

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

January 27, 2004

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

*Jan Brewer, Secretary of State
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, City of
Goodyear, Councilmember
Kit Wood for Sandra Dowling, Maricopa
County Schools
Ken Einbeinder, US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Rose Cancellienri for Mike Franczak, Arizona
Department of Health Services
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember
*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
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
Riann Balch for 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
*Charlene Moran Flaherty, Department of
Economic Security
*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
*Larry Spurgeon, Arizona Department of

Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
Mike Whalen, City of Mesa
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
Barbara Williams, AZ Housing Commission
Collaboration for a New Century
Terri Wogan, Governors Office, C Y & F
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Roberto Armijo, Community Information
and Referral
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Amy Caffarello, Homebase Youth Services
Debra Determan, MAG
Greg Donnell, Project Hope
Joe Duran, Salvation Army
Danielle Elleman, MAG/US Vets
Cindy Ensign, City of Scottsdale
Gloria Espino-Santiago, City of Glendale
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Kellie Gutridge, Glendale HS Council
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Tony Johnson, House of Refuse East
Joe Keeper, Native American Connections
Jacquie Lader, Maricopa County Schools
Carolyn McBurney, MAG
Michael McQuaid, Day Resource Center
Elizabeth Morales, AZ Behavioral Health
Corporation
Martin Mitchell, Phoenix HUD Office
Vincie Muhamed, Phoenix Revitalization
Corporation
Tom Pivonka, Homebase Youth Services
Margaret Reiber, YWCA Haven House
Ellen Snedeker, Day Resource Center
Donald Taylor, Comm. Development

Corrections
Louisa Stark, Community Housing Partnership
*Annette Stein, Health Care for the Homeless

Coalition of Arizona
Dr. Jonathan B. Weisbuch, Department of
Public Health

**Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.*

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Ernest Calderón called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment made at this time.

3. Approval of the November 24, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Elizabeth Gonzales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, made a correction to the minutes. ABC received new section eight vouchers from HUD, not from an Arizona state agency. Mr. Fred Karnas, Governor's Office of Children Youth and Families, corrected the acronym for the Ending Long-Term Homelessness Services Initiative, which should be ELHSI. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch and seconded by Councilmember Steven Frate. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Faith Based Initiative

Mr. Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living, reminded the committee of the luncheon that was held on November 18th, 2003. He explained that Darlene Newsom, co-chair of the Faith Based Subcommittee, was out of town. He also thanked Teresa Franquiz, AmeriCorps member, for helping in the planning stages of the luncheon. He emphasized the amount of interest in the faith community in getting involved in issues surround homelessness, but no one was sure how to do so. There was discussion of recent trends surrounding homelessness, such as increased foreclosures and higher levels of education among the homeless. Mr. Mikkelsen suggested the need for a question and answer packet that could inform churches and faith organizations on how to get involved, including how to offer shelter. He pointed out that the lack of zoning restrictions on churches could be an asset. The group that attended the luncheon decided that the next step would be to secure technical assistance funding from HUD. He referred to the grant proposal letter, sent from UMOM to HUD, requesting a technical assistance grant. Mr. Mikkelsen explained that if the grant were secured, UMOM would act as the fiscal agent. He asked the Committee if they had any questions about the letter. There were no questions at this time.

- **Mr. Mikkelsen moved to approve the grant proposal.**
- **Mr. Don Keuth seconded the motion.**
- **The grant proposal letter was unanimously approved.**

5. Street Count Process

Ms. Riann Balch, Homeless Program Coordinator for the City of Phoenix, reported on the progress of this year's annual street count, including the recent street count meeting held in Phoenix. The Phoenix meeting was on Thursday, January 22nd and was attended by approximately 20 participants, which included outreach providers, Phoenix police, veterans representatives, and representatives from the East Valley. She informed the Committee that MAG had hired Victor Hudenko to consult on the street count process, which will be very helpful. This year's street count will be held on Tuesday, February 24th. The Phoenix group reviewed the 2003 procedure and survey instrument. Phoenix has chosen to conduct the count between the hours of 6pm – 8pm in order to avoid counting individuals who may later be included in a shelter count. Geographic areas were briefly discussed, as well as expanding the role of outreach and volunteers. This year the Police Department will mainly be filling in the gaps not reachable by other groups. There was discussion of where to concentrate the count and which other groups could be contacted for their participation. She mentioned that Phoenix would be working with Terros to see if homeless individuals can aid in the counting process, as they will likely be able to reach areas that others could not. Ms. Balch is looking to see if it will be possible to put some funding towards that effort. She mentioned that there would be a concentrated effort to count more families this year. There will be a second street count meeting in the City of Phoenix on *Thursday, February 12th 2004 from 10am –12pm at the Central Phoenix Family Services Center, 1250 S. 7th Ave. (updated information)*. All are welcome to attend. Participants will be picking locations to cover in the count.

Chairman Calderón commented that process seems to be coming along well.

Ms. Louisa Stark asked if it would be possible to count the homeless in parks a little earlier in the day? Ms. Balch responded that it would be difficult to do so because of the possibility of obtaining a duplicate count that evening in a shelter.

Dr. Weisbuch asked if Ms. Balch had been in touch with the outreach team connected with Healthcare for the Homeless? Ms. Balch responded that they had been in touch and they were present at the previous meeting.

Councilmember Mike Whalen expressed a concern for the safety of the street counters and commented that it could be a potentially dangerous situation, even for the police. Ms. Balch responded that the experienced street outreach teams would likely be handling any potentially dangerous area.

Debbra Determan, MAG, added that there will be two more regional street count meetings; one in Tempe for the East Valley on January 28th and one in Avondale for the West Valley on February 2nd.

6. Program Evaluation Pilot Project

Mr. Brad Bridwell, Director of Programs at the US Veterans Initiative and a pilot project volunteer, reported on the progress of the pilot. He informed the Committee that his agency is one of nine from Maricopa County that will be participating in the

pilot. There was a meeting for these agencies on Friday, January 9th. At this meeting, the agencies were introduced to the evaluation tools that will be tested during the pilot. He explained that an effective evaluation process can agencies by identifying problems before there is any loss in funding. This process will also be needed as HUD becomes more outcome based and may become more selective. At the provider meeting, each agency confirmed their commitment to the six month long pilot project, which will begin in February and end in July. Three tools will be tested, which are the UMOM self-sufficiency matrix, standard APR data, and the HMIS self-sufficiency matrix. In February, each agency will take a snapshot of their client population. These clients will have their progress tracked for six months. Any clients leaving during the pilot will be exit interviewed to help keep track of the statistics. The pilot will be looking at data in addition to what is required for the APR. One problem with the APR alone as an evaluation tool is that it does not differentiate between types of programs. The other tools will help to track where a client has been, where they are now, and where they are going. New clients' performance will not be included in the pilot. Mr. Bridwell asked if there were any questions. There were no questions at this time.

Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Bridwell for his participation in the pilot. He asked the Committee if there was a motion to approve the program evaluation pilot project?

- **Mr. Tom Canasi moved to approve the program evaluation pilot.**
- **Ms. Louisa Stark seconded the motion.**
- **The program evaluation pilot was unanimously approved.**

7. HMIS Update

Mr. Roberto Armijo, Executive Director of Community Information and Referral, updated the Committee on the implementation of the Homeless Management Information System. He began by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to provide this report. He acknowledged the support of several individuals, including Suzanne Quigley, Rita Walton, Bob Duval, Mark Holleran, Mary Gill, Linda Cannon, Scott Rich, the HMIS Advisory Board, HMIS User Group, and all other participating organizations. He informed the Committee that the project has recently received funding for its third year. Mr. Armijo reviewed the three purposes for the HMIS project. There are to computerize data collection and service needs, develop a standardized intake procedure, and to obtain an unduplicated count of the homeless population. He listed all of the agencies that are currently using HMIS, which is a total of 22. He highlighted some major accomplishments with the project. He then covered all of the goals for Year 2 (2003-2004), many of which have already been reached. He also covered all of the goals for Year 3, including looking at funding possibilities beyond Year 3. He presented a list of all of the agencies that are scheduled to begin using HMIS. He then presented a graph, which showed all of the funding sources for Years 1-3.

Chairman Calderón asked the Committee for questions.

Ms. Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections, asked if HMIS would become compatible with ARIBA. Now her agency is required to enter the same information multiple times.

Ms. Margaret Trujillo, Value Options, stated that VO would be involved in the next phase of implementation of HMIS. There have been Hipaa regulations involved.

8. Announcements/Celebration of Stuart B. McKinney Award

Chairman Calderón asked the Committee to recall from the retreat that they had agreed to take a look at the structure of the Committee. There may be some issues that need to be resolved, such as having not having enough business representation and multiple members from the same organization. He informed the Committee that he has asked Ms. Debra Determan to help with the coordination of the membership work group, which will be chaired by Atty. General Terry Goddard. He added that Vice-Chair Terri Wogan would be stepping down in one year. He asked Ms. Determan if she had any thoughts.

Ms. Determan replied that the group will meet in early February to make recommendations and look at any possible HUD requirements on membership. She hopes to be able to provide more information in mid-March for the Committee to review.

Chairman Calderón added that all the Committee members would have an opportunity to provide comment and that the process would be open. He asked for questions. There were no questions at this time.

Chairman Calderón thanked Ms. Debra Determan for her support of the Committee. He stated that she has done a wonderful job of stepping in administratively.

Chairman Calderón then asked Mr. Ken Einbinder, Phoenix HUD Office, to give the Committee a brief report on the recent ceremony with HUD Asst. Secretary Bernardi of Community Planning and Development. At this ceremony, she presented the Maricopa Continuum of Care with a ceremonial check in honor of the Stuart B. McKinney Award.

Mr. Ken Einbinder stated that having the Asst. Secretary pay us a visit was an honor. He normally recognizes the best Continuums in the country and this year it was us. He then asked Mr. Martin Mitchell of the Phoenix HUD Office to say a few words.

Mr. Mitchell congratulated everyone on a fantastic job. He reminded the Committee of the days when there were questions of whether the Continuum would continue to exist. He also congratulated MAG on their great work, as well as all of the grantees. He added that there is now one more challenge, and that is making the transition to providing permanent affordable housing, especially to those at the lowest income levels. He concluded by saying that he is pleased to be a partner of the Continuum.

At this time a photo was taken of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Einbinder presenting a ceremonial check to Chairman Calderón. Chairman Calderón reminded the Committee that the application received a score of 91 and that a round of applause was in order. Applause ensued.

9. Public Comment

Vice-chair Terri Wogan asked if there were any further comments? There were no more comments at this time.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next Regional Continuum of Care Committee will be on Thursday, February 26th at 1:30pm.