

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 2005**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &
Referral Services
*Edward Basha III, Bashes
Maryann Beerling Thomas, New Arizona
Family
Allie Bones, DES/CPM
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair
*Kendra Cea, APS
Kelly Dalton, City of Goodyear
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
Way
*Ken Einbinder, US HUD
Michelle Ryan for Mike Franczak, Arizona
Department of Health Services
Eric Strunk for Steve Frate, City of Glendale,
Councilmember
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
Moises Gallegos for Doug Lingner,
Councilmember of Phoenix
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Mark Holleran for Mike McQuaid, HSC
*Marvin Martin, Berean Baptist Church
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Social Services
Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End
Homelessness
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach
Ministries
Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
Brenda Robbins, ValueOptions
Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,
Chair
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission

*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health
Corporation
*Kit Wood, Maricopa County Schools
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Bosmos, SWBH
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix
Robert Duvall, CIR
Cindy Ensign, City of Scottsdale
Dawn Fiscus, City of Chandler
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Jami Gates, LCSA
Paul Harris, ADOH
Lindsey Higginson, AmeriCorps
Nicole Hoffman, Home Base Youth
Services
Matt McGilvray, Salvation Army
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Brande Mead, MAG
Liz Morales, ABC
Jay Occhiogrosse, US Census
Heidi Pahl, MAG
Mike Pierce, CASS
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Amy St. Peter, MAG
+Mike Stump, US Census
Cathy Thompson
Margaret Trujillo, Trial Courts MC
Sherrie Wagoner, HBYS
John Wall, CASS
+Dawn, US Census
+Ron, US Census

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

*+Those members present by audio or video
conference.*

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Call to the Audience

Chairman Stanton informed the Committee that a letter was sent to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding support and funding for services. He explained that the letter was expedited through the MAG process but normally letters of support need to be on the agenda and voted on because of open meeting laws. Amy St. Peter explained the MAG process and the open meeting law. Fred Karnas said that he wasn't clear on the issue of advocacy and the Continuum of Care Committee's role. Ms. St. Peter explained that things haven't been clear and that the advocacy issue will be covered during the September Committee meeting.

3. Approval of the May 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton called for approval of the May 19, 2005 meeting minutes. Don Keuth moved to approve, Fred Karnas seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Report on PSH-82, the New Program Recommended for HUD Funding

Chairman Stanton stated that due to time constraints, Elizabeth Morales, Housing Administrator for the Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, would discuss the new permanent supportive housing project for chronically homeless individuals at this time.

Ms. Morales began by saying that they are thankful for being chosen as this year's new project. She gave an overview of the project and stated they have one housing first model already, Casa De Paz. The new project will serve approximately 82 chronically homeless individuals. Funding is being requested for \$1.3M for two years. The project targets chronically homeless individuals (as defined by HUD) who are severely mentally disabled. The project partners are ABC, Human Services Campus/Day Resource Center, and Value Options. The populations targeted are unaccompanied men and women who are seriously mentally ill, or dually diagnosed. They expect approximately 65% of their population to come directly from the street or places non-inhabitable and 35% from shelters. There are four main components to the project, outreach, engagement, housing and wrap around services. She explained that it is important to identify housing needs and then to get the client to the point that they are stable. The housing will be scattered site; privately owned rentals and the location will be chosen by the individual participants. Currently, ABC has about 200 participating landlords over Maricopa County. Wrap-around services will be specific to the individual with emphasis on the first 6 months, which is critical to make sure the client can carry on their own. Outcomes will be geared towards basic needs being met and making sure the participants are connected to eligible benefits. Ms. Morales stated that they are very excited about partnering with the Day Resource Center.

Mark Holleran said the campus is 75% complete. There is stress put on the campus to find supportive service dollars. He expressed his concerns in finding funding for the very needed wrap around services for projects. Meggan Medina mentioned the Services to End Long Term Homelessness Act that will provide dollars that support HUD. She will continue her discussion on the act later in the agenda. Brenda

Robbins from Value Options said they will provide funding for wrap around services of this project and that they are always looking to partner with people who provide services to people with mental illness.

5. 2005 Census Survey of Maricopa County Arizona

Chairman Stanton introduced Heidi Pahl, MAG 2005 Census Coordinator, who discussed the 2005 Outdoor Location Census Count. Ms. Pahl introduced Mike Stump, Ron Dopkowski and Dawn Nelson from the US Census Bureau in Washington who participated via videoconference. She stated that the census survey is two months away and handed out brochures explaining the process. The purpose of the survey is to update the population numbers to redistribute the State share revenue funding. She explained that the outdoor location count is the Census count of the homeless population. She stated that it would be helpful to learn from MAG what worked and didn't work from the previous Street Count.

Ms. St. Peter explained how MAG conducted the Street Count and began by thanking everyone who was involved. She commented that participation was greater this year, with more volunteers, counters and other cities involved. They have also incorporated best practices, conducted a debriefing, scouted locations prior to count and counted unincorporated areas. The City of Phoenix sampling worked really well and got reliable results. She added that it helps when there is a positive attitude towards homeless individuals and having outreach teams during the count was very critical to get to places not normally known to the average person. Areas to improve on would be to expand the volunteer base to involve the community more and to contact school liaisons to get an accurate count of homeless families. Partner more with faith based and business communities and to concentrate more on trainings. All of the information has come from this group and has been put together in a handbook. She thanked everyone for their comments and will vote on the handbook at the meeting in September.

Census asked for a copy of the handbook. We will email it to them.

Ms. Pahl introduced Mike Stump, US Census, to explain what is needed from this committee. Mr. Stump explained the definition of outdoor location as a geographical identified area open to the elements where people are living without paying to stay there. They don't count people hanging out on corners or staying over night and the site must have a specific location. Member agencies have provided a list of 408 locations and will provide MAG an update to the list by July 1st and then final by the 15th of July to get to the Census office by the 1st of August. September 8 is the date of the enumeration with teams of 2 or more collecting counts of persons only.

Mr. Stump commented that the committee can help by provide unique information that is needed such as, if there are large geographic areas, safety issues to consider and to communicate the importance of being counted to homeless people. Stress importance of getting a good count because it will help the community. Can also help by getting gatekeepers – someone from outdoor locations to help the census team to get in safely.

Cindy Ensign wanted to know the time of the count. Mr. Stump commented that it was up to the local office as to when they want to start but typically they start around 9:00 or 10:00 in the evening. Ms. Ensign said that in the city of Scottsdale it was best to count in the morning because it was hard to count people in the evening. They will be counting in the morning around 6 to 10am. Mo Gallegos clarified that we are counting people who are sleeping. Important.

Jeff Taylor mentioned the couch hopping population and that they aren't being counted. How does the census capture the couch surfing population. Mr. Stump commented that in the household survey there are a number of screening questions for this topic and hopefully those people will be included in the housing unit. Task is to count the population not to count the homeless.

The Committee asked if the survey was bilingual? The mail questionnaire will be in Spanish and in English. The phone survey can also be done in Spanish and if there was another language needed arrangements can be made.

Ms. Pahl mentioned that in December 2003 the MAG Regional Council voted to conduct a survey rather than the full census due to cost. They decided on doing a mid decade survey because of the growth of the region. Based on the numbers, the state shared revenue pie will be divided based on the numbers.

Chairman Stanton stated that Phoenix will be putting in more money to get a better response. The purpose of the US Census presentation is to get help from this Continuum on how best to conduct the survey.

Ms. St. Peter said that it has been helpful to get new locations from this count to utilize in our count in January. This is to let you know what's going on so we can pass the word on. Information regarding gatekeepers or locations should go through Ms. Pahl who will be coordinating the effort and can be reached here at MAG at 602-254-6300.

6. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton asked Annette Stein, Chairperson of the Planning Subcommittee to provide a report on the activities of the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Stein stated the positive comments on the process; it was more streamlined, training was helpful, question more precise and good communication from MAG staff. The areas for improvement; more information on ranking and review and scoring, clarification on presentations and more training and earlier in the year.

Ms. Stein mentioned the homeless focus groups for the HS Plan. She stated that the subpopulations in the areas of families, serious mental illness/substance abuse and the Native American perspective were identified as areas of focus. The purpose is to gather community input and information, and survey the needs resources and priorities of the region. In doing so, service gaps and solution will be identified. Focus groups are being held by Save the Family, YWCA, Meta Services, New Arizona Family and Native American Connections. Other focus groups are being held in the areas of aging, Disabilities, Domestic Violence and Youth, a handout of the schedule and location of the groups is provided.

DeDe Devine mentioned that the Native American population needs to be reached out to more.

Ms. Stein commented on the Governor's ICCH Housing Plan. She stated that Mr. Karnas from the Governor's office and Tim Klont from the AZ Department of housing presented the plan in an effort to gather community input from across the state. This was their first in a series of meetings, they have plan to gather feedback over the summer. They have received feedback on the plan already and are accepting feedback through August 19th. If you are interested in looking at the plan, it can be accessed via the AZ Department of Housing website at www.housingaz.com.

Ms. Stein stated that Riann Henkin facilitated the Homeless Immersion Experience planning session. The group discussed a variety of different activities that will involve decision makers in experiencing homelessness on different levels. This is very much in the planning phase right now and the next meeting date has been changed, an email will be sent with the new meeting time.

Dick Geasland mentioned to have HUD step up and maybe be a future agenda item.

7. Membership Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton introduced Donald Keuth, Chairman of the Membership Subcommittee to provide a report on the activities of the Membership Subcommittee. Mr. Keuth stated that the committee has 6 letters going out for new members and was please to announce that Margaret Trujillo will be coming back in her new position. The committee will be contacting people over the next few weeks as possible recruits, the committee came up with a strong for membership. MAG staff will do a new member orientation prior to the September meeting and we will get information on that shortly.

8. Regional Plan on Homelessness Update Distribution

Amy St. Peter provided an update on the Homelessness Plan and informed the committee that it was complete and ready to distribute. Ms. St. Peter stated that about 77% of the goals were complete or being worked on and thanked everyone for their input. She asked the committee on who should receive the update as a way to engage the community and stated that we have 500 copies right now. DeDe Devine mentioned that it should go to Foundations. Maryann mentioned ASU Nonprofit Newsletter, Betts Newsletter. Laura Skotnicki mentioned homeless liaisons for Schools, ICCH , and Greater Phoenix Leadership. Value Options, stakeholders, and interfaith council.

Judy Bowden suggested putting the Plan in a PDF format so that committee members could add the link to their websites. Ms. St. Peter said that was a great idea and we would look into getting the PDF format to the committee. She also stated that if there were any additional ideas to please send them to her by email at astpeter@mag.maricopa.gov or by calling 602-254-6300.

9. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

10. Announcements

Meggan Medina stated that there would be 27 people attending the National Homeless Alliance conference in 2 weeks. They will be targeting delegates on 3 items; Section 8 and programmatic changes, McKinney Vento funding 99M increase and Services to Ending Homeless Act. She distributed information on the Act and asked for individual or agency to write letters of support, they have already received several letters from directors of agencies. For a template for the letters or for more information contact Sara Catherine at scphillips@azceh.org.

Brenda Robbins mentioned that she would be presenting at the conference on the property acquisition and will present best practices.

Ms. Devine also mentioned that she would be presenting on peer support wrap around model for PSH at the conference.

Moises Gallegos mentioned that in the last couple of weeks there have been articles on energy assistance. Results of National orgs being here. A great success. Article on the City of Phoenix Faith. Thanked Fred Karnas for his work.

Jeff Taylor asked if Salvation Army was still running share program for utility bills and was informed that yes they were.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Continuum of Care will be on Thursday, September 22 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the MAG office in the Saguaro Room.