

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2005**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,  
Chair  
\*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  
Kathryn Brown for Arizona Department of  
Corrections  
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  
Tim Klont for AZ Department of Housing  
Riann Henkin for Doug Lingner,  
Councilmember of Phoenix  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
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  
Gary Zeck for 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

Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS  
Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission  
Margaret Trujillo, Trial Courts MC  
\*Judie Welch, Phoenix Police Dept.  
\*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,  
Supervisor  
Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health  
Corporation  
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American  
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrea Chavez, Save the Family  
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix  
Robert Duvall, CIR/HMIS  
DeDe Gaiस्था, MAG  
John Gallagher, Area Agency on Aging  
Jami Gates, LCSA  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
Sherry Grau, SWBH  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Nicole Hoffman, HBYS  
Mark Holleran, CASS  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Andy Lambert, Catholic Social Service  
Don Logan, Symmetric Solution  
Brandee Mead, MAG  
Violet Ojeda, Advocates for the Disabled  
Scott Rich, Symmetric Solution  
Ayanna Rutherford, MAG  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti  
Vicki Van Dreel, ADOH  
Sherri Wagoner, HomeBase

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

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Call to the Audience

Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, announced that he put in a request with HUD to have their funds re-directed to support Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The change requested is to move the funding from permanent to transitional housing. Mr. Williams is checking with FEMA to see if the change in funding will interfere with other FEMA funds. He indicated that he is working with various entities and that the change would need to be done by January 2006. Megan Medina, ACEH, asked about funding to get more services dollars. Ted Williams explained that they converted funding to get more beds available and that this is a one time switch to maximize utilization of funds.

3. Approval of the June 30, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton called for approval of the June 30, 2005 meeting minutes. Margaret Trujillo, Superior Court, motioned to approve the minutes, Mike McQuaid, HSC, seconded the motion was passed unanimously.

4. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton introduced Annette Stein, Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee who provided a report on the September 19, 2005 Planning Subcommittee meeting. She explained that Vic Hudenko reported on the progress of the Risk Assessment tool developed out of the Interagency Community Council on Homelessness Work Group. The tool is being developed to determine risk factors of homelessness. Data is being collected and testing will begin in about a year. She commented the hope is to prevent homelessness for individuals at risk and to show that intervention and prevention cost less.

Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix, presented to the group on the progress of the planning for the homeless immersion experience. She thanked the committee and explained that she facilitated a Homeless Immersion work group and participation was great. Ms. Henkin reviewed the purpose and the identified outcomes and objectives. She explained that the method the group decided on is going to be a menu offering an array of activities at different levels from observing to pretending to be homeless. Participants will be able to choose from the menu of services. The Committee discussed safety concerns and it was decided that all participants would sign a waiver releasing MAG from any liability. Many agencies will host events and will know when participants are there for their homeless immersion experience. It was also decided that all participants will complete a debriefing session directly after their experience and some sessions may be taped by channel 11. Ms. Henkin stated that Councilman Greg Stanton was going to participate in his own homeless immersion experience, which will be filmed by channel 11 and kicked off at the Appreciation Luncheon on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Stanton called for a motion to approve the Homeless Immersion project. Brad Bridwell, US Vets, motioned to approve, Maryann Beerling Thomas, NAFI, seconded the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Emergency Planning

Chairman Stanton introduced Ayanna Rutherford, MAG, who gave an update on the emergency planning. Ms. Rutherford explained that there were over 30 heat related deaths over the summer. Some of the reasons for the increase of deaths can be attributed to the numerous days of high temperatures. She reviewed action steps from the heat emergency meeting minutes and explained that weekly updates were emailed to people letting them know how the community was responding to the crisis, including financial assistance, street outreach teams, and a major call for water issued. She reported that the Department of Housing, APS, and the County all provided funding for those in need. The Community Housing Partnership provided emergency housing to families. Outreach teams and private companies like Bashas also contributed.

Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission, asked if the County coroners office had determined a cause of death yet? Ms. Henkin responded that six reports were completed and that none of the deaths were attributed just to high temperatures. Three of the deaths were attributed to substance abuse, there will be a full report on the issue. Mike McQuaid mentioned that the Day Resource Center was opened for this emergency and sheltered over 200 people consistently each night. He emphasized that this really shows the need for additional emergency shelter.

Don Keuth stated that with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita we are seeing new people in our State as a result. He mentioned that we need to think about short and long term planning efforts through the Planning Subcommittee.

6. Data Integration and Warehouse (Refer to slides)

Chairman Stanton introduced Scott Rich, Symmetric Solutions, who provided information on the HMIS reporting system. He explained that they worked with several Continuums around the County and that Maricopa HMIS does an awesome job. The vision of the data warehouse is to develop and identify aggregate data. The system is designed to consolidate detailed data and recently revised data to include only aggregate data. He explained that the data is not accessible over the Internet and will only report on aggregate data. The Arizona Department of Housing will control the distribution of the data. He mentioned that he will be meeting with the continua soon about how to extract data. Completion of the project is expected in the next few months.

Ms. Medina expressed her concerns over security and confidentiality and how we can be sure that unduplicated counts between Continua are being done. It was said that they couldn't get counts between continuums because they are using different systems. Amy St. Peter said that we need approval of the planning process not on the submission of data.

The Committee mentioned two critical issues, the first is that the data is secure and the second is that additional work is not being put on the agencies. It was asked if the summary information from the report will be provided to the agencies? Bob Duvall, CIR/HIMS, said that everything will be provided to ADOH and they will be making it available to the agencies. The request for information will go through the HMIS

administrator and distribution will be made available on statewide data up to the continuum. Vicki Van Dreef, ADOH, said once data is collected it should go through on to the ADOH website. Diana Yazzie Devine, NAC, mentioned that she would like to use the statewide information for grant writing purposes.

Tom Canasi, City of Tempe asked about interfacing with other continuums. Report queries and analysis will be consolidated into a database. Ms. Medina said she is excited about moving forward with the project because obtaining numbers is difficult and we want to get the very best data possible.

Councilman Stanton called for a motion to move forward with the planning process. Don Keuth moved to approve, Annette Stein seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

#### 7. Homeless Trends for Human Services Plan

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, to provided a report on the trends that were identified from the focus groups for the homeless chapter of the Human Services Plan. There were very specific common trends that emerged from the focus groups they are as follows:

**Strengths:** Individuals identified local shelters, rehabilitation programs, and AHCCCS as community strengths. It was made clear that the shelters and programs are very beneficial to homeless people once they are “in” the shelter or program. However, accessing the shelters or programs is difficult and identified as barriers.

**Biggest Needs:** Affordable housing, improved transportation, mental health and substance abuse programs, improved dental care, and a database of services were all identified as the biggest needs in the community. Increased communication and collaboration among agencies and improved community involvement were also areas that the groups recognized for improvement.

**Solutions:** In response to the strengths and needs that surfaced during the focus groups, the following solutions were posed. Increase funding to homeless service providers, increase education to the community on issues surrounding homelessness, improved mental health and substance abuse programs and the creation of a comprehensive database of services that fit the needs of homeless individuals, including all the cultural subpopulations. Also recommended was increased communication and collaboration among agencies and improved community involvement in the area of homelessness.

#### 8. Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Brande Mead announced that the 2005 Annual Appreciation luncheon would be held at the Arizona Biltmore this year on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated that the keynote speaker would be Michelle Kennedy, author of “Without a Net”. Amy St. Peter asked the committee if they would like to present Star Awards again this year? Diana Yazzie Devine responded that she would like to have awards presented again because it is nice to acknowledge people in the community. Ms. St. Peter mentioned that Wayne Parker received the award last year and that nominations

should be sent to Brande Mead. Mr. Canasi encouraged a broad scope of nominations, especially for the business community and elected officials.

9. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

10. Announcements

Meggan Medina commented that the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference will take place November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Black Canyon Conference Center. She also said that the Governor's Roundtable on the 26<sup>th</sup> discussing the Hurricane Katrina response is not open to the public.

Brad Bridwell mentioned the Arizona Stand Down taking place October 28,29 and 30th at the Watkins overflow shelter. He explained that it is an outreach event for homeless veterans. They are expecting to see approximately 400 to 450 veterans. It will bring providers together to provide needs like dental care and medical care. He announced that they still need additional housing providers there on Saturday to do housing intakes. For more information on the Stand Down, contact Brad Bridwell at 602 757-8852.

Mike McQuaid mentioned that Philip Mangano toured the Day Resource Center and the Human Services Campus and was very impressed. The ribbon cutting ceremony is taking place November 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the site of the new Human Services Campus at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Monroe.

Councilman Greg Stanton thanked the Bill Hermann, the Arizona Republic writer for the two-day story on the mentally ill homeless that were published over Labor Day weekend.

Brenda Robbins thanked the City of Phoenix, the State of Arizona, the County, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Ebony House for their response to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Continuum of Care on Homelessness will be on November 17 at 1:30 in the Cholla room at MAG.