

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
January 26, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember, City of Phoenix,
Chair
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &
Referral Services
*Kim Hohman for David Barnhouse, Governor's
Office
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
Kendra Cea, APS
Amy Schwabenlender for 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
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health
Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Darlene Newsom, UMOM New Day Centers
Joanne Osborne, Councilmember of Goodyear
Gina Ramos-Montes, City of Avondale
Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services
+Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Elizabeth Morales for Ted Williams, Arizona
Behavioral Health Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Bell, St. Vincent de Paul
Greg Boone, Labors Community Service
Agency
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Colleen Byron, ASU
Steve Carter, NOVA
Patti Evans, City of Goodyear
Charlotte Grant-Cobb, AZ Department of
Housing
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health
Robert Duvall, Community Information and
Referral
Rebecca Flanagan, US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed Center for Youth
Andy Hall, AZ Department of Economic
Security
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Frank Nagy, Homeward Bound
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa
Vicki Ranny, Recovery Innovations of Arizona
Lena Reid, Valley of the Sun United Way
Susan Stutenroth, Healthcare for the Homeless
Michelle Thomas, Community Information and
Referral
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti
Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa
Dianna Whittle, City of Glendale
Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Brandee Mead, Maricopa Association of
Governments

*Those members neither present nor represented by
proxy.

+Those members present by audio or
videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Don Keuth, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

3. Approval of November 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Roberto Armijo, Community Information and Referral, to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Steve Frate, Glendale, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Regional Plan to End Homelessness

Brandee Mead, MAG, thanked the members of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and the Regional Plan Working Group for the development of the new Regional Plan to End Homelessness. She said that the Plan is an example of collaboration and dedication to ending homelessness in the region. Ms. Mead said that the Plan is being present as a draft and will still go through an extensive proofing and formatting process at MAG. Ms. Mead explained that the Plan was being presented for action to recommend approval by the MAG Regional Council in February.

Several members of the Committee commented on the success of the Appreciative Inquiry planning process that went into the development of the Plan and thanked staff and all involved with the completion of the Plan.

A motion was made by Councilmember Steve Frate, Glendale, to recommend approval of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness to the MAG Regional Council. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, and passed unanimously.

5. Regional Plan Implementation Summit and Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Amy St. Peter, MAG, explained to the Committee that staff had been in discussion with Amanda Trosten-Bloom to facilitate the Regional Plan Implementation Summit as requested by the Committee. Ms. St. Peter informed the Committee that Ms. Trosten-Bloom had increased her cost for the event to \$20,000 and that she didn't feel comfortable bringing her in for that amount. Ms. St. Peter said that she feels confident that MAG staff could facilitate the event, keeping with the Appreciative Inquiry model. Members of the Committee agreed that \$20,000 is too much to spend for a facilitator and agreed that MAG staff could facilitate the summit. Ms. St. Peter asked for volunteers to form a stakeholders group to help plan the event. Ms. Morales; Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness; Collen Byron, ASU; and Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates; offered to serve on the stakeholders group.

Amy St. Peter informed the Committee that a local, but nationally known, keynote speaker was being considered for the Annual Appreciation Luncheon. She said that Robert Van Arlen is known for being an excellent speaker, bringing energy to groups, and should create excitement following the Implementation Summit.

6. Project Homeless Connect in the West Valley

Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, discussed the Project Homeless Connect taking place in the West Valley on February 12, 2009. She said that the event will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Desert Springs Community Church in Goodyear. Ms. Schwabenlender thanked the planning team for the event and explained that it has been a very collaborative process.

Ms. Schwabenlender said that during the event, services such as medical care, DES benefits, free tax assistance, Social Security, Veteran's benefits, and shelter will be provided. Other things like food, clothing, personal care items, haircuts, showers, and bicycle repair will also be available at the event. She continued that transportation to and from the event will be available from various locations throughout the west valley. She encouraged members of the Committee to volunteer to be a guest guide or to come by and see the event.

Amy Schwabenlender informed the Committee that she is working with several cities and providers to hold a Project Homeless Connect each month throughout the Valley. She said that events would rotate between east valley, west valley, and Phoenix throughout the year. She acknowledged Theresa James for hosting several Project Homeless Connect events in Tempe. Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family, requested that a schedule of the Project Homeless Connect events be emailed to her. Ms. Mead confirmed that she would do so.

7. 2009 Homeless Street and Shelter Count

Brandee Mead, MAG, explained that she has been working closely with Street Count coordinators in all 25 cities and towns throughout Maricopa County. She thanked the coordinators for their work in planning for the January 27, 2009 street count. She said that all of the coordinators are in good shape for conducting the count on January 27th. She explained that she expects to have results from the cities collected and compiled by the middle of February.

Ms. Mead continued that in addition to the Homeless Street Count, there is also a Homeless Shelter Count taking place on January 27, 2009 as well. Ms. Mead introduced Andy Hall, AZ Department of Economic Security, to discuss the shelter count. Mr. Hall said that the shelter count survey form had been sent out to all of the service providers in Maricopa County and they are asking that forms be completed and returned by February 6, 2009. Mr. Hall talked members of the Committee through the layout of the survey form. He explained that there is a form for families and a separate form for individuals. Mr. Hall said that a question had been added to the survey this year for shelters to report the number of people that have on their waiting list. Mr. Hall thanked providers for completing the survey.

1. 17th Annual Report on the Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona

Andy Hall, AZ Department of Economic Security presented the recently completed 17th Annual Current Status of Homelessness Report. Mr. Hall said that it is a state-wide report on the efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Arizona. The report contains information on homelessness throughout the state, a section summarizing data received from each of the Continua of Care, and a specific section on the efforts of each Continuum of Care. Mr. Hall continued that the report also includes a section on the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness and research briefs. One of the new sections of the report is quotes gathered from persons experiencing homelessness.

Several members of the Committee congratulated Mr. Hall on a well-done report. Mr. Hall provided copies of the report to those at the meeting and referred to the DES Web site for the electronic version.

2. Legislative Update

Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH), provided a legislative update. Ms. Taylor commented on the worsening economy and the impact it seems to be having on increases in homelessness. She said the proposed state budget has millions of dollars of cuts to health and human services that would tragically impact homeless funding and services. Ms. Taylor encouraged members of the Committee to advocate for the issue of homelessness and against reductions to the proposed funding cuts. Ms. Taylor said that the Coalition is planning a day at the Legislature on February 17, 2009. She encouraged members to join the Coalition at the Legislature on this day. She also invited the Committee to a public hearing on the proposed budget cuts on February 29, 2009.

Ms. Taylor said there are four main areas of funding reductions that impact homelessness. These include the elimination of general assistance, the elimination of the \$1 million in lottery funds for homeless assistance programs, significant cuts to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and more than \$20 million in transferred Housing Trust Fund dollars from the Arizona Department of Housing to the general fund. She emphasized the importance of advocating tough economic times and encouraged everyone to become a member of ACEH.

Mr. Armijo said he thought the legislature is not hearing from advocates. He recognized that any kind of budget reduction is painful to consider but emphasized that positive solutions need to be identified. Ms. Taylor agreed and said one of these solutions can be educating the new members of the legislature.

Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services, said a good way to make one's voice heard with the legislature is through public engagement. She referenced the experience of her sister-in-law who is the Superintendent of the Pinal School District. They started planning a rally last Thursday and had 1,500 people participate

that following Sunday. Ms. Robbins said this appears to have had a significant impact on the legislators willing to talk about cuts to the school system.

3. Arizona Town Hall

DeDe Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections and Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed Youth Development, provided a summary on the Arizona Town Hall that took place November 2-5 2008. Ms. Yazzie Devine provided members with a handout containing highlights of the 93rd Town Hall and included ten action steps that resulted.

Mr. Geasland discussed the first five action steps:

- Develop a comprehensive state housing plan
- Implement a public education and relations campaign
- Provide financial literacy education
- Think globally, act locally
- Urge the Arizona Legislature to take action

Ms. Yazzie Devine discussed action steps six through ten:

- Provide incentives for desired development
- Implement robust economic development strategies
- Adopt needed housing finance regulations
- Demonstrate effective leadership
- Protect, pursue, and secure needed funding

Members of the Committee commented that the ten action steps fit nicely in with the goals developed in the new Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Ms. Devine indicated that there are mini Town-Hall events taking place throughout the valley and referred members to the Town Hall Web site at www.aztownhall.org for additional information.

Chair Stanton asked if the Committee members who attended were pleased with the results of the event. Ms. Yazzie-Devine; Darlene Newsom, UMOM; and Rebecca Flanagan, HUD; said that the presence of homeless advocates truly seemed to have an impact. As a result of educating other Town Hall participants about homelessness, the action steps are better informed and contain several of the advocates' suggestions. Ms. Geasland said some of the groups at the event were more balanced than others and already had a good understanding of homelessness.

4. Announcements

Brande Mead announced that Chair Stanton has recently announced that he is leaving the City Council and will become Deputy Attorney General in early April. Councilmember Steve Frate read and presented Chair Stanton with a resolution on behalf of the Committee.

Chair Stanton thanked all the members of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for their passion and professionalism and said that it was an honor to serve on the Committee. He commented that even though the region does not receive its fair share from many human services funding sources, the region receives above and beyond their fair share of Stuart B. McKinney funds. Chair Stanton said the outstanding work of the Committee and the providers are the reason for record awards. He said that even though this is his last meeting as Chair, these issues will continue to be with him. For example, he hopes to impact the domestic violence legislative agenda in his new role with the Attorney General's office.

Brad Bridwell, U.S. Vets, informed the Committee that the Arizona Stand Down is taking place at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum February 6-8, 2009. He said that Arizona Governor Jan Brewer is on the agenda for the kick-off event. He invited members to attend. Mr. Bridwell said the goal for the event is to have 5,000 veterans in attendance and to place 50 to 75 in housing by Sunday.

Chair Stanton requested that the Committee have the Neighborhood Stabilization Bill on a future agenda to assess how the funds are being spent by recipient agencies in the region.

Ms. Robbins announced that Will Humble is the interim director the Arizona Department of Health Services. She had a recent discussion with him about his experience in training homeless providers and encouraged him to keep homelessness as a priority.

Kendra Cea, APS, said she would like to have more private sector members on the Committee and offered her assistance with recruiting new members.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.