

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 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
*James Cavanaugh, City of Goodyear,
Councilmember
Kit Wood for Sandra Dowling, Maricopa
County Schools
*Ken Einbeinder, US Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Michelle Ryan for Mike Franczak, Arizona
Department of Health Services
Gloria Santiago Espino for Steve Frate, City of
Glendale, Councilmember
Phyllis Murray 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
*Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance
Riann Balch for Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix
Ann Lipp, Area Agency on Aging, HIV Care
Josie Ij 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
David Ortega, City of Scottsdale,
Councilmember
*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way

*Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix
*Arizona Department of Corrections
*Louisa Stark, Community Housing
Partnership
Annette Stein, Health Care for the
Homeless
Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Jonathan Weisbuch, Department of Public
Health
Mike Whalen, City of Mesa
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
*Barbara Williams, AZ Housing
Commission/ Collaboration for a New
Century
Terri Wogan (Vice Chair), Governors
Office, C Y & F
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Debbra Determan, MAG
Greg Donnell, Social Alliance Consulting
Danielle Elleman, MAG/US Vets
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaiethea, MAG
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Social Services
Kathleen Mitchell, CSS Dignity House
Darlene Newsome, UMOM
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Rebecca Robinson, Valley of the Sun United
Way
Amy St. Peter, 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
No public comments were made at this time.
3. Approval of the February 25, 2004 Meeting Minutes
Mark Holleran made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brian Spicker. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Planning Subcommittee Update
Chairman Calderón introduced Tom Canasi, Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee, who reported on the Planning Subcommittee meeting held on Monday, March 22, 2004.

The Subcommittee approved the formation of an ad hoc work group to develop a process for continuing consumer in-pu focus group sessions. Volunteers were noted and will begin meeting to discuss the formalization of the process in April.

The Subcommittee also approved the formation of an ad hoc work group to look at the process of the implementation of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness. The purpose would be to assess how far the implementation process has come and what steps still need to be taken. This work group would be responsible for preparing a progress report to present to the Planning Subcommittee. Volunteers were noted and will begin meeting in April.

John Epler, consultant to MAG, gave the Subcommittee an update on the upcoming HUD application process. At this point, Mr. Canasi asked Amy St. Peter, MAG staff, to continue with this section of the Subcommittee report.

Chairman Calderón apologized for not introducing Amy St. Peter to the Continuum earlier in the meeting. He then introduced Ms. St. Peter as the new Homeless Coordinator/Human Services Planner at MAG who will be working with the Continuum of Care Committee in the future.

Ms. St. Peter thanked Chairman Calderón and continued with the Subcommittee report. The HUD application process is just beginning to get under way for 2004. The NOFA has not yet been released by HUD, but is expected sometime in mid-late April.

Anything else here?

Mr. Canasi reported that Fred Karnas had given the Subcommittee an update on the status of the Housing Action Plan and provided an opportunity to the group to make comments and suggestions. He also informed the Subcommittee of the suggestions and comments he had received so far after presenting to the Continuum last month.

Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Canasi and reminded the Committee that the Planning Subcommittee had been asked to expand their responsibilities by working with the Membership Committee to suggest plans for drafting by-laws for the Continuum. Mr. Canasi commented that he was happy to except the responsibility

Tom Canasi asked Chairman Calderón if he could continue by reporting on the Membership Subcommittee since the two topics were related. Chairman Calderón agreed.

5. Membership Subcommittee Report

Tom Canasi reported on the Membership Subcommittee's meeting with Attorney General Terry Goddard, who has volunteered to chair the ad hoc subcommittee.

Since the beginning of the Continuum of Care Committee in 1999, the Committee has helped to provide regional leadership and direction on issues related to homelessness. However, in the last five years, it has been a challenge to track the membership of the Committee. Mr. Canasi summarized some of the successes over this time period. Some things that have been lacking have been clear guidelines, a recruitment plan, a committee structure like term limits, voting protocols, and how quorum is reached.

At the first Membership Subcommittee meeting, it was decided that a small work group should be formed to look at drafting the guidelines. The Planning Subcommittee would then review the guidelines and receive input from the Continuum before moving to approval and implementation.

Mr. Canasi added that John Epler had praised the process and discussion at the committee meetings. HUD has recommendations on guidelines for Continuums that will be considered. There is a need for greater participation from the business community. At this time there are only two representatives from the business community. There is a need to be inclusive, not exclusive.

Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Canasi for his report. There were no questions at this time.

6. Housing Action Plan Report

Chairman Calderón introduced Fred Karnas, Policy Advisor on Aging at the Governor's Office, who presented on the housing report. Mr. Karnas is the Chair of the Continuum of Care's Housing Subcommittee.

Mr. Karnas said that there had been a good discussion around the Housing Action Plan at the last Planning Subcommittee meeting. He has received useful comments and suggestions. He intends to make some changes to the Housing Plan, and then take the plan back to the Planning Subcommittee for debate and a possible recommendation before bringing it to the full Continuum for a vote. He then asked the Continuum for any comments or questions.

Mark Holleran asked how this Housing Action Plan would be wrapped into other housing projects currently underway, such as the HUD Affordable Housing Initiative and the neighborhood group at the Phoenix Community Alliance.

Mr. Karnas responded that once the plan is finalized, the Housing Subcommittee would likely meet with those other housing groups in order to form partnerships. The Housing Action Plan could also be used as an educational tool.

Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Karnas for his update. There were no further questions at this time.

7. Policy Academy Report

Chairman Calderón introduced Darlene Newsome, UMOM, who gave a report on the Policy Academy recently held in Miami, FL. She reported that there was great representation from Arizona that included individuals from the Governor's Office, HUD, the Department of Health Services, the Department of Housing, the Department of Economic Security, and the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. The topic of the Policy Academy was "Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experience Homelessness". Several states were also represented. She was impressed with where we are as a Committee compared to others at the Academy. She felt that Arizona's position was often strong in comparison.

For three days they heard about Best Practices from other organizations, then broke into groups to set a plan and goals. They came up with a vision, which was similar to that of the Regional Plan. It was that preventing and ending homelessness is everyone's responsibility. The four parts of their plan were: 1) closing the front door through prevention and better integration of services; 2) opening the back door through providing more affordable housing; 3) building infrastructure; and 4) improving outcomes through performance measurement and cost/benefit analysis. They have already sent proposals out for cost/benefit analysis. All of the above will be included in the state plan to end homelessness.

Michelle Ryan commented that this is the first time they have included providers at the Policy Academy, which was very helpful for those who have been away from that side to get a better perspective.

8. Update on the Continuum of Care Luncheon Sponsored by the Stardust Foundation

Chairman Calderón introduced Debba Determan, MAG, who gave an update on the Annual Continuum of Care Luncheon. Ms. Determan reported that the luncheon had been delayed in order to avoid interference with the HUD application process. The committee had commented that they wanted the luncheon to be a celebration of the application process and recognition to people who have helped the continuum. She stated that the projected time for the luncheon would be around September or November to try to coincide around the National Hunger and Homelessness week. A save the date flyer will be sent.

Fred Karnas commented that we should be careful not to coincide with the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness conference because they are planning their event later this year.

9. Street Count Report

Chairman Calderón introduced Teresa Franquiz, AmericCorps volunteer who gave a report on the street count conducted in February. Ms. Franquiz reported that participation from cities went up from 11 to 24 this year and that it was important to increase participation. She also commented that the numbers needed to be viewed with caution. In the past three years there has been no set guidelines to the procedure and other factors needs to be included such as weather, and the fact that some cities in Maricopa County have given estimates of their cities homeless population.

Efforts in Phoenix tried to count the chronically homeless by asking a set of three survey questions. If they answered yes to two of the three they were, by HUD's definition, chronically homeless. In Phoenix, 1/3 or 33% did fit HUD's definition. The City of Phoenix this year recruited the help of homeless citizens to help with the planning and conducted the count. Cathy Paddock from Terros Behavioral Health was extremely helpful in recruiting some of her clients to participate. They had 10 participants that worked in teams of 2, and their insight was invaluable. Ms. Franquiz reported that Riann Balch, City of Phoenix, conducted an exit survey and found out that the homeless citizens who participated found the experience very empowering. She also commented that it would be a good way to identify homeless youth and that next year maybe they could have one team dedicated to counting only homeless families. She reiterated that the street count has only been conducted for three years and the numbers are fluid and hopes that future use of the information will gauge trends instead of solid numbers.

Mark Holleran commented that the count creates a situation that makes it difficult to fundraise because in some cities, the numbers released look very low. At CASS, they survey clients on where they came from. That internal survey may conflict with this count when a client says they came from a certain city, but are not counted there because the individual is currently in a shelter located in a different city, such as Phoenix.

Chairman Calderón commented that this numbers are fluid and they can be marked with qualifiers. Mr. Holleran said that these numbers were quoted in the paper without the qualifier. Chairman Calderón stated that Mr. Holleran has very good issues and needs to be a part of this process next year. Also there needs to be a qualifier when quoted next year.

Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections, commented that substance abuse treatment centers may not have been included in the count. Riann Balch stated that they were likely included in the statewide shelter count, which was being handled by DES. Ms. Franquiz stated that the DES shelter count was not included in these street count numbers.

Brian Spicker, VSUW, stated there is a critical need for context for this whole process, we need to educate people about the street count.

Fred Karnas, Governor's Office, commented that the street count is an ongoing battle. Counters try to give as much information as possible to the media as qualifiers, though it is often not reported in the final copy.

Councilmember Mike Whalen, City of Mesa, commented that the press crunches the numbers and that he made comments to the media that were taken out of context. He would like the raw data for next year. Ms Determan stated that we have a lengthy document that has the outline of the number of locations. Ms Franquiz said that yes, we do have a list that is several pages long and she can email the information to any member who is interested. Ms. Determan also stated that in 2005 a special census count would be taken of homeless individuals and families, with an estimated 300 sites.

Gregg Donnell, SAC, asked if the tool used for the count was developed by the continuum or if it was adapted based on other continuums. Ms. Franquiz stated they came from Vic Hundeko, MAG consultant. Mr. Donnell suggesting looking at the tool used by other continuums to ensure that the count is being counted in the same way across the nation. Ms. Franquiz thanked him for his suggestion and asked if there were any additional comments or suggestions, to please send them to Amy St.Peter or herself.

10. Legislation Update

Chairman Calderón stated that at the last meeting there were several comments made on the House and Senate Bills related to sex offenders and it was brought up as to whether the Committee wanted to take a position. He called several committee members and came to the conclusion that a consensus would not be possible. He suggested that in the future, if the Committee wished to move on a piece of legislation, that they might agree to require a super majority, in order to ensure that the full Committee is really in agreement. The Committee could then seek approval with the MAG Regional Council if they wished to move forward. There were no further legislative updates at this time.

11. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

12. Announcements

Mark Holleran commented that at the last meeting he reported that the agencies involved with the Day Resource Center pilot would be moving into the Downtown Learning Center location soon and would start seeing clients a few weeks after that. He informed the Committee that the agencies have already moved in and are currently seeing clients. He hoped to provide the Committee with a report on

outcomes soon. Chairman Calderón thanked Mr. Holleran for keeping the Committee involved.

Chairman Calderón stated that he would like to continue meeting through May and June with a break in either July or August. This would give the committee time to rejuvenate; he is open to preference of either month by the Committee.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next Regional Continuum of Care Committee will be Thursday, April 15, 2004 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.