

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MARCH 23, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Robert Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services  
\*David Barnhouse, Governor's Office  
Brad Bridwell, US Vets  
\*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections  
\*Kendra Cea, APS  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix, Councilmember  
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Vice Chair  
Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health  
Joy Johnson for Mark Ludwig, Arizona 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, Arizona Dept of Health Services  
Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way  
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

Renee Ayres, Maricopa County Community Development  
Colleen Byron, Arizona State University  
Dorothy Corey, A&A Cottages  
Donna Crews, Advocates for the Disabled  
Kathy Dinolfi, A New Leaf  
Esther Emadi, Southwest Behavioral Health  
Deborah Forbes-Lemley, Salvation Army  
Walt Gray, COPE  
Andy Hall, DES  
Michael Lafitte, Homebase Youth  
Mattie Lord, DES  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Frank Nagy, Homeward Bound  
Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa  
Louis Kislin, HUD  
Gilbert Lopez, City of Glendale  
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos Por La Causa  
Vicki Rainey, Recovery Innovations of Arizona  
Susan Stutenroth HCH  
Michelle Thomas, Community Information and Referral  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti  
Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association  
  
Rachel Brito, MAG  
Brandie Mead, MAG  
Amy St. Peter, MAG

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Donald Keuth called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

3. Approval of January 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009. The motion was seconded by Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee Report

Theresa James, Chair, Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee, gave a report on the Subcommittee's meeting of February 23, 2009.

- 2009 Homeless Street Count: The subcommittee discussed the process and preliminary results. Chair James noted an update would be provided by Brande Mead, MAG.
- Regional Plan Implementation Summit: The Subcommittee recommended continuing the Appreciative Inquiry process for the development of the implementation plan. She said a working group was established to prepare for and assist with facilitation during the summit. Chair James noted the summit will be a working meeting where participants will be separated into focus groups charged with developing the implantation plan. The groups will focus on: Housing; Services; Prevention; Education, training and employment; and Community awareness and collaboration. She said registration confirmation and commitment worksheets are being sent out to each participant.
- 2009 Brown Bag: Chair James said a survey was distributed to gather feedback on potential topics and the Subcommittee brainstormed potential trainers. She said the first brown bag was held on February 27<sup>th</sup> and had 90 attendees.
- Gaps Analysis: The Subcommittee is awaiting feedback from HUD on the current process. They discussed the need to look at the gaps analysis on a more frequent basis and will use the feedback from HUD to assist in this effort.

Chair James made a motion to approve the Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee's report. Jackie Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 2009 Homeless Street Count

Brande Mead, MAG, provided a report on the results of the January 27, 2009 Homeless Street Count. Ms. Mead said results are available for the public and a press release was issued March 19, 2009.

Ms. Mead reported 2,918 people sleeping on the streets in Maricopa County. She said there has been a significant increase in the number of families and youth on the streets. She noted

the number of families increases from 10 in 2008 to 37 in 2009. The 37 families are comprised of 237 people. The number of youth on the streets increased from 40 to 139. They are all under the age of 18 years old. Ms. Mead noted the decrease in number of chronically homeless individuals by 24 percent. She said the 220 homeless children reported include children in families as well as youth on their own. Ms. Mead gave a breakdown of the number of homeless adults and reviewed a comparison of subpopulations. She acknowledged and thanked the street count coordinators and volunteers who assisted in the process.

Elizabeth Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, commented on the staggering number of families and children and asked if there was anything different this year. Ms. Mead replied the majority of increase is families in cities, as reflected by the spreadsheet. She noted Guadalupe had an overall increase from last year. Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, said no differences were reported back to the City of Phoenix. She noted there were more volunteers this year and the grids were broken down more so than in past years.

Councilmember Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix, said he was interested in what factors led to an increase of homelessness. He noted the practice of some cities of dropping off their homeless people in Phoenix. Ms. Mead said some cities tried different techniques this year by following Phoenix's model including changing their count from morning to evening. More specific information other than the change in time and using additional volunteers was not available. Ms. Mead clarified volunteers obtain a count of homeless individuals but do not survey them. She said in the case of chronically homeless individuals, volunteers may have a conversation with them to determine if they meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless. Other comments noted by the Committee that may have affected the 2008 homeless street count was the bad weather which created complications for volunteers not being able to access homeless individuals and possible issues related to the Super Bowl.

Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), asked if the results have been compared to other cities comparable in size. Ms. Mead said results are just now being released however USA Today is working on a comparison of 12 different communities and will share information when complete. Ms. Mead also advised HUD is reviewing the results and has asked the Continuum of Care to participate in a project comparing the street count and HMIS data on a quarterly basis for a more accurate and more frequent count. She said HUD has requested communities provide additional data on street counts as well as shelter counts.

#### 6. Review of 2008 HUD Application Process and Performance Evaluation Process

Vice Chair Keuth congratulated MAG and all of the participants involved in the HUD application process and for being awarded \$24.5 million in homeless assistance grants. He said that all new and renewal projects were awarded funding and that the funding amount is a record for the Continuum of Care.

Ms. Mead said the \$3.1 million dollar increase from last year is the largest increase awarded and is significant as funding continues to be cut in many areas. She acknowledged the new projects: UMOM New Day Centers, Save the Family, ABC and Arizona Housing, Inc., as

well as all of the renewal projects that were awarded. Ms. Mead thanked Valley of the Sun United Way for facilitating the ranking and review process. Liz Morales commented that HUD awarded three percent increases to permanent housing, or tenant based rent projects, to recognize increases in rent.

Ms. Mead said the goals and action steps for the HUD application reflect an evaluation process of local projects. She advised that MAG has a contract with John Epler, of Epler and Associates. One of his tasks includes providing technical assistance to underperforming permanent housing and transitional housing projects. These projects were not meeting HUD's national objective in terms of the percentage of people staying in permanent housing and people moving from transitional housing to permanent housing. She said MAG is also having to make funding cuts, and as such, is not able to sustain that part of the contract. Mr. Epler will continue providing assistance pertaining to completion of Exhibit One in the HUD application.

Ms. Mead asked for recommendations from the Committee on how to continue evaluating and providing technical assistance within proposed timeframes to those projects that fall below the national objective. She said there were five projects in 2008 that were below 71.5 percent of people staying in permanent housing over six months. Ms. Morales said some of the agencies she has worked with have requested similar assistance. She suggested having the permanent housing projects come together to discuss options. Vice chair Keuth asked Ms. Morales to lead this effort along with assistance from Margaret Trujillo, Mg Trujillo & Associates, LLC. He recommended they work with Ms. Mead and get other Committee members to assist in this effort as well.

Amy St. Peter said a team support meeting for the evaluation process is a good suggestion. She also indicated that the group might identify goals for evaluation of the projects and provide an action plan for formal review of the projects on a periodic basis. Ms. St. Peter said MAG staff is able and willing to assist by providing technical assistance, but added it may be good to have this effort be broader than just MAG staff. Ms. St. Peter encouraged starting the project by April. Vice chair Keuth recommended Ms. Morales and Ms. Trujillo begin to review the first steps to determine current status and identify additional steps that may be required.

Ms. Skotnicki asked how many programs exceeded the national objective. Ms. St. Peter said there are 53 programs indicating the majority are well above the national objective. She said the intent is to help the other projects achieve that goal so they can be more successful in the grant competition. Ms. Taylor recommended targeting agencies that are exceeding to serve as mentors for those needing assistance. Ms. St. Peter said the intent is not to call attention to any one particular agency that needs assistance. While a support group of agencies that are exceeding is a good idea, the hope is that they would volunteer and not be assigned to the task. She said the intent would be to have a small stakeholder group to look at the issues and offer a plan to the agency.

Vice Chair Keuth recommended the Executive Committee be allowed to provide additional follow-up steps that might be required. He recommended proceeding with the

recommendations discussed. Ms. Taylor made a motion to move forward with the Performance Evaluation Process. Brad Bridwell, US Vets, seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

7. Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding and Homeless Prevention and Re-Housing funding Overview

Lou Kislin, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, gave a presentation on NSP funding. Mr. Kislin said the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) provided \$3.92 billion in funding to Arizona. He noted HERA funds are not Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; but are technically federal disaster funding.

Mr. Kislin reviewed the NSP allocation for Arizona which included a breakdown by City, County and State. He highlighted the responsibility and income limit guidelines as well as eligible activities and conditions for use of HERA funds. Mr. Kislin noted additional modifications are being made.

Ms. Morales asked for additional information regarding additional NSP funds being made available to nonprofit organizations. Mr. Kislin said very little information is currently available; he has not received any literature pertaining to additional NSP funds. Ms. Morales said she is part of a national association that will hold a conference in August focusing on single family and multi family housing. She said NSP funds will be important as nonprofits decide to compete for funding this year.

Vice Chair Keuth commented on the need for good appraisers and the ability to rehabilitate homes before the deadline. He said various cities have to have their Community Development Department review and give approval. Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services, asked clarifying questions regarding use of funds to maintain property and where those types of costs will be incorporated. Gina Ramos Montes, City of Avondale, said funds cannot be used by Code Enforcement to clean properties. She noted costs associated with a home that has been purchased, rehabilitated and will be sold, can be paid for with NSP funds. Ms. Morales commented it would be interesting to know how recipients of funds are using the money. Mr. Kislin said coordinating meetings are being held.

Ms. Mead said Arizona was allocated over \$22 million dollars in emergency funds, of which, grantees received \$11.4 million dollars; over \$7 million was allocated to the State. The four categories eligible for funding are: financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, data collection and evaluation (HMIS) and administrative costs. These funds will provide financial assistance and services to prevent homelessness and target individuals and families who become homeless. Funds cannot be used for mortgage assistance, but can be used for utility assistance, moving costs, or legal services as long as it is not related to mortgage. Ms. Mead said grantees have to spend 60 percent of the funds within two years, 100 percent of funding within three years. HUD expects to have contracts in place by September 30, 2009.

Ms. Mead said grantees met earlier today to discuss requirements, eligibility factors, and the planning process. She noted technical assistance is available as necessary through the

Continuum of Care. Ms. Mead said more information is available at the following Web sites: HUD Resource Exchange, [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info) and [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org).

#### 8. Emergency Funding Collaborative Information

Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA), provided information on the kickoff for the “Choose to Help” campaign, an emergency funding collaborative.

She thanked the Committee for an opportunity to talk about this new initiative. This project came about as a result of discussion by the ACAA Board on what could be done in a proactive sense to raise awareness about the changing face of people in poverty. She noted many people were involved in the strategic discussion. Additionally, they began looking at ways to enhance the campaign and redesign the service delivery process.

Ms. Zwick said they were contacted by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust regarding a campaign to raise \$1.3 million dollars. As a result of a collaborative effort, there are now eleven foundations and funding organizations that have partnered together in this effort. The campaign to raise emergency funds for food, shelter, healthcare and emergency assistance will be launched in February. Media coverage will be provided by the Arizona Republic, Cox Charities, and other partnering cable companies and media throughout the state.

Ms. Zwick said the intent of the campaign is to match the \$1.3 million dollars from the philanthropic community with private donations in order to offer support to families in need. Ms. Zwick said funds will be used within the same region where they were donated. The campaign will run for three weeks and the money will be available by May. Nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for funds. The campaign Web site is [www.choostohelp.org](http://www.choostohelp.org)

Ms. Taylor applauded Ms. Zwick for her efforts and work done on this project. Councilmember Osborne asked if families in need of assistance can apply for funds. Ms. Zwick clarified funds will be granted to nonprofit organizations and eligible community action organizations.

#### 9. Legislative Update

Ms. Taylor provided an update of the State Legislature and budget. She said the State Legislature and budget is in critical shape. She encouraged everyone to engage in one or more of the following areas:

- DES Budget: Ms. Taylor said all departments in the state agency have been asked to prepare budget scenarios of five, 10, 15 and 20 percent cuts. She said the foundation of the hard work that has been done is at risk of eroding. She encouraged everyone to engage their Board of Directors and staff to advocate for the preservation of the DES budget.
- Lottery funding: Ms. Taylor said the lottery funding for homeless shelters is slated to be cut in 2010. She strongly encouraged advocating to prevent this from happening.

- Housing Trust Fund: This money is funded predominately from unclaimed property revenue. The Legislature is proposing these funds go directly to the State General Fund. Doing so would require the Arizona Department of Housing to submit funding requests to the Legislature. Ms. Taylor asked everyone to advocate for preservation of this funding stream.
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing dollars: Ms. Taylor encouraged everyone to look in their communities for potential grantees and use this opportunity to infuse funding into homeless programs.

Ms. Taylor encouraged everyone to call her as she is willing to help any way possible. She highly encouraged everyone to get involved and reminded everyone that the Governor's office is a key point of contact.

#### 10. Announcements

Ms. Morales acknowledged Carolyn Olson, City of Mesa, for implementing changes to the Section 8 program to now prioritize tenant based rental assistance for homeless people .

Councilmember Johnson requested additional information on the homeless street count, specifically a map of Maricopa County identifying the numbers reported. Ms. Mead advised the results are not currently mapped but are available by municipality. More research will be done to provide this information. Ms. Jonovich said the City of Phoenix does map within high volume grid areas and can provide additional information for the City of Phoenix.

#### 11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2009.