

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2005**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,
Chair
*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &
Referral Services
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
Linda Snidecor for Kelly Dalton, City of
Goodyear
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
Way
*Ken Einbinder, US HUD
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Mike McQuaid, HSC
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Social Services
Meggan Medina for AZ Department of
Housing
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
*Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach
Ministries
Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
*Brenda Robbins, Department of Health
Services
*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Stephen Sparks for Laura Skotnicki, Save the
Family
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission
Margaret Trujillo, Maricopa County Courts
Judie Welch, Phoenix Police Department

Kit Kelly for 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

Jane Albin, City of Mesa
Susan Alling, Health Care for the Homeless
Sean Baldwin, ICAA
Jessica Berg, Maricopa County
Kathryn Brown, AZ DOC
J Ray Burrell, Nova-Safe Haven
Geoff Davis, SBH
Robert Duvall, CIR
Dawn Fiscus, City of Chandler
Charlene Moran Flaherty, DES
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
John Gallagher, Area Agency on Aging
Moe Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed
Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix
Vic Hudenko, MAG Associate
Patrick Jordan, Health Care for the Homeless
Stephanie Knox, Value Options
Elizabeth Morales, ABC
Marlena Pina, The Salvation Army
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Alison Reuter, Phoenix Shanti Group
David Smith, Maricopa County
John Wall

**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 2:00 p.m. and introductions ensued. Chairman Stanton recognized Charlene Moran Flaherty for her Star Award that was announced at the Appreciation Luncheon in November and thanked her for all she does to end homelessness.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of the November 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the November 17 meeting minutes. Councilmember Frate motioned to approve the minutes, Brad Bridwell seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

4. 2005 HUD Awards

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who provided a summary of the 2005 HUD Awards. Ms. Mead congratulated the agencies that were awarded funding and mentioned that Maricopa County hit a new record of more than \$20 million to 48 service providers. All the projects submitted for funding were awarded. Ms. Mead went on to say that HUD announced on Friday that they are starting the application process early this year by releasing the general section of the Supernofa. They expect to release the rest of the application in the next few weeks. She provided a news release from HUD in the meeting materials. As stated in the news release, this is the first year that HUD is publishing the General Section in advance of the individual program NOFAs and represents one of the several steps HUD is taking to improve the funding process. She referred people to the HUD website for additional information.

Ms. Mead explained that she is working with the Valley of the Sun United Way to complete the local application. She announced that the local application would be electronic this year, using the EcFund system. Training sessions will be conducted for the agencies once the application is released.

5. Weights for 2006 Local HUD Application

Ms. Mead asked that the committee consider weights for the 2006 local application process. She explained that the weights are combined with the score from the Ranking and Review committee to get a final application score. Ms. Mead presented the proposed weights:

- Leverage 1-5 points – based on leverage letters and chart
- Performance 1-5 points – based on goal achievement from APR and implementation of the AZ Evaluation Project
- Participation in CoC – based on meeting attendance and participation in the continuum
- Chronic 1-3 points – based on emphasis of chronic population

Ms. Mead said that President Bush has set a National goal of ending chronic homelessness and HUD has pledged to support that goal. Some of the goals listed include:

1. Creation of affordable housing units and supportive housing.
2. Establishment of set-aside units of affordable housing for chronically homeless individuals.

3. Establishment of substance abuse treatment programs for chronically homeless individuals.

Ms. Mead asked for feedback from the committee on the proposed weights. Fred Karnas suggested that a higher scale be considered for chronic homelessness. He said that the community needs to find a balance between and emphasis on chronic homelessness and homelessness amongst families. Mr. Karnas suggested looking at last year's application score and see how the chronic weight may be affected with new weights.

Diana Yazzie Devine, NAC, wants to make sure that projects are scored by comparing like projects. Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix, suggested adding the weight discussion to the February Planning Subcommittee meeting. Brad Bridwell, US Vets, said that targeting a sub-population might be harder to score applications fairly. Amy St. Peter said that the 2005 HUD application score went down this year and was closer to the funding line than ever before. Since the score was so close to the funding line, we need to look hard at ways to improve the score.

Margaret Reiber, YWCA, mentioned the HUD definition of chronically homeless and wondered if it included families. Mr. Bridwell suggested bringing the issue to the Planning Subcommittee and have that group look at ways to make it more fair. Ms. St. Peter replied that everything would be run through the Planning Subcommittee. Mo Gallegos mentioned that it is important to look at participation in the street count as well. Ms. St. Peter said that it is important to move quickly on these issues because of the timing of the application release from HUD and may need to bring the Executive Committee together to make some decisions. It was mentioned that we need to find out what other large continuums are doing to place an emphasis on housing. Ms. St. Peter mentioned how important it is to make sure our emphasis is in line with the Federal application.

Maryanne Beerling Thomas, NAFI, made a motion to direct the weight discussion at the Planning Subcommittee level because of a need for more information. Judie Welch seconded the motion. Riann Henkin asked for an amendment to the motion to approve the weights discussed today as a benchmark leaving it up to the Planning Subcommittee to make changes and that the Executive Committee could be brought together if needed. It was noted that members of the Committee would be kept informed as to the weight discussion.

6. Planning Subcommittee Report

Annette Stein, Maricopa County, Planning Subcommittee Chairperson, provided a report on the work of the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Stein mentioned that she missed the Planning Subcommittee meeting met last month and thanked Theresa James for stepping in to Chair the meeting. The Planning Subcommittee spent a great deal of time reviewing the 2005 goals that were listed in the HUD application in an effort to identify what goals have been achieved and to determine what goals are remaining. The members provided feedback on the action steps and will implement a plan to achieve the remaining goals. The members also identified goals for the 2006 application that will be presented to the Committee when they are finalized.

The Planning Subcommittee also discussed planning efforts for the 2006 Homeless Street Count taking place on January 24th and received a status report on the Homeless Management Information System.

7. 2006 Homeless Street and Shelter Count

Chairman Stanton introduced Vic Hudenko, MAG consultant, and Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix Homeless Program Coordinator, who gave an update of the planning process of the 2006 Homeless Street and Shelter count. Mr. Hudenko mentioned that the street and shelter count would take place tomorrow, January 24th. Every community has some flexibility as to the time they are conducting the count and how they plan to do their count. He has had some trouble getting volunteers from some areas like Carefree, Cave Creek and Sun City. However, those communities are fairly small and will still be included in the count. Some communities are using their local Police Department, Parks staff or Fire Department. The City of Tempe is using sanitation workers this year rather than their police department. School liaisons will also be involved this year with the hope that they can help to identify locations of homeless families. APS and SRP are also involved in identifying locations that will be passed on to the coordinators. MAG created the Homeless Street Count Handbook that was shared with coordinators and volunteers to help make the process run more smoothly.

Mo Gallegos asked if other parts of Arizona were doing a street count this year. Mr. Hudenko explained that Tucson was conducting a street count but Rural had elected not to do one this year. Jeff Taylor asked about the adjustment of the time of the street count. Mr. Hudenko responded that HUD does not mandate the time of day the count is conducted. The time the count is conducted in each City depends on other factors like whether or not there are shelters in the area and when the volunteers can do the count. Mr. Hudenko added that the shelter count has been mailed out by DES and most agencies should have received it by now. He will be working with Allie Bones from DES to collect the statewide shelter data.

Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix, thanked everyone for attending the Phoenix street count training. Ms. Henkin informed the Committee that the City of Phoenix is using a straight count combined with a sampling method like they did last year. The City of Phoenix held a four-hour training session in which approximately 80 people attended. They are estimating approximately 140-150 volunteers will participate in the count. She mentioned that the Phoenix Police Department is making a huge effort this year to help with the count. Many other departments are involved as well. The City of Phoenix count will take place from 8:00 –11:00 p.m. tomorrow, January 24th and additional training by the Police Department will occur for those that need extra training from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Ms. Henkin stressed the importance of checking in with grid assignments prior to conducting the count. She added that there would be a command station set up for backup purposes if needed. Ms. Henkin explained that the count is very intensive and would personally like to see participation in the street count considered in the weights of the HUD application. She mentioned that it is important to have participation from all the HUD funded agencies.

8. Homeless Planning Strategies

Chairman Stanton introduced David Smith, Maricopa County Manager. Mr. Smith thanked the Chairman and commented that there is a lot to do regarding the issues

surrounding homelessness. However, the Continuum is moving the ball forward. He mentioned the website for the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness and how it compares our community to other communities that have plans to end homelessness. He mentioned that Phil Mangano is very supportive of communities that are doing this type of work. However, the plan is not the answer alone, local efforts are very important as well. Mr. Smith mentioned the importance of the newly opened Human Services Campus. However he said there is a gap in the supply of affordable housing. He explained if the campus is successful in housing people, there could be a bottleneck of people needing housing. It is important to set up funding mechanisms for increasing the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing or Transitional Housing to keep the Human Services Campus. He explained his idea, engaging with Frontrow Marketing to do endorsement rights for public entities. He said that profits could draw down six and seven figure numbers. Cities and towns are welcome to join. 50% of the proceeds would go to the Housing Trust Fund and 50% would go back in to the community. He added that this is a way to put local money on the table and create a new and creative revenue stream for subsidy of construction costs. There is a need to create a smooth pathway for self-sufficiency. These are just a few ideas.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Workforce Housing Conference in Las Vegas and said that the agenda is good and suggested that a delegation from Phoenix attend. Mr. Smith thanked and encouraged Councilman Stanton's leadership and said that the County is ready to take on the next challenge.

Don Keuth thanked him for his presentation and asked what the Committee can do to help. It was suggested that a Resolution of support be created to help to move the ball forward. Diana Yazzie-Devine from Native American Connections also thanked him for his presentation mentioned that finding land to build housing is a problem. Mike McQuaid responded that the Human Services Campus is engaging people who have never been engaged before, however, we need housing to put those people in. We have to find ways to find affordable housing. Brad Bridwell agreed that this is a great idea and we need to take advantage of these opportunities and that the Committee should do what we can. Mr Keuth thanked him for his presentation and recommended that a resolution be drafted at the Planning Subcommittee and then back to the Continuum in March as an action item. Annette Stein agreed and said that the Planning Subcommittee will draft a resolution for the Committee to review.

Allie Bones, DES mentioned that there is new supportive services funding proposed in the Governor's budget and housing is needed to go along with the services.

9. KAA Recommendation to HUD

Co-Vice Chair Don Keuth updated the Committee on the Katrina Disaster Administering Agency recommendation made to HUD. Mr. Keuth mentioned that this came up very quickly from HUD. HUD asked that the Continuum designate an agency to help families that want to relocate to our region. Mr. Keuth stated that there was not a whole lot of money involved for the work. An email was sent out to all the HUD funded agencies asking for interested entities. The City of Phoenix Human Services Department responded that they would be interested in be the designated KAA. The City of Phoenix will be the recommendation to HUD. Mr.

Keuth thanked the City of Phoenix for their willingness to take on this effort. He added that it would not have looked good if we could not have responded with a recommendation. Mr. Keuth also thanked MAG staff for their work in getting it done. The continuum was able to respond in short order.

10. Homeless Immersion

Ms. Mead said that the homeless immersion project had been put on hold for the holidays but that it was being ramped up again. She said that invitations would be going out soon and would notify the committee on the progress of the project.

11. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

12. Announcements

Jeff Taylor mentioned that there is an epidemic of level 2 and 3 sex offenders who cannot find housing. They are not being accepted anywhere and are being shut out of rental space.

Maryanne Beerling Thomas commented that construction costs are going up after breaking ground on their project. She said she is trying to put a list together of contractors that can be distributed to agencies. Ms. Beerling Thomas also mentioned that Trinity Donovan is running for Chandler City Council and she is hosting a salon on Feb 8th.

Allie Bones mentioned the new budget proposal for support services – contact representatives for support.

Don Keuth mentioned the importance of voting on the bonds on Valentine’s Day.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Continuum of Care on Homelessness will be Monday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor Saguaro Room at the MAG offices.