

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Chair
*Vice Mayor Rob Antoniak, Goodyear
+Councilmember Dave Crozier, Gilbert
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler
Lance Cypert for Leslie Evans, Tempe
Community Council
Laura Guild for Susan Hallett, Arizona
Department of Economic Security
Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh, Mesa,
+Vice Mayor Manuel Martinez, Glendale
Dan Wollam for Carol McCormack, Mesa
United Way
*Donna Reid, Chair of the City of Scottsdale
Human Services Commission
*Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Tempe
*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa
County

OTHERS PRESENT

Cheryl Brunton, City of Phoenix
Lisa Carrillo, Care 1st
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the
Disabled
Sammi Curless, City of Avondale
Diane Daychild, Gila River Indian
Community
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Carlos Rodriguez, Town of Gilbert
Joe Solarez, Gila River Indian
Community
Janet Strauss, Valley Metro
Rena Tenney, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of April 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lopez Rogers called for changes or revisions to the April 15, 2008 minutes. Vice Mayor Martinez, City of Glendale, suggested addressing methamphetamines in future projects concerning youth. Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the terrible impact of this drug and said this could be a project to consider. Vice Mayor Martinez asked for a clarification on page seven regarding the homeless street counts and the 15 percent decrease in numbers. Ms. St. Peter stated the rainy weather and successes of services providers in moving people from the streets into permanent supportive housing had been factors for the decrease in counts. Councilmember Trinity Donovan, City of Chandler, motioned to approve the minutes as

written. Vice Mayor Martinez seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Gila River Indian Community Urban Assistance Center (UAC) Presentation

Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Jose Solarez, Director of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Services Department and Diana Daychild, UAC Coordinator, who offered a presentation on the UAC and its services to enrolled members. Chair Lopez Rogers noted the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is a member agency of MAG and said she was pleased to have them offer a presentation. Mr. Solarez began by saying there are over 2,000 members living off the Gila River Indian Community. He stated the goal is to manage and deliver financial and social supports for community members from the Gila River reservation. Mr. Solarez said GRIC's Community Services works directly with and through community and government partners to ensure that the services delivered to those in need are appropriate, effective and accessible. He said there has been reorganization within the tribal government to better the system. Mr. Solarez stated he has been in contact with Ms. St. Peter and MAG to work together in coordination of this program.

Mr. Solarez stated the majority of tribal members living off the reservation are located in Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa and Phoenix. He said in order for a member living off the reservation to receive services, they must be an enrolled GRIC member. This includes a program that provides school supply funding for those enrolled in school. Mr. Solarez said any GRIC enrolled tribal member with proper identification can receive services including burial assistance. He stated this information is very important to those service providers who work with Gila River members. Members living off the reservation have limited services but providers can refer clients to the Community Services Department for information on services for which they would qualify. He stated most of the programs are casino revenue funded. This revenue source also funds major infrastructure and services for the tribe, such as portable water to meet the need of the community. Mr. Solarez added transportation and housing needs are also being considered. As a result, new housing units are being built for members.

Mr. Solarez said programs such as a dialysis center and cancer clinic are in progress. He stated members not eligible for medical services can use the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC). He noted GRIC will be a satellite site for PIMC. He introduced Diana Daychild, Urban Assistance Center coordinator whose office is located out of the Native Americans Connection building located at 2545 North Central Avenue, Suite 80 in Phoenix. Ms. Daychild stated due to a fire on the roof some services are temporarily down. Her office provides information and assistance to community members that live in the city off the reservation. She said one goal of the center is to link with other agencies to provide information to urban tribal members about the different tribal activities and programs available to them.

Ms. Daychild acknowledged there are concerns regarding members living off the reservation by those living on the reservation but the goal is to keep the linkage open for all tribal community members. Ms. Daychild said she and Mr. Solarez have presented to other agencies and nonprofits to inform them of the services available to tribal members. She

requested the committee members to contact her if they would like to schedule a presentation. Ms. Guild asked if their information has an internet website and would it be linked to the AZ211. Mr. Solarez said they are considering linking with AZ211 and other governmental and nonprofits agencies. Mr. Solarez said he will leave his information with staff to send to members anyone looking for more information. Chair Lopez Rogers thanked them for the presentation.

5. Building Bridges

Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who presented the Building Bridges report featuring strategies and best practices promoted at the 2008 MAG Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination Conference. Chair Lopez Rogers noted the MAG Human Services Technical Committee and MAG Management Committee voted to recommend the report for approval. Ms. St. Peter began by saying the MAG Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination Conference addressed how to create sustainable communities through coordination. She said that coordination increases the length and quality of time people have in their homes. She said this could be achieved by helping people to age in place, to upgrade housing within their neighborhood and to provide affordable and accessible commute options to work.

Ms. St. Peter stated the report reflects the synthesis of 300 people who attended event including local and national leaders. People can engage in coordination at all levels. Individuals can participate through their vote, dollar and informal networks. Municipalities can encourage, mandate and fund efforts that support coordination. The region can create plans that are responsive to local needs and compatible enough to be coordinated. Ms. St. Peter said the report offers information on the best practices and strategies highlighted at the conference. She emphasized that no actions are mandated. Ms. St. Peter said there are eight transportation strategies to help ensure broad access to a variety of solutions. There are seven housing strategies to help people age in place. There are five strategies that coordinate housing and transportation in order to create more sustainable communities.

Ms. St. Peter acknowledged the generosity of the sponsors including the Arizona Community Foundation, Southwest Gas, Arizona Rides through the Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro, Veolia Transportation, AARP, the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Council of Human Services Providers. She noted that the scholarships provided by the Arizona Community Foundation made the event financially accessible to many people. Ms. St. Peter said the report was recommended for approval by the MAG Human Services Technical Committee and the MAG Management Committee.

Chair Lopez Rogers called for a motion to recommend approval of the Building Bridges report. Councilmember Crozier, Town of Gilbert, motioned to recommend approval of the report. Laura Guild, DES, seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

6. Leadership Transition

Chair Lopez Rogers stated it was her pleasure to serve as Chair of HSCC for more than a year and a half and as Vice Chair for over two years. She stated as soon as new leadership is

identified she will be transitioning out of the position of Chair. She thanked MAG staff for the support and consistency given in preparations for the meetings. She acknowledged Councilmember Kyle Jones, Mesa, who has stepped down from the committee for his outstanding service to regional human services planning efforts at MAG. Chair Lopez Rogers welcomed Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh as the new representative for the City of Mesa.

Chair Lopez Rogers stated committee members had been notified the position of Chair and Vice Chair would be open. She opened discussion to committee members to discuss the process to transition leadership to a new Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee. She asked if members had recommendations for Chair or Vice Chair. Ms. St. Peter reported Councilmember Trinity Donovan and Councilmember Nowakowski had expressed interested in either positions. Chair said the names of those interested will be forwarded to the MAG Regional Council Chair for consideration and appointment. Chair Lopez Rogers stated the position of Vice Chair is open immediately and she will remain as Chair until a new Chair is appointed.

7. 2008 MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update

Chair Lopez Rogers introduced Keosha Hooks, MAG Intern, who offered an update on the implementation activities for the 2008 plan designed to assist older adults, people with disabilities and people with low incomes to have better access to human services transportation programs through coordination. Ms. Hooks gave some background of the project. Ms. Hooks stated in 2006, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, and Equitable Act- A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), required that applicants of Section 5310 funding participate in a locally derived coordination plan. In 2007, a locally derived plan was developed from a series of sub-regional meetings in Phoenix, the West Valley, and the East Valley to identify needs. These meetings also generated and increased the desire to participate in coordination. She said the current 2008 Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan includes the Transportation Ambassador Program which will launched in the Fall of 2008.

Ms. Hooks said the goal of the Ambassador Program is to coordinate transportation focusing on older adults, people with disabilities and low incomes. The Ambassador program will start as a one year pilot. She said this will allow staff to make an assessment and to determine the impact of the program. Ms. Hooks said the program has received grant funding from the Virginia G. Piper Trust Fund. The three areas of focus for the program are to have quarterly workshops on various topics such as travel training, safety training, best practices and updates on existing and future services. The second focus is to provide technical assistance to support community meetings. The third is to provide resource materials in the form of a toolkit.

Ms. Hooks stated the outcome from the Ambassador Program is to increase the knowledge about existing services, programs and eligibility. Training will lead to better service to the end-user and possibly strike new collaborations and relationships between participants. She said ultimately the goal is to improve the coordination of and access to transportation

programs and services delivery to the region. Ms. St. Peter thanked Ms. Hooks for helping to develop this program.

8. Committee Updates

Chair Lopez Rogers said the other MAG Human Services Committees are engaged in important projects. She said developing allocation recommendation for the Social Service Block Grant is one of the more important activities HSCC members undertake with the MAG Human Services Technical Committee. Chair Lopez Rogers stated HSTC Chair Carl Harris-Morgan will provide a report on recent activities to assess the process of the recommendations. Ms. Renae Tenney, MAG, will provide an update on the Youth Empowerment Project and Brande Mead, MAG, will offer an update on the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee.

MAG Human Service Technical Committee: HSTC Chair Carl Harris-Morgan offered a report of the activities of this Committee including the assessment of the process to recommend allocation for the Social Services Block Grant. The presentation also included an update on the funding reduction proposed in the President's budget to SSBG. Mr. Harris-Morgan stated this activity is included in the 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Harris-Morgan began with a history of the program. In 1975, the cities provided the match money needed in order to draw down federal funds for adult services. The state reserved a portion of these funds to be planned at the local level. Mr. Harris-Morgan said Arizona is one of the few states in the country to delegate allocation recommendations for SSBG to the councils of governments. This agreement was made back in 1976 between the Arizona Department of Economic Security and all councils of governments in the state.

Mr. Harris-Morgan said since the advent of welfare reform in 1996, more than 15 percent of SSBG funding has been cut. The state currently receives \$31.5 million. He said the Maricopa region receives \$4.1 million of this amount. The councils of governments receive approximately 24 percent of the state's SSBG funds and the tribes receive approximately six percent. Mr. Harris-Morgan stated the past three years the President has proposed a 20 percent funding reduction to SSBG. For the past two years, this proposal has been defeated. He said a decision has not been yet made on the current proposal, but it is looking unlikely it would be approved this year.

Mr. Harris-Morgan stated DES hosted a public hearing on the current proposed funding reduction and MAG represented the Regional Council's support of maintaining level funding for SSBG. This support was expressed in February 2006 and again last year in May. He said reductions that have taken place and the increasing need in our region makes the allocation process more critical now than ever before. Mr. Harris-Morgan expressed the need to put the money where it will do the most good. The SSBG plan has been targeted to address basic needs in response to the cuts that have been implemented. He noted twelve services were eliminated from funding the last time SSBG was reduced.

Mr. Harris Morgan said MAG staff has prepared a comparison chart of the services both funded and not funded along with the data available for each. The chart also reflects the preliminary results from the 2008 Regional Human Services Survey. He said the survey

asked respondents to rank the priority for each of the four target group areas funded by SSBG and to indicate changes in the allocations. Results indicated that even while 63 percent ranked adults, families and children as being the most in need, they actually would decrease the funding for this target group and increase funding available for persons with disabilities and persons with developmental disabilities. He noted the survey is just one tool to use in assessing the process for allocation recommendations.

Mr. Harris-Morgan stated allocations for SSBG have not changed in years. He noted if the funding is in the right place, then keeping the same allocation recommendations is appropriate. He added while this may be true, it is not know for sure because HSTC has not reexamined the process to develop the allocations. Mr. Harris-Morgan stated a small group of HSTC members will meet this Thursday to review this chart, conduct research, assess the current process, and if appropriate, propose a new process to develop allocation recommendations.

Mr. Harris-Morgan said the following timeline has been proposed at HSTC: In June and July staff and committee volunteers will complete the fact sheets and research. August will be a review of the information and make adjustments. In September, the committee will participate in a zero-based budgeting exercise, not for action. In October, there will be a comparison of the results of the zero-based budgeting activity and the funding recommended for FY09 and note and reconcile any differences. In November, the committee will complete additional activities to inform the allocation recommendation process. He noted this could include public hearings or ranking of services within the committee. In December, the committee will develop allocation recommendations. Mr. Harris-Morgan asked for comments and suggestions from the committee. He noted a report on progress made will be ready for a vote at the October HSCC meeting.

Lance Cypert, TCC, asked if the people who were surveyed were knowledgeable to make suggestions of funding allocation. Ms. St. Peter replied the survey was sent to all MAG human services committee members and interested others. Mr. Cypert inquired if funding will be weighed by this survey or based on the activities the work group will be working on. Mr. Harris-Morgan stated the survey is only a tool, the work group who have vast experience in this field, will work on an allocation process. Mr. Wollam asked for a copy of the survey. Ms. St. Peter said a copy of the survey will be sent and a full report will be provided at the next meeting. Chair Lopez Rogers thanked the HSTC members for their hard work at looking how the funding is allocated and for taking on this valuable task. Ms. St. Peter stated previously when funding cuts went through the biggest hit was in persons with disabilities and persons with developmental disabilities. She stated participation is very important and voices need to be heard in considering possible future funding cuts.

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council: Renae Tenney, MAG, provided an update on the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) and the upcoming Legal Assistance Study. Ms. Tenney stated the purpose of YEP is to raise awareness of teen dating violence by putting resources directly in the hands of teens through the Web of Friends website and the Public Service Announcement competition. At the last meeting the top three winners of PSA contest had been presented to committee members for feedback. She said message testing was also

conducted with three youth focus groups. Teen comments were to keep it short, to the point and make sure it doesn't sound like an "infomercial". The feedback was then incorporated into the final radio PSA.

Ms. Tenney said the final product is 30 seconds long, performed by five teens from the Valley Youth Theater and Suns/Diamondback Academy and was developed with the help from the MAG Communications Division. The radio PSA have been delivered to six radio stations with youth appeal. She said KSLX's *Valley Focus* and POWER 98/*The Edge The Session* have invited staff to present on the issue. Ms. Tenney thanked the Governor's Office for their support and for awarding renewal funding for another year. Ms. Tenney previewed the final radio PSA for Committee members. She said both the radio and video PSA's are available on the Web of Friends website and can be sent to members on request. Ms. Tenney said staff is also working on translating the Web of Friends Web site into Spanish by next year.

Ms. Tenney also reported on the Legal Assistance Study. She said this project was chosen by the DV Council as a goal for FY2008 and has been continued into the FY2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program. The project design was approved by the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council on June 5. The purpose of the study is to describe the experiences of DV survivors in accessing legal assistance and working within the family court system in Maricopa County. She said components of the study will be to survey legal professionals and DV survivors, conduct case study interviews and providing an inventory of legal services. The study will also provide explanation of the family court process and include best practices and recommendations. Ms. Tenney stated a stakeholders group met on June 12 to develop the surveys. The survey will be piloted to a sample group for additional refinement. She said the release of the report would be early 2009. The intent of the study is to provide information to policy makers on factors that help survivors access legal assistance and offer recommendations for improving their access to legal assistance in the region. Ms. Tenney asked for feedback or comments on the study

Ms. Tarboro asked if there has been a study of teens, both victims and abusers, on their home life to see if domestic violence was part of their family history. Ms. St. Peter replied Liz Claiborne had done a study on preteens. The results showed 50 percent had engaged in verbal abuse and a smaller amount had engaged in physical violence. She said it was reported most parents were unaware of the situation. She emphasized that the purpose of the YEP project is to bring awareness of the teen dating violence issue. Resources for teens are available on www.weboffriends.org.

Chair Lopez Rogers inquired how we can have more of an impact with the juvenile courts. Ms. Tenney replied the survey can be sent to professionals working in the juvenile system. Councilmember Crozier commented the Town of Gilbert noticed an increase in domestic violence incidents. In response to the issue, the town organized an all day summit with judges, service providers, and police. The town also invited speakers to talk about the issue. Councilmember Crozier said training and the opportunity to develop strategies to alleviate the issue were offered that day. He suggested holding a summit with legal professionals to discuss domestic violence issues. Chair Lopez Rogers thanked Councilmember Crozier for

his suggestion. She added that the City of Avondale held a similar kind of summit to address graffiti.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness: Brande Mead, MAG offered an update on the Committee's effort to develop a new Regional Plan to End Homelessness. Ms. Mead said the planning process of plan is underway and will be available this fall. The Continuum of Care Regional Committee recently voted to recommend approval of the five goals and 30 action steps in the document. She said the steps were chosen to not only prevent homelessness, but to increase community awareness, leadership, education, housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness. The actions steps are broken down by time sensitivity, short-term action items, long-term action items and action steps being lead by the Continuum of Care Committee or others. Feedback is currently being gathered on the plan's development.

Ms. Mead stated another key aspect of ending homelessness within the region is to recognize beneficial programs and processes currently working well within the community. Ms. Mead handed out a What's Working in the Community Template to members. She said the due date has been extended to July 25 for members who have a program they would like to be included in the plan. She said Appreciative Inquiry client interviews will also be conducted. There will be two interview questionnaires, one for persons in permanent housing and one for persons currently homeless, to illustrate direct client experiences and to give a voice to those who are homeless. Ms. Mead said these efforts will be included within the plan as both a guide and acknowledgement

Ms. Mead stated on July 10, 2008, HUD published the FY2008 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Homeless Assistance Grants. She said this is just the general section that is available while the application is still to come. The estimated due date is September 15, 2008. Ms. Mead said the Continuum is in the process of putting together the local application timeline. She noted there is new funding available for permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with disabilities and rapid rehousing of homeless families. Ms. Mead said members can contact her for questions or feedback. More information regarding the HUD application can be accessed at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa08/cocgrp.cfm>.

9. Comments for the Committee

Councilmember Crozier commented the Town of Gilbert was mentioned in the current issue of Money magazine. The magazine rated the most livable cities around the country and the Town of Gilbert was rated as the 28th most livable city.

10. Adjourn

Chair Lopez Rogers thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.