

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MARCH 1, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale,  
Chairperson  
\*Governor's Office  
Tony Vidale for John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ  
Criminal Justice Commission  
\*Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center  
\*Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community  
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy  
Center  
Dave Bigos for Trinity Donovan,  
Councilmember of Chandler  
Traci Andes for Laura Guild, DES  
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley  
House  
Bill Hart, Office of the Attorney General  
Linda Melendez for Dan Hughes, City of  
Surprise  
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police  
Department, Vice Chair  
Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department  
\*Candace Johnson, Prehab of Arizona  
Alice Gharieb for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area  
Agency on Aging  
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter  
Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale  
Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for  
Women  
Betty Lynch, Councilmember of Avondale  
\*JoEllen Lynn, American Express

Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services  
\*Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear  
Christy Moore, Arizona Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence  
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the  
Family Foundation  
Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center  
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa  
Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.  
\*Sandra Renteria, Phoenix Police Department  
\*Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear  
Tina Solomon, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's  
Office  
\*Patricia Stevens, Maricopa County Attorney's  
Office  
Kristen Scharlau for Judy Tapscott, City of  
Tempe  
Rick Ybarra, Value Options

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Forino, City of Phoenix  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Teresa Grantham, MAG  
Chris Groninger, ACADV  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Katy Sabine, JFCS

+ Those attending by video/audio conference  
\* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Humphrey explained that Mayor Manross could not be here today and called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued. Teresa Grantham, MAG, provided a brief explanation of MAG meetings rules and procedures for making public comments.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the January 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Humphrey asked if there were any revisions to the January 4, 2007 meeting minutes. There were none. JoAnn Dell-Colle moved to approve the minutes. Councilperson Betty Lynch seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Demonstration of the City of Phoenix Police Department Online Domestic Violence Training

Vice Chair Humphrey provided a demonstration of the new online DV training for Phoenix police officers. He began by presenting a PowerPoint on tracking and trends of DV related incidents in the City of Phoenix. He noted there were some interesting findings and explained that the information presented was based on the legal definition of DV and only included data of those crimes that met the “relationship test”. Other types of DV such as emotional, verbal, financial abuse, etc. were not included. He briefly explained that domestic violence is not a crime in Arizona, but it is a designation of relationship that may be attached to many different types of crimes, such as assault. He added that tracking this type of crime data can be difficult because of the timeline; for example, should the numbers be collected at the point of the original 911 call to police, when the patrol officer takes the report, when the detective completes the investigation, when the case is turned over for prosecution, or when the perpetrator is actually convicted. The number of calls is much greater than the number of those convicted.

The number of calls to 911 has decreased since 2001 when the tracking method changed. When accounting for population increase, the rate of calls is much lower over the last several years, yet the number of reports taken has remained largely the same. He noted that it is interesting that the number of calls have not increased with the growing population. DV arrests at the scene have also gone down, which may be partially due to the 1999 protocols from the County Attorney’s Office that required much more documentation to prosecute these cases, including tape recordings. It’s possible that the complexity of these cases after the protocols went into effect led some officers to avoid making DV arrests. There was a push to train officers on the protocols, and arrests increased slightly afterwards. Arrests of women have been consistent, with 20 percent of DV arrests being female. He noted that the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim is most often that they either live together (unmarried) or have a child in common; this is twice as likely as the two parties being married. The number of DV related homicides tends to cycle up and down every four to five years. The number of dual arrests has remained about the same.

Ms. St. Peter asked if the dual arrest numbers included those who were also counted in the female category. Commander Humphrey said that dual arrests are counted separately from arrests of individual females.

The number of aggravated assaults has been fairly consistent, with an average of approximately three every single day. DV related criminal damage has also been consistent.

Commander Humphrey then introduced the online training. He encouraged members to try it for themselves at [www.azdv.org](http://www.azdv.org). Although it is mainly designed for police officers, the information is still relevant to almost anyone. They are still working through some technical issues and would like to hear if anyone trying to access it has problems. The final goal would be to put a number of training modules online that are targeted to specific training audiences. He is especially interested in offering the training to prosecutors and court personnel. The block that is available now is two hours long and officers who complete the training are eligible to receive credits from AZPOST. The next two modules will be on report writing and evidence collection.

He went briefly through the pre-test, one of the chapters and two of the videos. The video vignettes deal with the issues of power and control and they help the officer to understand why they keep getting called back to the same home. He noted that there are also interviews with four survivors who explain their personal experiences.

Commander Humphrey noted that adding information and putting it into this format is very easy with the software. Lynn Potts asked if continuing legal education credits could also be available with the completion of this training. Commander Humphrey agreed that this would be ideal and that the software makes it very easy for trainees to print out their own certificates of completion, with a letter going directly to the crediting agency. Connie Phillips added that credits could also be available for continuing education in social work. Kris Scharlau said that the opportunities for expanding this training could really explode, with applications for first responders, health care providers, and private employers, among others. Commander Humphrey agreed, but noted that the City of Phoenix only has a small amount of resources to continue expanding the application and really needs assistance from others with specific expertise. Tina Solomon asked if all new officers will be required to take the training. He replied that all new patrol officers will be required to do so, and for future modules it will depend. Bill Hart commented on the statistics and found it surprising that the numbers stay the same as the population increases. He wondered if it could be related to an increase in the number order of protection violations. He added that arresting offenders before the assault occurs could be a positive outcome of increased service and enforcement of orders of protection.

Connie Phillips asked if it would be possible to get similar crime data from other jurisdictions. Amy St. Peter noted that few other agencies track the data in this way. JoAnn Del-Colle said that the Governor's Office may have some of the information in their annual SACT report, though every agency tracks the data differently. Ms. Phillips asked that the report be made available annually.

5. Goals for FY 2008

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Ms. Grantham who discussed some proposed goals and projects for fiscal year 2008. She began by stating the Council started to talk about potential goals at the last meeting. Staff also followed up with other members who were not present at the meeting to gather their input. Staff identified those proposed projects that best suited the Council and staff's current capacity. She presented two options for discussion, but offered to take other suggestions as well. The first proposal was to conduct a research study of local, national and international best practices on how to better serve DV victims with co-occurring substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The second proposal was to conduct a study on local batterer intervention/treatment programs to determine which models have been most successful, mainly by examining public court documents for information on recidivism rates. She noted that the first option would address the Regional DV Plan's initiative #22 and the second would address initiative #27. She asked the Council, as they deliberate over these and other options, to keep in mind that staff will rely on the expertise of the members and other community stakeholders to ensure a quality final product.

Commander Humphrey asked Ms. Grantham to talk a little about the ultimate goal of each proposal and what the Council would be trying to accomplish with either of these projects. Ms. Grantham said that because MAG is a planning agency and not an implementation agency, the Council cannot be very prescriptive in directing the cities/towns or other agencies on their policy options. Ultimately, any programmatic or policy changes will be up to the stakeholder agencies. However, MAG and the Council can identify best practices and put forth recommendations based on solid empirical research. For example, if the Council puts forth significant best practices that are in place elsewhere, the Council might recommend that appropriate agencies attempt to replicate those practices here.

Councilmember Lynch asked if it would be possible to only do one project this year. Ms. Grantham replied that it will depend on the funding that is available for any selected project/s. Councilmember Lynch then asked which proposal would potentially have the biggest, most positive impact for DV providers. Ms. Grantham asked the other members of the Council to respond with their feedback.

Kerry Ramella asked if shelters were asked why they had to turn away clients during the course of last year's capacity study; for instance, how many were turned away due to substance abuse/mental illness. Ms. Grantham replied that the study only asked for a total number of turnaways and did not ask for information as to why victims were turned away.

Lisa Melton suggested that a capacity study of civil legal assistance, as was discussed at the last meeting, might be similar to the shelter capacity study. She suggested that the Council might consider doing research on how many victims are turned away from legal assistance agencies due to lack of resources. Ms. Grantham said that the Morrison Institute is conducting a study now that may at least partially address this

need, and it is due to be published by late summer. Commander Humphrey clarified that the Morrison study is a continuation of their 2005 study on the attitudes of law enforcement towards DV and DV victims. The new one they are working on now will focus on the attitudes of prosecutors, judges and others in the court system. They will be interviewing victims and advocates to collect their experiences with the court system, which may reveal some of the same information that a civil legal assistance capacity study would reveal. Ms. Melton asked if the Morrison study would be focused on the criminal courts or the civil courts. Commander Humphrey answered the criminal court. Ms. Melton said that therefore, a capacity study of the civil legal assistance side might still be useful.

Councilmember Lieberman asked if there is any information on how much either of these projects would cost, and where the funds might come from. Ms. Grantham said that staff has not yet evaluated cost because they first wanted to gauge the level of interest in the proposals. However, she did note that both of the proposals would likely be fundable, and she named a few funding sources that could potentially apply. She noted that much of the work of the MAG Human Services Division is grant funded.

Patricia Klahr said that Chrysalis is the only DV shelter in the area that also runs a batterer treatment program. She said she is very proud of this program. She would very much like to have data on how many of their clients who complete the program re-offend, but that gathering this data may prove to be very difficult. Lisa Melton agreed and said that looking only at public court documents may not fully indicate whether they have re-offended. Jodi Liggett added that many of the batterer treatment programs are very different and there is still debate about what works. For example, some offenders are still being referred to anger management classes, which are wholly inappropriate. She felt that if it's possible to do this type of study, it could have a real impact on local programs. She urged the Council to consider any potential windows of opportunity with either of the projects.

Kerry Ramella mentioned that the Arizona Department of Health Services has just released their request for proposals for mental health programs. Rick Ybarra added that both projects are worthy of pursuing and would potentially be of high interest to Value Options. He said that Value Options works with many provider agencies and that there might be opportunities to work with them to introduce pilot studies. Christy Moore and Traci Andes indicated that they have seen a need for more research on the substance abuse/mental illness issues and that the shelters they've worked with outside of Maricopa County also struggle with this.

Amy St. Peter asked for a brief show of hands from the Council to indicate interest and participation. The most interest was shown in the study of victims with substance abuse and/or mental illness and the civil legal assistance capacity study. Some members pointed out that they are also interested in the batterer program study, though they personally may not necessarily have the data or the expertise to be able to work on the project. Commander Humphrey asked staff to gather a little more

information about the three proposals, including potential costs, timelines, and community partners. This information will be presented to Council at the next meeting for a final vote.

6. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Chris Groninger, AzCADV, who provided an update on DV related items before the state legislature. She passed out the latest legislative alert. She announced that the Coalition's next Legislative Committee meeting will be on Monday March 5th, with another scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup>. Because the session is in full swing and many DV related items are before the legislature, they have been trying to meet twice per month.

The majority of the bills of interest began in the Senate and is now in the House where they are awaiting agenda placement. SB 1424 sponsored by Senator Bee would lengthen the maximum sentence for aggravated DV from five to seven years. This bill passed out of a House committee today. The DV ADOT records bill is waiting to be placed on the agenda. The consecutive sentencing bill from Senator Waring is waiting to be placed on the House Judiciary agenda. The aggravated assault and strangulation bill passed out of the Senate 27 to three and is now waiting for a placement on the Judiciary Committee agenda in the House.

Ms. Groninger said SB 1227 lease termination bill passed on third read on Tuesday 29 to one. The Multi-Housing Association is partnering again with the Coalition on key amendments. SB 1183, which would enable victims to leave work when they need an order of protection or to attend a hearing passed out of the Senate this week. It allows for the same protections as the victims rights statute. HB 2733, the escrow interest on trust accounts bill, designates a small percentage of escrow interest in trust accounts to be allocated to a legal assistance fund for DV and sexual assault victims, as well as some funds going to the Department of Housing for assistance in home ownership programs and down payment assistance. It is likely that the bill will be changed to allow voluntary participation in the trust accounts. Bankers, realtors, and mortgage brokers, among others, are against the bill. Ms. Groninger mentioned that the Coalition's needs survey over the summer showed that the highest priority need for DV clients is civil legal assistance.

Ms. Melton asked if a study that looked at the number of people in need of civil legal assistance who were turned away would be helpful in educating legislators on the importance of this type of fund. Ms. Groninger agreed that it would be. Bill Hart asked how voluntary participation in the trust accounts would impact the amount available for the assistance fund. Ms. Groninger said that it would almost certainly substantially reduce the amount in the fund. The fear on the part of detractors is that once the general public finds out how much revenue banks are generating off escrow interest, there would be a public outcry that would be bad for the banking and mortgage industries. The current estimate is that approximately \$28 million would be generated if three to four percent of the interest were placed into a trust account.

Ms. Groninger continued that the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee had released their version of the budget, but it did not include appropriations for DV. However, the budget is normally Senate driven and DV was first out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Ms. Liggett congratulated Ms. Groninger on the progress on the lease termination bill, noting how intransigent the Multi-Housing Association can be. Everyone thanked Ms. Groninger and the Coalition for their efforts. She reminded the Council that if they receive legislative email alerts, to please remember to send letters of support and/or thank you letters to the appropriate Representatives and Senators.

7. Outcomes of First Summit on the Status of Arizona Women

Vice Chair Humphrey introduced Jodi Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women, who provided a summary on the outcomes from the first Arizona Summit on the Status of Women. Ms. Liggett began by thanking members for attending the summit and stated that the purpose was to release the report *Arizona Women 2007: A Status Update*. It is similar to the Kids Count report in that it compares Arizona to other states on a number of variables. Much of the information for the report was furnished by the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, DC. The report contains information in five areas: health, economic status, education, social justice and political participation.

Ms. Liggett listed some of the main findings in the report. Arizona is 42<sup>nd</sup> in the country for health care coverage of women (with number one being the most coverage), and is 37<sup>th</sup> for the number of women above poverty line (with number one having the most women living above the poverty line). In education, Arizona is ranked 36<sup>th</sup> for its high drop out rate, although the state is second for women enrolled in post-secondary education. The social justice category assessed Arizona's social safety net, which across the board is not well. Arizona is 46<sup>th</sup> for the number of repeat teen births, 33<sup>rd</sup> for affordability of childcare, fifth highest in the number of nursing home deficiencies, and sixth highest in the number of women incarcerated. In political participation, Arizona was next to last for voter turnout and registration among women, but 10<sup>th</sup> highest for women in elected office.

At the end of the summit, 300 participants voted on the issue things they thought should be priorities for action for the Foundation. Their selections were: health insurance coverage for women, care giving for children and elderly, with poverty among women coming in third. In fourth place was domestic violence, which will continue to be a priority for the Foundation. Ms. Liggett handed out an article on the findings that ran in the *Capitol Times*.

8. 2007 Walk to End Domestic Violence

Ms. Liggett also provided an update on the plans for the 2007 Walk to End Domestic Violence. She stated that the Walk this year will be on April 28 at 6:30pm, which is a Saturday night. About \$100,000 has already been raised as of mid-January, though that amount has likely doubled by now. One difference in the Walk this year is that it will be a twilight event, with registration at 5:15pm and a children's race starting at

6:00 p.m. The goal of the change is to take back the night for families. She added that last year organizers noticed families wanted to stay around after the event, but there was not a lot to do and it was beginning to get hot. This year, there will be more activities after the event. All of the sponsors from last year are supporting the event again, and organizers expect that many more people will register for the Walk as the date gets closer. The goals for this year's event are to raise \$400,000, to have at least 4500 participants and 135 teams.

Commander Humphrey encouraged everyone to participate in the Walk and indicated they should see Ms. Liggett for more brochures or for questions.

9. Stakeholder Groups Updates

Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) Youth Policy Stakeholder Group

Ms. St. Peter provided an update on the joint project of the DV Council and the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholder Group. She said that they are moving forward with the Youth Empowerment Project, which is funded by a grant from the Governor's Office. They recently had a great experience with a panel of youth judges and public relations professionals who helped to select the winning public service announcements for the project. The teens took their part in the process very seriously and were very excited to participate. The top three entries have been selected. MAG will conduct focus groups with teens to message test the winning entries in each category. She thanked Trinity Donovan, Councilmember from the City of Chandler, for helping to connect staff with teachers at Chandler High School. They participated in the event, along with students at Florence Crittendon. There will be a recognition event for all of the youth participants on March 26 at the Harkins movie theater at the AZ Mills Mall. Mayor Manross will be there and a local DJ will emcee the event, help to announce the winners and pass out awards. After the event and the message testing, MAG will produce the winning video entry and send out the winning storyboard entry. She thanked the Governor's Office and Value Options for their support of the project, as well as the members of the Council.

JoAnn Del-Colle asked if the Council could see the top three entries. Ms. St. Peter assured her that they will be shown at the next Council meeting in May after the recognition event. She added that the next pieces of the project will involve collecting peer testimonials from young adults who have experienced dating violence to put on the website, as well as a fact sheet on reporting violence so teens can make informed decision.

Connie Phillips asked how the opening of the new national teen dating hotline has affected the project and if there has been any coordination. Ms. St. Peter said that the information on the new Teen Dating Abuse Helpline and website are currently listed in the Resources section of the WebOfFriends site. She showed the Council the business card sized ads for the WebOfFriends site as well. Kris Scharlau said that she has heard from teens that they have found the website to be useful. Ms. St. Peter thanked her for this information and said that it is good to know that it is working.

10. Announcements

JoAnn Del-Colle noted that the Governor's Office SACT report, which contains DV related crime statistics, is available online at the Division for Women website.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next Regional DV Council meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.