

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2008**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,
Chair
Robert Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community
Information & Referral Services
David Barnhouse, Governor's Office
Tony Johnson for Brad Bridwell, US Vets
*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
*Kendra Cea, APS
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
Way
Erik Strunk for Steve Frate, City of Glendale,
Councilmember
*Arjelia Gomez, Chicanos Por La Causa
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
*Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health
Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
*Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
Mark Holleran for Mike McQuaid, HSC
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
*Gina Ramos-Montes, City of Avondale
Gary Zeck for Darlene Newsom, United
Methodist Outreach Ministries
Joanne Osborne, Councilmember of Goodyear
*Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Jacki Taylor, ACEH
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Ted Williams, Arizona
Behavioral Health Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Colleen Byron, ASU
Dorothy Corey, AA Cottages
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health
Esther Emadi, Southwest Behavioral Health
Marilyn J. Fall, Recovery Innovations of AZ
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Richard Geasland, Tumbleweed CYD
Christy Gibbons, HomeBase
Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye
Andy Hall, DES
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center
Liz Lonetti, JZMK Partners
Mike Levy, NOVA Inc.
Etoyia Magee, WINR
Brandee Mead, MAG
Elizabeth Morales, ABC
Kevin Murphy, L.C.S.A.
Carolyn Olson, City of Mesa
Frankie Quick, Phoenix Shanti Group
Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Connie Stepnitz, City of Goodyear
Michelle Thomas, YWCA
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti
John Wall, CASS
Carlos Williams, ASU Intern
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

Chair Greg Stanton called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No audience comments were made.

3. Approval of the May 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the May 19, 2008 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Holleran, CASS, seconded the motion; the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Sustainable Communities Presentation

Chair Stanton introduced Liz Lonetti, JZMK Partners, who provided a presentation on sustainable communities. Ms. Lonetti stated as both a planner and urban designer discussion about sustainability should be positive and include community outreach. Phoenix is a growing metropolitan area and there is a need to think and engage in the bigger discussion of positive changes. She said the presentation was put together to provide community interaction. She added ASU has a speaker's bureau that will come out to the community and offer the presentation. The main focus is to use an integrated approach in providing affordable housing.

Ms. Lonetti stated growth will continue to happen and we can chose to go a new way in expanding by looking at other cities. The City of Chandler is making plans for the historic downtown area by offering single affordable housing, with parks and entertainment options. They are also integrating other options for transportation. The City of Phoenix has Roosevelt Row which is an example of neighbors taking interest in revitalization of their neighborhoods. She said it is important to create an urban fabric to make cities livable. The Roosevelt area has done a lot to give the neighborhood the feeling of community with mixed use living space. She said townhome owners can actually use their home space as a work space. Ms. Lonetti added Tempe is another great example of bringing all the components together.

Ms. Lonetti said putting it all together involves mixed land use, creating a range of housing choices and fostering a thriving economy. She said it is also important to keep the local feel to the community such as keeping local vendors in place, which brings 75 percent of funds that are spent back into the system. Also having environmentally responsive designs, a variety of transportation choices and providing shaded areas are important. She said other suggestions are to make the community safe; such as having parks that have people in them. Ms. Lonetti stated it is the responsibility of the community to be actively involved in making the decisions of our future living space. She said we live in the desert where we need to make the most of environmentally friendly choices. Ms. Lonetti said a brochure that has further information is in the process.

Chair Stanton stated it is a huge challenge to make use of unused land. He said there are strong challenges to overcoming the red tape of using the land such as building codes and ADA accessibility. Ms. Lonetti agreed the issue is a struggle and it is hard to get approval in a historical district. Mr. Geasland, Tumbleweed, said a concern is the need for social services and how to integrate this to meet the needs of the people in the community. Ms. Devine, NAC, commented one of the new developments shown in the slide show had displaced one of NAC services and suggested to get in contact with service providers to help with the dialogue of what services a community would need. Ms. Lonetti thanked everyone for their comments and said they could be included in future presentations.

5. Regional Plan to End Homelessness Update

Chair Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented recommendations on goals and action steps prioritized by the Regional Plan Stakeholders Group. She also presented a draft outline of the plan, a template for collecting what's working in the community and a draft interview guide for collection of client stories. Ms. Mead stated the Continuum had reviewed the recommendations previously; the stakeholders group took the comments and integrated them. She said the document today is the revised version of the implementation part of the plan. Highlighted are areas where the Continuum would be the direct contact, there are 15 levels.

Ms. Mead said there are six time-sensitive action steps. The first one is to launch the implementation of the plan with a summit in January. Second is to identify local best practices to present at the AZCEH conference in October. Third is the development of a cost study being done through DES and the Morrison Institute. The fourth concerns the Town Hall taking place in November and discussion of having a pre-meeting focusing on homelessness. The fifth action step is to conduct AI interviews to be included in the Regional Plan and the sixth is recommendations for prevention strategies and presented at AZCEH Conference in October.

Ms. Devine commented she and Councilmember Donovan had previously attended the town hall together. She said there was really good discussion and support for affordable housing. The next Arizona Town Hall will take place November 2-5, 2008. She said a person has to be nominated to attend. Board members and elected officials are highly recruited to bring in people who can voice and implement changes. Ms. Mead inquired about the deadline to nominate and write a report. Ms. Devine stated reports are being written now. Mr. Geasland added that the deadline is in mid-July. He is on the training committee and can recommend people also. Councilmember Donovan asked if there were a certain number of slots open. Ms. Devine said that it is not know yet how many spots will be available but she and Mr. Geasland can recommend two to three people each. Mr. Holleran inquired on the goal of the town hall. Ms. Devine said it is to come out with recommendations of housing in Arizona and also throughout the year to make presentations on how to make changes. Ms. Mead said to let her know if members are interested and a meeting can be set up to discuss representatives to attend.

Erik Strunk, City of Glendale, inquired where the funding for the plan is coming from. Ms. Mead said that funding is the focus of the implementation phase and was briefly talked about so far in the planning process. She said that the implementation phase would be kicked off at the annual homeless appreciation luncheon in January. Councilmember Donovan asked if there are any key people or stakeholders that have to review the plan and what options are available to modify the plan in the future. Ms. St. Peter stated the Continuum would recommend approval to the MAG Management Committee and then to the MAG Regional Council. She said it is not anticipated any of the committees would make any changes but the Continuum would have an opportunity to look at the areas of concern at the next meeting. She added that the plan is being developed as a working plan and modifications would come through the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

David Barnes suggested addressing youth issues specifically in the plan. Ms. St. Peter stated that thus far dialogue on specific subpopulations has not been discussed but rather looking at the bigger picture. She asked for feedback on the outline today or for members to email in their comments. Ms. Mead stated she would email the template out to members for comments also. She said there are two forms for interview questions, one for clients already in place in permanent housing the second one is for the homeless. Ms. Mead said Amy Swabenlender has volunteered to use questions at the next Homeless Connect.

Chair Stanton called for a motion to recommend approval of the 2008 Regional Plan goals and action steps. Vice Chair Keuth motioned to recommend approval. Mr. Duvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2008 HUD Application Evaluation

Chair Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented recommendations on evaluation criteria for the 2008 local HUD applications. Ms. Mead stated this information was discussed at the May Continuum meeting and recommendations were incorporated in the handout presented today. She said the application evaluation addresses application completeness, participation, HMIS and leveraging. Performance will evaluate responses to question 12, 14 and 15 in the APR and project goal achievement. She said reverted fund is also covered, bonus pointed will be given for re-categorizing funds from services to housing and late applications will not be accepted.

Ted Williams, ABC, commented on reverted funds back to HUD and said that zero reverted funds can be very hard to achieve. He offered an example of a million dollar contract reverting twelve dollars and said that probably would not be a big deal to HUD. He said that he would not like to be penalized for a situation like that. Ms. St. Peter replied this is an area HUD looks at and there is a need to address this issue. She said one option is to establish a percent HUD would find acceptable. Chair Stanton asked if HUD could provide guidance in this area. Ms. Mead would inquire if there is a guideline. Mr. Strunk agreed this process would be a good move. Chair Stanton inquired if funds were not used would it be used against the Continuum.

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the local evaluation criteria for the 2008 HUD application process with the recommended change to the reverted funds category. Jacki Taylor, ACEH, motioned to approve the 2008 HUD process. Vice Chair Keuth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Homeless and Domestic Violence Provider Meeting

Chair Stanton introduced Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, who provided a report on a joint meeting of the emergency homeless providers and domestic violence providers held on June 10, 2008. She stated the purpose of the meeting was to develop a clear referral network between domestic violence providers and emergency homeless providers. She said this was an opportunity to convene providers of both shelter services to work more effectively together and to address the possibility of cross referencing. Ms. Taylor said the bottom line of the meeting was not to have any empty beds in any shelters.

Ms. Taylor reported Carol Kratz from the Virginia Piper Foundation led the discussion by looking at strengths, barriers and solutions. She said the dialogue was very effective and the consensus of the group was to have a follow up meeting. Ms. St. Peter said the focus was specifically looking at emergency and crisis intervention. She said the next step is to move forward and invite members of the MAG Domestic Violence Council and the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness to participate in working groups. Chair Stanton commented on the new law that would allow victims of domestic violence to terminate their leases. He suggested that the Continuum of Care Committee have a presentation on this new law.

8. 2008 Heat Relief Mapping

Chair Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who updated the Committee on mapping of the 2008 heat relief water hydration and refuge locations as well as donation sites. Ms. Mead recently sent out a heat advisory email. She noted that it was beneficial to have the maps completed to accompany the advisory notice. She thanked all the organizations and individuals involved who have stepped up to provide hydration and refuge locations. Links are available on MAG, AZ211 and CI & R websites. CI & R staff has been trained to provide heat relief information. AZ211 uses a person's zip code to locate the nearest location. Ms. Mead said MAG is capable of printing a limited number of maps for use and to please see her for a request. She noted there is still a need for water and encouraged businesses and organizations to participate in a water drive.

Chair Stanton stated during the summer months the Phoenix Fire and Police Departments has had additional stress in providing assistance to the community. He acknowledged the Phoenix Fire Department for being represented at the meeting. Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department, said the department uses the heat relief maps to give to people coming to the stations looking for assistance. Ms. Mead stated CONTAC's shelter hotline can dispatch an outreach team for people in need which is another great addition for heat relief efforts. Councilmember Osborne stated the City of Goodyear has also put the heat relief information on the city website. Mark Holleran

commented last night CASS and the overflow shelter were filled to capacity and had to turn away a couple hundred of people. He stated his concern over the large number of people coming to seek shelters early in the season. Chair Stanton thanked everyone involved in providing support and assistance in helping the most vulnerable of our population during the summer months.

9. Announcements

Ms. Taylor commented on the continual need to be aware of budget negotiations. She said a meeting will be held tomorrow with the state appropriations committee. Ms. Taylor said has a service provider there is a need to be concerned. She said funding such as the state lottery are at risk to be lost. She added to voice your concern regarding the budget for human services.

Mr. Holleran announced he will be presenting on CASS's policy involving sex offenders tomorrow at the City of Phoenix. By June 30, 2009 CASS will cease to take in level three sex offenders. Discussion on this issue has taken place for a number of years. He stated CASS has taken the brunt of an incident that happened by the campus and there is a need for other entities to step up on helping to handle this situation. He added this issue is a serious concern for public safety.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MAG.