

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES**

May 27, 2004

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Jan Brewer, Secretary of State
Teresa James for Dennis Cahill, City of Tempe,
Councilmember
Ernie Calderón (Chairman), Jennings, Strouss
& Salmon, PLC
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Planning
Subcommittee Chair
Linda Snidecor for James Cavanaugh, Mayor
City of Goodyear
*Sandra Dowling, Maricopa County Schools
*Ken Einbeinder, US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Michelle Ryan for Mike Franczak, Arizona
Department of Health Services
*Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember
Andrew Rael for Sheila D. Harris, Director,
Arizona Department of Housing
*Mark Holleran, Human Service Campus, LLC
*Ryan Johnson, World At Work
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F
Jess Medrano for Mary Keehl, AZ Department
of Corrections
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix
*Ann Lipp, Area Agency on Aging, HIV Care
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Marvin Martin, Phoenix Revitalization
Corporation
*Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
*Sara Moya, Homeless Trust Fund
Crucita Nunez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
Connie James for David Ortega, City of
Scottsdale, Councilmember
*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way
Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix, Councilmember
Louisa Stark, Comm Housing Partnership

Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Jonathan Weisbuch, Department of Public
Health
*Mike Whalen, City of Mesa,
Councilmember
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
*Barbara Williams, Collaboration for a New
Century
*Terri Wogan (Vice Chair), Governors
Office, C Y & F
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Bell, St Vincent de Paul
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Margot Cordova, NAC
Debbra Determan, MAG
Gregg Donnell, Social Alliance Consulting
JW Enos, HUD
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Jami Gates, Labor's Comm Service Agency
Gloria Hurtado, City of Phoenix
Vic Hudenko, MAG Associate
John Lamkis, Save the Family
Sheri Lopez, NOVA Safe Haven
Darlene Newsome, UMOM
Mario Paniagua, City of Phoenix
Tom Pivonka, HBYS
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Amy St. Peter, MAG
John Wall, CASS
Rita Walton, MAG
**Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.*

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Ernest Calderón called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

3. Approval of the April 22, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting because there was not a quorum.

4. Membership Subcommittee Report

Chairman Calderón introduced Don Keuth, Chairman of the Membership Subcommittee, who reported on their work thus far. Mr. Keuth reported that the Membership Subcommittee had drafted a set of membership guidelines, which were distributed to the Continuum in a handout. He briefly reviewed why the Membership Subcommittee was formed. The main questions poised to the subcommittee involved the intent and membership for the Continuum of Care, do they have too many meetings, and how to rotate members on and off the Continuum over time. He briefly went over the draft membership guidelines handout, touching on the suggested number of subcommittees, how chairs will be chosen and rotated, and how current members will be able to choose whether or not they will continue to serve on the Continuum.

The Continuum decided to hold off action on the membership guidelines until the next meeting. This will allow all Continuum members to review the guidelines in detail, including those not present at the current meeting.

5. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Calderón introduced Tom Canasi, Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee, who reported on the activities and plans of this subcommittee. At their most recent meeting on Monday May 17th, the group heard from Don Keuth regarding the membership guidelines, as well as from two work groups. One of the work groups had been asked to review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness, and the other was working on coming up with a structured procedure for continuing with consumer input focus groups.

The group working on the Regional Plan had decided to table their efforts until August when the HUD application process will be finished. They hoped to produce a status report card to the Planning Subcommittee no later than November of this year, which would be in time for the annual Continuum of Care Luncheon.

The focus group work group had identified several subpopulations that they would like to hear from. The first will be from homeless youth and that focus group session will likely take place in August. Charlene Moran Flaherty, State Homeless Coordinator, had volunteered to facilitate future focus groups. Theresa James,

Homeless Coordinator from the City of Tempe, had volunteered to contact Tumbleweed to ask if they would volunteer to host the session in August. In the near future, they also hope to hold sessions for victims of HIV/AIDS, single women, substance abusers, and families.

At this time, Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Canasi for his report and called for approval of the April 22, 2004 meeting minutes, as there was now a quorum present. There were no changes made. Brian Spicker moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Don Keuth.

Chairman Calderón also took this time to thank Scottsdale City Council Member David Ortega for his service to the Continuum. Councilmember Ortega had intended for this meeting to be his last, however he was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

6. Community Vital Signs Presentation

Chairman Calderón introduced Debbra Determan, MAG Human Services Manager, and Rita Walton, MAG Information Services Manager who gave a presentation on the Maricopa Regional Community Vital Signs partnership. Ms. Determan stated that MAG, in partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way, has developed and published Community Vital Signs, a document that maps social service demographics throughout the county. Ms. Determan discussed how human service providers could use the information that the data partnership provides. The information compiled by the data partnership was reviewed by an advisory group and funded by American Express, the AZ Republic and the Valley of the Sun United Way. Information includes data regarding demographics, regional well-being and civic engagement, education, employment, housing and crime. This information is not comprehensive and draws no conclusions, allowing the user to draw their own conclusions about the data. The displays are user friendly and include charts, graphs, tables, maps, and a review of the findings.

Ms. Walton reported about how maps can be used for data analysis. Information can be overlaid on maps to identify “hot spots” for needed services by giving the user the opportunity to analyze supply and demand by area. There is also interactive mapping on the MAG website (www.mag.maricopa.gov) where the user can choose the data that is displayed. Analysis can either be done by census track or regional analysis zones. The user can also use thematic mapping to identify the variables and the intervals that are studied.

Ms. Determan informed everyone that there are more Community Vital Signs publications available at MAG if anyone needed extra copies and thanked the United Way for all of their help with this process. To find a PDF copy on line of Community Vital Signs, use the direct link of (www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=3531).

Greg Donnell asked the MAG website allows users to make only one query at a time, or if several queries can be made simultaneously? Ms. Walton responded that the site

has the capability to allow as many queries as one wishes to use. Mr. Donnell asked if the information about services that was just shared in the presentation was available on the website? Ms. Walton responded that it is not, that the data presented was supplied by the Governor's Office, not collected by MAG. She added that if anyone has data that they would like to share with MAG, she would be happy to include it in the MAG database so that the information could be mapped. The MAG interactive database is located at ims.mag.maricopa.gov/website.

Diana Yazzie Devine asked if the Native American populations living on reservations were counted in the Community Vital Signs report? Ms. Walton responded that they were.

Crucita Nunez-Ochoa asked how often the data on the website would be updated? Ms. Walton replied that it is updated with every federal census, the next of which is scheduled for 2010. However, MAG will be doing a mid-decade survey in 2005, although the data collected from it will not be as rich as from a full count.

7. Gaps Analysis Report

Vic Hudenko, MAG Associate, reviewed the 2004 Gaps Analysis prepared for the HUD application and discussed the community input and process. He began by explaining that the gaps analysis is not complete yet, but that his report would cover what they have done so far. He noted that there could be some difficulties in gathering data from surveys because one must wait until all the surveys have been completed and returned before the numbers can be finalized. One requirement of HUD that is different for this year's gaps analysis is that the Continuum must identify the number of **units of housing** and the number of beds for individuals and families, emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive included, that exist in the region. HUD also needs to know how many units of housing have been funded but are not built yet. Then, the gaps analysis work group, based on the data above, must give an estimate of how many beds are still needed. In large part, this is a judgment call. Part of making this estimate is identifying how many homeless people who have in Maricopa County. He briefly reviewed the DES shelter survey and the street count, both conducted on February 24. The results of the shelter survey are not yet complete, but the street count identified 1778 individuals, up from 1570 last year. However, Mr. Hudenko cautioned against comparing numbers from year to year as methodologies have changed and there was inclement weather during the count in 2003.

He reported that there have been three meetings of the gaps analysis work group so far. Hundreds of people were invited to participate. The largest group came to the first meeting and attendance has fallen off somewhat from there. He emphasized here that HUD has begun to focus on serving the chronically homeless, defined as someone who has been homeless for a year or more or has had four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years. Chronically homeless persons must be individuals, rather than members of a family and they must have some type of disability, which includes substance abuse. The City of Phoenix attempted to quantify the number of chronically homeless in this year's street count. Approximately 33% of

those counted in Phoenix would fit HUD's definition. In the statewide shelter count, it appears that approximately 23% will fit the definition.

One difficulty for the gaps analysis work group is this issue of estimating how many homeless people there are in Maricopa County. The street count by definition cannot catch everyone and some groups, like families, are especially hard to find and count. With this in mind, the gaps analysis work group looks at other indicators of the prevalence of homelessness, such as the number of evictions in the County. This year, the number was up from 75,000 to 78,000. They look at the number of people turned away from shelters on the day of the counts. They check with major providers of housing, like ABC and Value Options to see how long their waiting lists are. They also look at the number of calls to the CONTACTS hotline. This year, the number of calls went down by about 43%, which may be a good sign that more people are being transitioned into shelter. By looking at all of the indicators, the street and shelter count data, as well as the requirements of HUD, the work group puts together the final report.

8. Affordable Housing Website

Andrew Rael from the Arizona Department of Housing offered a presentation on a recently developed website that will help people find affordable housing in the Valley. The website is located at www.socialserve.com. Mr. Rael explained that ADOH is especially concerned with providing information about housing options in rural Arizona, as well as in more urbanized areas. His department has worked with other state agencies to put all of their information about housing availability into a national database, which is available at socialserve.com. Currently, about half of the publicly funded housing in the state of Arizona is referred on the site. ADOH is aiming to make that 100% in the very near future. The site is already very popular. It has registered approximately 6,000 hits in the past two months. ADOH pays the fee for maintaining Arizona's information on the site, partly because the hope is that it will help to cut down on vacancy rates and making housing resources available to those who need it. Mr. Rael briefly gave a demonstration of the website. He explained that the data is broken down by municipality and one can search for housing by the location, number of bedrooms, baths, by price range, and how close it is to public transportation.

Annette Stein suggested linking the site to the Senior Benefits Check-Up site because it would be an excellent resource for seniors who are investigating their benefit eligibility.

Brian Spicker asked if the site was linked to any case management resources, like the Area Agency on Aging? Mr. Rael replied that there are no links on the socialserve.com website, but if other agencies would like to add a link to socialserve.com to their websites, that service is available.

Councilmember Doug Lingner commented that he has seen the site demonstrated before and that the City of Phoenix is very interested in providing this kind of

information. He noted also that there are some challenges in making sure that the data is complete and kept up to date.

Jami Gates asked how the Arizona Department of Housing defines affordable housing? Mr. Rael replied that assistance is available for those who earned less than 80% of median income, however most assistance is for those who earn 60% or less. This also includes any special needs populations.

Fred Karnas commented that on a national level, HUD has focused a lot on funding permanent supportive housing projects. He suggested trying to increase the number of permanent housing projects under the Shelter Plus Care category in order to secure their funding on a long-term basis.

9. HUD Application Update

Teresa Franquiz, Americorps Volunteer with MAG, offered an update on the recently released HUD Supernofa and the changes in the application. She also discussed the timelines for this year's application process. She began by letting the Continuum and audience know that Amy St. Peter, MAG's Homeless Planner, is currently away on vacation and would be returning on Tuesday, June 1. The training for renewal and new applicants is scheduled for Thursday June 10 from 8:30am – 12:00pm at the MAG offices. John Epler, MAG's HUD consultant, will be available for one-on-one technical assistance sessions later that afternoon and the morning of the following day. The applications will be due to MAG no later than 12:00pm on Thursday June 24th. Amy St. Peter will be available in the interim to assist with any questions from applicants. Presentations will be made at the Valley of the Sun United Way on July 13 and 14.

One significant difference in this year's application process is that all local applications will have to be submitted by MAG. In past, some of gone through the City of Phoenix (COP) and Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC). However, this year COP and ABC will be reviewing the applications, then submitting them to MAG for final mailing to HUD. There is a \$1.5 million 3-year bonus available to a new permanent supportive housing project. There may also be room for one new permanent or transitional project at about \$100,000. More detail will be provided at the applicant training.

10. Legislative Update

There were no legislative updates at this time.

11. Call to the Audience

There were no comments by the audience at this time.

12. Announcements

Tom Canasi recognized Annette Stein as the new director of the Maricopa County Human Services Department.

Chairman Calderón announced that the June Continuum meetings would be cancelled for summer break. However, the Continuum will need to convene in July in order to provide final approval of the HUD application. This meeting will be open to anyone who would care to attend. However, it was brought before the membership for a consensus decision if there is not a quorum at the July meeting, the executive committee will have the authority to provide approval of the grant application.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next Regional Continuum of Care Committee will be held on Thursday, July 22nd from 1:30-3:00pm at the MAG Offices, 2nd Floor, Saguaro Room. At this meeting, the Continuum will provide final approval of the 2004 HUD grant application.