

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 5, 2007**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix, Chair  
Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services  
Kim Hohman for David Barnhouse, Governor's Office  
\*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  
Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-Vice Chair  
Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department  
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities  
Mike McQuaid, HSC  
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  
Margot Cordova for Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Nancy Barkley, MAG  
Nicki Borselli, City of Phoenix  
Paul Boyer, Arizona Department of Corrections  
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Maribel Castro, Chicanos Por la Causa  
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health  
Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral  
Ken Einbinder, HUD  
Rebecca Flanagan, HUD  
Marciela Flores, Chicanos Por la Causa  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
Steve Gervais, Pinnacle West Capital Corp.  
Christy Gibbons, HomeBase Youth Services  
Sherry Grau, Southwest Behavioral Health  
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul  
Andy Hall, Department of Economic Security  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Gilbert Lopez, City of Glendale  
Elizabeth Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation  
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County  
James O'Neil, Arizona Department of Corrections  
Frankie Quick, Phoenix Shanti Group  
Michelle Thomas, YWCA

\*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 10:08 a.m. by Chair, Greg Stanton, who welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the September 24, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton asked for a motion to approve the September 24, 2007 meeting minutes. Councilmember Steve Frate, City of Glendale, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus, seconded the motion; the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Report of the MAG Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee

Chairman Stanton introduced Planning Subcommittee Chair, Annette Stein who reported on the Planning subcommittee meeting of October 22, 2007. Ms. Stein reported that it was an excellent meeting with a lot of dialogue.

Mattie Lord, Department of Economic Security, discussed plans for the 2008 homeless shelter count on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 in conjunction with the homeless street count. Ms. Lord brought forth some changes that were going to be made and asked the committee for their feedback and approval. Ms. Lord announced that last year there was a 97 percent participation rate and that she will strive to meet and exceed this percentage. Ms. Stein stated that members who had any questions should contact Ms. Lord directly.

Planning Subcommittee Chair Stein stated that Brande Mead, Maricopa Association of Governments provided an update on the Arizona Evaluation Project Community meeting that occurred on October 9, 2007. Ms. Mead stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for offering constructive feedback about the Arizona Evaluation Project and the self-sufficiency matrix with the goal of improving the project and identifying some positive next steps. For more info on the Arizona Evaluation Project or meeting, please see Brande Mead.

5. Report from Dora Schriro, Director, Arizona Department of Corrections

Chairman Stanton introduced James O'Neil, Special Assistant to the Director of Arizona Department of Corrections, and Paul Boyer, Legislative Liaison for the AZ Department of Corrections, who reported on the departments' programs for housing assistance, job training and education and how it relates to preventing homelessness.

Mr. O'Neil reported that the Arizona Department of Corrections is focusing on the best ways to help the homeless population in the corrections system by identifying needs and risks to their population. Mr. O'Neil stated that the Arizona Department of Corrections is trying to implement everything in advance, by assessing their needs when they enter the facility, and having services in place before the homeless inmates are released into the general population. Mr. O'Neil stated that there are wrap-around

services available that include mental health care, substance abuse treatment, employment services, and transitional housing. Mr. O'Neil stated that there continues to be issues in finding housing for sex offenders.

Paul Boyer, provided a report on House Bill 2298 which focuses on preventing recidivism. Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department, asked if inmates would be eligible for the program if they were up for early release. Mr. Boyer responded that they would not be eligible.

Brad Bridwell, U.S. Vets, asked if the department is currently capturing military status of inmates. Mr. Boyer responded that they are collaborating with the Department of Economic Security on that issue and are asking prior to entry.

Mark Holleran, CASS, asked if individuals are being released homeless or if they are required to have an address prior to release. Mr. Boyer said that the address of a homeless shelter could be used as the inmates address for release. Mr. Holleran asked if the address of a shelter is needed as a condition of their release. Mr. Boyer said that he did not know the answer to that question and would need to get back to the committee.

Walt Gray, St. Vincent De Paul asked if mental health and substance abuse programs are provided to inmates while they are in the system. Mr. Boyer responded that different types of treatment are available to inmates who are within 120 days prior to release.

Darlene Newsome asked where the department releases inmates when they are homeless. Mr. Boyer replied that they will release the inmates wherever they request to be released. Katherine Brown, Department of Corrections said that they are placed in a parole office first and then many are placed in a private sector halfway house or some go to CASS. Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department, asked if releasing to a halfway house was part of the transition plan. Mr. Boyer said that they get referred for risk assessment as early as possible prior to release.

Ken Einbinder, HUD, mentioned that he had been invited to talk to inmates about resources that are in place but the meeting did not happen. He asked if there would be follow up on that meeting. Mr. Boyer said that he would need to look into that issue and get back to him.

6. Interagency Community Council on Homelessness State Plan to End Homelessness  
Chairman Stanton announced that this agenda item will be moved to the next meeting.
7. Annual MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Appreciation Luncheon and Regional Plan to End Homelessness  
Chairman Stanton introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who presented an update on plan for the annual Continuum of Care Appreciation Luncheon and Workshop and the Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that the annual luncheon and Appreciative Inquiry Workshop will take place on January 7, 2008. The purpose of the luncheon is to celebrate the work of homeless service providers and the Appreciative Inquiry Workshop will kickoff the work on the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. It was explained that the new plan will look at housing and measurable outcomes and will identify key people to accomplish those goals. The workshop will re-energize this committee and stakeholders, begin the development of the 10 year plan and engage those who are not at the table, bring in best practices and focus on housing and outcomes. Chair Stanton said that this is an important event and encouraged all members of the Committee to get involved in the development of the Regional Plan.

Councilmember Frate agreed with Chair Stanton and encouraged the private sector to also become involved. Chair Stanton thanked APS for their membership and involvement. Rebecca Flanagan from HUD said that HUD is in support of this process and said that other communities have set examples in which to follow. Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus said that there have been other things going on in the community and other people working on housing issues but that it will take everyone together, including the private sector, to make this a viable plan.

Margot Cordova, Native American Connections asked if other successful 10 year plans are regional in nature. Brande Mead responded that there are a variety of successful 10 year plans and that the Denver structure is very different from ours, for example. She said that there are some successful regional plans and some successful city-focuses plans. Chair Stanton added that HUD has made the development of 10 year plans a priority with the work of Phil Mangano and that we have to look at our plan as a regional plan because our Continuum of Care has a regional focus. He continued that MAG passed a resolution through the MAG Regional Council recently that the issue of homelessness is a regional problem. Other city plans, such as Buckeye's plan and the State plan, will be incorporated in our efforts.

8. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness

Chairman Stanton introduced Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness who reported on the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness that took place on October 15-16, 2007. Ms. Taylor thanked everyone for attended the successful conference and also thanked the planning committee for their works. She extended a special thanks to Brad Bridwell for his work as Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. The conference theme, Building the Community Web, was based on Denver's approach. She said that there were 330 participants at the conference and the key note speaker was Jamie Van Leuwen of Denver Mayor's office. Denver's Mile High United Way also presented with nonprofits and Denver's Chamber of Commerce. She continued that 31 sessions were offered and she highlighted a networking event that took place. Ms. Taylor said that next year's conference will occur in late October.

9. Joint MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and Domestic Violence Council meeting

Chairman Stanton introduced, Amy St. Peter, MAG, who discussed plans for a joint MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting on December 6, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Flinn Foundation. She said that a networking mixer will be held directly after the meeting and members of the Human Services Technical Committee and member of the Human Services Coordinating Committee will be invited. Ms. St. Peter said that it is important to have a joint meeting because issues of homelessness and domestic violence overlap in many ways.

Chairman Stanton announced that he would like to start having Continuum of Care meetings around the region instead of always holding the meetings at MAG. He said that this is important since homelessness is a regional issue. He asked members of the Committee to let Brande Mead know if they have ideas on locations to hold Continuum of Care meetings.

#### 10. Homeless Immersion Panel Discussion

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who provided an update on the homeless immersion project. Ms. Mead announced that Steve Gervais from Pinnacle West Capital Corporation took part in a homeless immersion experience as did Steve Davis, Chairman of the Board of the Lodestar Day Resource Center. She said that a panel discussion is being planned for people who participated in a homeless immersion experience. Ms. Mead introduced Steve Gervais to say a few words about his experience.

Steve Gervais began with his background at Pinnacle West Capital Corporation and explained that he works closely with Marty Schultz. He said that he got a phone call from Brande Mead, asking him to take part in an immersion. He said that he learned about Councilman Stanton's experience and thought it was enlightening. To begin his immersion, he checked in at Steele Commons and spent time with Tammy, the House Manager. He said that he was very impressed with the staff at Steele Commons and said that they run a tight ship. Mr. Gervais explained that he chose to do his immersion at Steele Commons because of their focus on permanent supportive housing and that he feels they are a good example of a success program.

Chairman Stanton thanked Mr. Gervais for his leadership and encouraged others to take part in a homeless immersion experience.

#### 11. Legislative Update

Chairman Stanton introduced Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness who provided a legislative update on issues related to homelessness. She said that a month ago she shared information about two McKinney Vento bills that have come forward. She said that one originated in the house as the Hearth Act and that the other came from the Senate. Both bills are asking for funding for McKinney Vento. The Hearth Act would expand the definition of chronic homelessness to include families. Ms. Taylor said that the Coalition is going to look at these bills and will determine what the missing elements are and how they will impact Arizona. She indicated that the

Coalition wants to hear from members of the Continuum of Care about these bills. She encouraged members to read the handout she provided that has information on both bills and to provide her with feedback.

Ted Williams said that he believes that HUD has testified on these legislative issues and that HUD has been supportive of the bills. Ms. Taylor said that she will forward the information provided in the handout to the local HUD office as well. Ms. Taylor said that at the state level, there is a huge budget crunch and there is not a special session being planned at this time.

Mark Holleran added that CASS is looking at the two bills from their prospective and are concerned with the potential of expanding the definition. They are concerned about not enough funding to cover an expanded definition. Ms. Taylor said that the CEBA bill is more along the line of doing business as usual and the Hearth Act would provide more local control of where funding would go. Darlene Newsom, UMOM, said that her organization supports the Hearth Act because of its focus on homeless families.

Chairman Stanton indicated that he would like to see more local control of funding and is interested in which bill other Continua are in support of. Vice Chairman Don Keuth asked Ms. Taylor if she knew if what the timing would be for moving on the bills. Ms. Taylor responded that she didn't think anything would happen before the end of the year.

#### 12. Announcements

Darlene Newsom, UMOM, announced that the campaign kickoff for their capital campaign is on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Margot Cordova announced that Native American Connections is having an open house for their one-stop facility. The open housing will be at 4520 North Central Avenue.

Elizabeth Morales announced that ABC is holding their annual provider meeting in November. They will be providing lunch and collecting feedback from the agencies attending.

Lee Freeman from Freeman Homes said that housing and services are being provided for homeless families on December 24 and 25 in Phoenix.

#### 13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Maricopa Association of Governments in the Saguaro Room.