  
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health  
Robert Duvall, Community Information and  
Referral  
Maricela Flores, De Colores  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul  
Andy Hall, Department of Economic Security  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter  
Services  
Brittany Lane, MAG  
Carl Mangold, Chrysalis  
Mary Kate Poling, Homebase  
Ben Sanders, Community Ministries  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Michelle Thomas, YWCA  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti

\*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 2:11 p.m. Chair Greg Stanton welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the March 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Steve Frate made a motion to approve the March 26, 2007 meeting minutes. Mike McQuaid seconded the motion; the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Report of the MAG Continuum of Care Subcommittee

Vice-Chair Don Keuth provided a report on the May 31, 2007 Executive Subcommittee. He stated that the Subcommittee approved the gaps analysis and the 2007 HUD application goals. Vice-Chair Keuth thanked everyone for their hard work on the application that was sent to HUD with a request of over 20 million dollars.

5. Recognition of Councilmember Doug Lingner

Chair Stanton recognized Councilmember Doug Lingner on behalf of the MAG Continuum of Care for his leadership and support on the issues of homelessness and affordable housing. Chair Stanton added that Councilmember Lingner chaired the Housing and Neighborhood Subcommittee for the City of Phoenix, sat on the Continuum of Care and pushed for allocating separate money for housing and the year round funding for the Watkins Overflow shelter. Chair Stanton then read the plaque of recognition for Councilmember Lingner to the Committee. Annette Stein made a motion to approve plaque of recognition. Don Keuth seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

DeDe Yazzie Devine stated that she believes that “NIMBYism” had improved over the years, but that there was a time when it was difficult to go to a city council to request money for homeless issues and affordable housing. Ms. Yazzie Devine said that Councilmember Lingner took hard positions and supported the nonprofit agencies. Kendra Cea remarked that the last time she spoke with Councilmember Lingner she had asked him if he had any suggestions of projects that APS could be involved with. Ms. Cea stated that Councilmember Lingner suggested finding projects connected with homelessness and affordable housing.

Councilmember Lingner’s chief of staff Craig Estivestae accepted the award on Councilmember Lingner’s behalf. He stated that Councilmember Lingner appreciates the Continuum’s work. He said that Councilmember Lingner works very hard but is very shy about receiving awards and feels that he doesn’t need to be recognized. He continued stating that Councilmember Lingner truly cares about people and has worked on homelessness and affordable housing for a long time and that Councilmember

Lingner feels that the Continuum truly cares as well. Mr. Estivestae stated he was very proud to work for Councilmember Lingner.

6. Update on status of the Central Arizona Shelter Services Men's Overflow Shelter

Mark Holleran updated the Committee on the status of the Men's Overflow Shelter. Mr. Holleran handed out a schedule for the month of July indicating how many individuals have been utilizing the Overflow Shelter. He stated that historically there was not a men's summer overflow shelter until the summer of 2005. It was recognized, in 2005, that homeless individuals were not getting the relief they needed from the heat resulting in many deaths. In the summer of 2006 the Lodestar Day Resource Center and the new Central Arizona Shelter Services building opened and the community was more receptive to the plights of the homeless in the heat. Presently, there are heat relief maps being distributed showing water hydration stations, shade and faith based organizations engaging in heat relief efforts. Mr. Holleran stated that people are dying throughout the United States but this year Phoenix has not been on the list of high numbers of heat deaths.

Mr. Holleran indicated that the air-conditioned Overflow Shelter houses 325-335 homeless men each night, in addition to the 400 plus people on the Campus. He said that the handout indicates the daily temperature and individuals that were turned away, though a pattern has yet to be identified. He noted that individuals turned away are given access to water and a vending machine and tend to sleep near the shelter because of the police security. Case managers at the shelter try and engage people in making different life choices. Mr. Holleran added there are separate areas for those who have to be at work at certain times to enable them to get to work on time. Mr. Holleran pointed out that despite its nuances the building does have its limitations. He stated that the building was never intended for the type of occupancy it currently utilizes. He continued noting that there are no showers, lack of adequate bathrooms, the closeness of the occupants, and individuals worry about transportation to and from work. Staffers try to engage people in further services at the Lodestar Day Resource Center and if someone is willing to enter a program they will be able to move into Central Arizona Shelter Services.

Mr. Holleran stated that they previously received \$500,000 from the county and \$500,000 from Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH). However, the ADOH funding was only a one time funding source. Mr. Holleran said that it takes approximately \$100,000 to operate the building for one month. Much of the cost is attributed to off duty police officers. He said that it is estimated that money will run out in November 2007 and the shelter will have to be closed. Mr. Holleran stated that the board of directors was struggling with the differences with the overflow model compared to the older CASS model, as it had never been low demand. Mr. Holleran stated that they are very concerned about funding for the shelter and that there needs to be a policy change to operate the shelter year round. He added that the shelter has brought a sense of safety and security to the neighborhood and that the outreach program has been effective in engaging homeless individuals in services. Mr. Holleran stated from a policy perspective the shelter needed to be identified by the city and the county.

Chair Stanton asked what funding is needed for the shelter to adequately operate year round. Mr. Holleran replied it would cost approximately \$1.5 million. Roberto Armijo questioned why the shelter was identified as low demand when homeless individuals were being turned away. Mr. Holleran answered that low demand meant that the shelter did not offer many services; there are no case plans and that there are little demands asked of the client. Laura Skotnicki asked how many can the facility hold at maximum capacity and how it is determined when to turn people away. Mr. Holleran answered that 225 men can be in the facility head to toe, side by side. The number on the handout reflected the number of people who came in and out in a single night. Brad Bridwell asked what the time frame was before the shelter ran out of money and what the hours of operation were. Mr. Holleran estimated that in November they could no longer afford to operate the shelter. David Bridge stated that the shelter is open from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Mr. Bridge added that during the night the shelter receives drop offs from hospitals, outreach groups and behavioral health institutions.

Mr. Holleran added that there could be enough emergency beds at CASS and the Men's Overflow Shelter, but that there also needs to be a housing component, which the cities and towns could be focused on. Annette Stein added that if the shelter and Continuum are looking for additional funding to possibly couple the request with the shelter request. Ms. Stein suggested requesting funding from the cities, towns, hospitals and institutions that drop off individuals at the shelter now and to focus on funding for housing later.

Mike McQuaid commented that since the emergency shelter opened, there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of homeless individuals on the street. He added that the funding issue is not a CASS issue, but that it is a community issue. Mr. McQuaid suggested that when the request is made, that it be a Committee request. Meggan Medina thanked Mark Holleran; Darlene Newson and the county for the effort and the work of operating the emergency overflow shelters. She reinforced that funding the shelters needs to be a community effort. Dick Geasland added that he felt the youth aged 18-25 are being overlooked and that it is not healthy for them to get placed with CASS and the overflow shelters. He suggested looking at policy efforts to assist with opportunities and funding for youth. Mr. Holleran stated that two-thirds of the CASS population is 50 and over. The client base is aging and the current employment model will not work for them and there will be more pressure to find housing.

Ms. Stein entertained a motion to raise the issue to the formal board as to the funding and support of CASS and the Men's Overflow Shelter and to revisit the issue of affordable housing at a later time. Chair Stanton stated that Mr. Holleran's advisory board is looking for community support. He suggested advocating for funding at the MAG Regional Council. Mr. Holleran stated that he wanted to identify the agency responsible for the shelters. He added that he thought the Continuum was a good place to begin to identify who is formally responsible for the shelters.

Annette Stein made a motion to raise the issue of funding to the MAG Regional Council in support of the Men's Overflow Shelter. Amy St. Peter clarified they are going to Regional Council to recommend full funding to the Men's Overflow Shelter for housing the homeless in the community. Ms. Stein amended that they are asking the Council to support a request for funding. She asked if the shelters are looking for additional resources from other cities and town. Mr. Holleran said nothing has yet to be identified as other resources. Ms. St. Peter asked if in-kind support, such as police officers from other cities, would benefit the shelter. Mr. Holleran stated it is not to be ruled out and could save money, but those officers from the area have experience with homeless individuals and have behavioral health training.

DeDe Yazzie Devine suggested separating support from the shelter from support for affordable housing because the issue of affordable housing is very complex. She stated that that could be done in two resolutions, one for the demand of shelter and other for the demand of housing. Ms. St. Peter said the funding for the low demand shelter is a specific request and agreed that housing needs to be separated. Chair Stanton reinforced that the low demand shelter is an issue that should be identified and stated that hopefully the Council will accept the recommendation to support the issue. Ms. St. Peter stated that the Continuum supports the shelter and recognizes the need for a regional response. Mr. Keuth suggested that the Continuum request the Regional Council to develop a strategic plan to provide support funding for longer than November. Ms. St. Peter replied that she would be afraid that the Regional Council would look to the Continuum to create a plan just as Management Committee saw that Continuum of Care needed to take action previously. Chair Stanton stated the chart presented to Management Committee was not well received, and suggested working with MAG to create a more accurate chart. Ms. Skotnicki suggested going to for profit organizations that are using the shelter services the most for funding. Don Keuth suggested that the Continuum was not ready for a motion and that they could create one or two scenarios for specificity. Ms. Stein proposed sending it to the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Yazzie Devine stated that Mr. Holleran needed a motion as soon as possible and suggested stating that the Continuum supports the shelter and to take out controversial pieces. Mr. Keuth stated that the Planning Subcommittee create a plan and then authorize it to go directly to the Executive Subcommittee. Chair Stanton stated that passing the motion on to elected officials would have to see how important of an issue the low demand shelter is. He said that that it needs to be determined if it is a public or private sector issue. Meggan Medina said that Dr. Harris has been approached for one time funding four times and that involving her in discussions would be a good idea and that the Arizona Department of Housing can help with short term solutions. Chair Stanton suggested tabling the issue for the day or create a large statement and then have Planning create a more specific statement. Jacki Taylor recommended taking the issue into smaller increments or sending the issue to Planning if a consensus cannot be made. Ms. St. Peter enforced that it means more if a committee votes for a motion rather than just come to a consensus and would be concerned if it went to Regional Council on a consensus. She said more power is derived if the Continuum votes and information could be dispersed through the intergovs to raise awareness to raise the issue of the Men's Overflow Shelter. She said the committee process takes time, but

through the process an issue gains more support than if steps were skipped for lack of faith in the process. Chair Stanton stated that nothing the Continuum of the Regional Council does is binding to the cities. Ms. St. Peter said that in terms of raising awareness, going through the MAG process is very critical. She stated that after David Smith's presentation there was a lot of support. Ms. Yazzie Devine stated that the Continuum can agree to support the Men's Overflow Shelter which supports 335 homeless individuals from the community and made a motion for the Continuum of Care to support the Men's Overflow low demand shelter because of its importance as a regional facility which house 325 homeless community individuals and that the Continuum recognizes its projected closure in November as a critical issue. Councilmember Frate stated that if the shelter is lost it will be a critical issue, and suggested explaining what a low demand shelter is. He also stated that cities, towns, the county and the hospitals that drop them off also be engaged in discussions. Councilmember Frate seconded the motion set by Ms. Yazzie Devine. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Lodestar Day Resource Center Initiatives

Jessica Berg presented the Committee with current initiatives of the Lodestar Day Resource Center (LDRC). Ms. Berg stated that the LDRC has a three step process for their clients; welcome, engage and house. She said that a strategic plan has been created to help facilitate this process. The strategic plan aims to increase engagement of clients and increase the number of engagement programs, decrease security incidents, as well as support movement into permanent housing. Ms. Berg noted that a total of 567 of their clients have been placed into permanent housing. The strategic plan calls for an increase of volunteers to increase the connection with the community, increase agency collaborations and staff satisfaction and to increase the organizations strength and independence. Ms. Berg stated that the initiatives for the LDRC are to create and action plan for self sufficiency, increase housing placement and retention, and to encourage affordable housing and housing first efforts in the community.

Chair Stanton asked Ms. Berg if the LDRC had a separate advisory board from the Human Services Campus. Ms. Berg replied that the LDRC has a separate legal board of directors, but that their advisory board was more of a community council. Mike McQuaid commented that Jessica Berg has done an amazing job. He stated that community awareness has grown and that recently the LDRC and the Campus have hosted the Mayor of Denver as well as the Governor of Colorado. Chair Stanton inquired as to how the LDRC plans to track clients' long term after they leave Campus. Ms. Berg replied there will be one person who conducts an exit interview and one person designated for follow up. Ms. Berg added that they will hire two social work interns for follow up and that raffles and other incentives are given to clients if they phone in monthly and provide the LDRC with a personal update.

8. Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program

Sue Ringler from Tempe Action Program presented information on the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP). Ms. Ringler stated that I-HELP

began in Tempe February of 2006. I-HELP recruits churches in Tempe to act as a low demand shelter that offers meals and a place to stay. The churches house 25-30 individuals including youth on their own, single men and women, and families. Ms. Ringler stated that those who volunteer from the faith community often feel transformed and are willing to speak up for affordable housing. She stated that the model is simple and that it does not pose as safety risk because the monitors are homeless individuals who have been in the program steadily and get paid a small stipend to keep staff informed. Ms. Ringler stated that anyone can observe their program and encourage the Committee to talk to their cities and encourage them to do similar programs. Ms. Ringler reinforced that the communities need to step up and tap resources that aren't funding resources so that funding can go to developing affordable housing.

Nick Margiotta stated that he was fortunate to see I-HELP in action. He added that it was an impressive example of good collaborations without funding and an excellent community response. Kendra Cea asked Ms. Ringler if they had any information on their website. Ms. Ringler stated that yes there was. Mr. McQuaid inquired as to how people find their program. Ms. Ringler replied that homeless individuals hear of their program through word of mouth, outreach and the Tempe Community Action Agency. She noted that Tempe Project Homeless Connect will be taking place Friday July 27, 2007. Ms. Skotnicki added that Save the Family has participated in the Tempe Homeless Connect and thanked Tempe for doing such a good job.

9. Adjourn

Chair Stanton stated that through Mr. Holleran and others assistance, the Department of Economic Security received an additional one million dollars in their budget specifically for homeless assistance for the state.

Meggan Medina stated that a Mesa representative is raising money at a gathering on September 5, 2007 and has requested that people who work with homeless individuals attend. Small donations may be requested.

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2007 from 2:00- 3:30 p.m. at the Maricopa Association of Governments in the Saguaro Room.