

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
DECEMBER 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, Vice Mayor, Chair
Robert Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community
Information & Referral Services
David Barnhouse, Governor's Office
*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
Kendra Cea, APS
*Steve Frate, City of Glendale,
Councilmember
*Victor Hudenko, Catholic Charities
Theresa James, City of Tempe
*Michael Johnson, City of Phoenix,
Councilmember
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
*Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health Services of
Arizona
Mattie Lord, Arizona Department of Economic
Security/CPIP
Mark Ludwig, Arizona Department of Housing
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
*Darlene Newsom, U MOM New Day Centers
*Joanne Osborne, City of Goodyear,
Councilmember, Vice Chair
*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
Nicky Stevens for Ted Williams, Arizona
Behavioral Health Corporation
*Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Bartz Recovery Innovations of Arizona
Mike Bell, St. Vincent De Paul
Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix
Geoff Davis, SBH
Jenny Day, Basic Mission
Bahney Dedolph, Fresh Start
Judith Fritsch, Department of Economic
Services
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter
Services
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos por la Causa
Marlena Pina, The Salvation Army
Parrish Spisz, City of Goodyear
Michelle Thomas, Community Information and
Referral
Gene Van den Bosch, Maricopa Association for
Combat Veterans Foundation
Diana Whittle, City of Glendale
Lend

Rachel Brito, MAG
Brandee Mead, MAG

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or
videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Shana Ellis, City of Tempe, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Introductions ensued. Chair Ellis recognized former Vice Chair, Don Keuth, as one of the founding members of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. Mr. Keuth was presented with a certificate of appreciation for nine years of service. Chair Ellis read the certificate along with a letter from Councilwoman Peggy Neely acknowledging him as a true champion and leader in the fight to end homelessness.

2. Call to the Audience

Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Committee. No comments were made.

3. Approval of the November 9, 2009 Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellis asked for changes or comments on the November 9, 2009, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Robert Duvall, Community Information and Referral Services, to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Ludwig, Arizona Department of Housing. The minutes were approved.

4. Progress on the Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Committee members were presented with two collaborative projects progressing the housing and service goals in the Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Janet Garcia, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW), presented a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Initiative pilot program. She thanked the Committee for the opportunity to share the project and to work collaboratively with the Continuum and other agencies to continue efforts to end homelessness. Ms. Garcia said homelessness is a regional issue that requires region-wide solutions. She shared five VSUW initiatives for ending homelessness highlighting Project Homeless Connect as a national best practice. Ms. Garcia thanked the City of Tempe for bringing this effort into communities across the valley.

Ms. Garcia focused on the fourth initiative: *Develop permanent, supportive housing for chronically homeless populations throughout the Valley.* She shared statistics based on research by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and goals and timelines for developing future units. She stressed the need to bring new resources to the table to make these efforts work. Ms. Garcia shared VSUW's definition of Permanent Supportive Housing noting PSH is a proven way to end homelessness. She also provided statistics based on studies conducted in places such as Baltimore, Boston, San Diego, San Francisco, Denver and Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Ms. Garcia said the PSH pilot project will be the development of a scattered site model which partners the City of Tempe, Arizona Department of Health Services and VSUW. She estimated half of the individuals assisted through the project will qualify for services for a Serious Mental Illness (SMI). She said scattered-site housing is one of the quickest ways to get units on-line. Additionally, she said the dispersion policy may help address feelings of a community being "over-burdened" with the population. The next steps in the PSH initiative

are looking at opportunities to engage with the Common Ground initiative; a peer visit to Salt Lake City on December 17, 2009, to review three projects and learn from their experiences, and formation of the VSUW Ending Homelessness Advisory Board. She stressed VSUW's intent is not to work on these efforts on their own, but to work in partnership with all.

Nick Margiotta, City of Phoenix, asked if VSUW is planning to partner with the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) to provide services to clients with serious mental illness (SMI) placed in housing? Ms. Garcia responded that they are planning to partner with the RBHA for mental health services to that population.

Parrish Spisz, City of Tempe, asked for clarification of SMI. Ms. Garcia advised SMI refers to people with serious mental illness. Ms. Garcia said an advisory group will be traveling to Salt Lake City to study projects they have been implemented. The advisory group will help identify sustainable funding to support the initiative.

Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus, mentioned that he recently went to Salt Lake City to learn about their permanent supportive housing model programs and was impressed with their outcomes.

Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness gave a presentation on Common Ground - Maricopa County Regional Initiative. Ms. Taylor reviewed each of the initiative's principles.

Principle 1: Street to Home - Ms. Taylor said 3,000 units of permanent supportive housing were created in New York's Times Square. Their success is based on a housing first approach and a paradigm shift in homeless outreach efforts. She said outreach is typically based on "contact hours", taking down names and handing out personal items. However, Common Ground takes a more intense approach to determine who the "anchors" are or those who are chronically homeless within a neighborhood and then placing those people in housing. They found with the traditional outreach method, homelessness increased, but with the new methodology, homelessness decreased.

Principle 2: Vulnerability Index is based on medical research on street homelessness. She noted approximately 40% of the population is considered "vulnerable" to premature death on the streets. Ms. Taylor provided a list of eight factors leading to medical vulnerability. She discussed the Vulnerability Index which is a tool for identifying and prioritizing homeless persons for housing according to length of homelessness and mortality risk. She shared information on the Registry Database, which is used to track individuals by name and photograph who are vulnerable to premature death on the streets. Ms. Taylor said Phoenix and Tucson have qualified to receive Registry Database training. The training will include motivational interviewing and vulnerability index tool, surveying and community briefings.

Principle 3: 100,000 Homes Campaign is a National Campaign targeting 50 metropolitan areas with the greatest street homelessness. Both Phoenix and Tucson qualify to participate in the national campaign.

Ms. Taylor provided an overview of the Technical Assistance content and methodology. Additionally, she reviewed the organizational structure which includes a Common Ground Implementation Team and a local Campaign Leadership Team. She requested the Continuums support and involvement in the Leadership Team and in recruiting participants for the Implementation Team.

Chair Ellis said it is exciting to hear of these projects working to house the most vulnerable homeless people in the region. The items were slated for possible action to support the collaborative efforts of Valley of the Sun United Way Permanent Housing Project and the Coalition's Common Ground Project.

Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, asked for clarification of the motion. Ms. Taylor said the motion would approve the Continuum's support of the projects efforts to secure 50 additional units. Additionally, it would approve the participation of Committee members on the Implementation and Leadership Teams. Theresa James, City of Tempe, suggested the motion support both projects. Ms. Taylor agreed noting both projects would enhance one another and not compete with each other. Ms. Jonovich motioned to support the collaborative efforts of Valley of the Sun United Way Permanent Supportive Housing Project and the Coalition's Common Ground Project. Don Keuth seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. FY 2011 Goal Planning

Committee members were given an opportunity to raise and discuss issues to be addressed as goals in the MAG FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Chair Ellis said the Committee has accomplished a great deal of work this year with the completion of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness and in beginning implementation of the goals. She asked for input from the Committee on additional goals for FY 2011.

Brande Mead, MAG, referred Committee members to the Regional Plan to End Homelessness Goals and Action Steps which were approved in January 2009. She said there are over 30 action steps within the regional plan that will present several items to work on throughout the year. She recommended only adding items the Committee wishes to have considered but are not already included in the plan. Additionally, she requested input on prioritizing the action steps.

Ms. James recommended prioritizing Action Step #17: *Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals with a disability through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development McKinney Vento funding.* Ms. Mead agreed noting the goal can be expanded to include other resources as well. Action Step #19: *Move 25 chronically homeless people from the streets into a housing first model and provide coordinated and effective wrap-around services to maintain housing stability;* and Action Step #23 *Establish a public/private partnership to create a sustained funding pool for development, and implementation and expansion of permanent affordable housing units and supportive services for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. These funds should be directed to expanding permanent housing opportunities including rental assistance*

programs, new construction, or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units as well as funding requisite supportive service, were also recommended for prioritization.

Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County Chief Resource Office, recommended collapsing all three actions steps into one. Ms. Mead agreed the steps can be reworded to combine all three. Mr. Keuth questioned how many of the steps could realistically be accomplished. He recommended categorizing the action steps into tiers and not spreading resources too thin. Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, noted highlighted items on the handout which are action steps led by the Continuum. She recommended categorizing action steps by who will take the lead. Ms. Mead advised some action steps have already been accomplished. She recommended reorganizing the list by lead agency and steps accomplished and providing it to the Committee at the next meeting

Chair Ellis asked for a motion to table the FY 2011 Goal Planning until a revised list is provided. Mr. Keuth motioned to table FY 2011 Goal Planning. Ms. Jonovich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Committee Meetings and Evaluations

Chair Ellis referred the Committee to the 2010 Committee meeting calendar. She asked for input on the draft schedule. Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, motioned to approve the 2010 meeting calendar. The motion was seconded by Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family. The motion passed. Ms. St. Peter clarified the correct date for the Annual Appreciation Luncheon is Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

7. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Chair Ellis asked for input on future agendas items. She recapped two items previously mentioned: goal planning and a report on the Salt Lake City tour previously mentioned. Ms. Mead advised additional items requested at previous meetings include: a report from the US Veterans on their initiative to end homelessness and a report from the Department of Corrections regarding their discharge planning policy.

Mattie Lord, Arizona Department of Economic Security asked for the status on the shelter capacity study. Ms. Mead advised a draft report was received in late November. MAG staff is currently reviewing the report; it will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

8. Announcements

Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, said Project Homeless Connect is being held on December 15, 2009 in the Northwest Valley. She thanked all supporters and providers noting this is their eleventh event of the year. Project Homeless Connect has served 1,800 people with 2000+ volunteers. Ms. Schwabenlender said the next two events are scheduled for January 22, 2010 at the Tempe First United Methodist Church, and in February at the Human Services Campus. Additional 2010 calendar dates are forthcoming.

Ms. Taylor advised the AzCEH Annual Legislative Summit will be held Friday, December 18, 2009. Additionally, Monday, December 21, 2009 is Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. A candlelight vigil will be held at Albright United Methodist Church in Phoenix. Ms. James

advised services will also be held at Tempe United Methodist Church in the east valley. Additional locations are available on the Web site at www.azceh.org.

Mr. Keuth acknowledged Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections. NAC held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Catherine Arms housing community located at 315 West Fillmore in Phoenix. The housing development adds 28 units of affordable permanent supportive housing for working families. In addition, NAC will be starting on a new 96 unit project. Congratulations to Native American Connections.

Ms. Mead said the annual street count will be held January 26, 2010. She encouraged all Committee members and those present to participate in the street count. Anyone interested in participating may contact Ms. Mead for assistance in contacting their local street count coordinator. Additionally, the Continuum of Care Annual Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the Stardust Foundation, will be held on January 20, 2010 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort. This year's event will celebrate the Committee's 10 year anniversary.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness scheduled for March 22, 2010 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Annual Appreciation Luncheon will be held in place of a regular meeting on January 20, 2010.