

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale, Chairperson  
Jeremy Arp for the Governor's Office, Division for Women  
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  
Trinity Donovan, Councilmember of Chandler  
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:

Jennifer Dalton, City of Phoenix  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Teresa Grantham, MAG  
Chris Groninger, ACADV  
Terri Leveton, Phoenix Rescue Mission  
Bill Hart, Morrison Institute  
Kristin Kennedy, City of Glendale  
Bruce Raden, Congressman John Shadegg's Office  
Danielle Santor, Save the Family  
Jennifer Soltis, Save the Family  
Amy St. Peter, MAG

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Manross called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. She welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Teresa Grantham read public comments from Judy Maines. Her daughter is currently serving a 10-year prison term. She was arrested in a dual domestic violence (DV) arrest situation. Ms. Maines regrets that she could not be there in person, but wished to let the Council know that training is still needed for first line responders, including police and probation officers. She wants to learn more about proper procedures for disarming a suspect and how officers are supposed to respond to DV calls. Ms. Maines reports officers need more information on the dynamics of DV. Ms. Maines plans to attend the next meetings and will provide information on her case at that time.

3. Approval of the March 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Chair Manross asked if there were any revisions to the March 1, 2007 meeting minutes. There were none. Councilmember Betty Lynch moved to approve the minutes. JoAnn Dell-Colle seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Presentation on Phoenix Rescue Mission's Innovative Planning Project

Chair Manross introduced Terri Leveton from the Phoenix Rescue Mission, who presented on their agency's Innovative Grant Planning Project. Ms. Leveton provided a summary of her background, including 20 years as Clinical Director at Scottsdale Banner Behavior Health Hospital. Her passion has been working with women with children who have co-occurring domestic violence, addictions and/or trauma. She is especially interested in how this affects children. She started with the Phoenix Rescue Mission last February. They will be breaking ground this summer for a new program targeting this population. It will be a 12-15 month full-term healing campus where women can come with their children, or when pregnant.

Last year, Phoenix Rescue Mission received an Innovative Planning Grant from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. Through the grant, they have been able to assemble a planning group that is looking at better serving women with children who have addiction and domestic violence issues, many of whom are homeless. The planning group has met on a monthly basis since last summer. They are currently doing a needs assessment with agencies who provide child welfare, community addiction, and emergency shelter services for DV victims and for homeless people. Their year-long planning process will produce a strategic plan to improve the community response for these families. At this time, some agencies focus specifically on services for children, but do not assess for DV or addictions in the family. Other agencies treat addictions for adults, like Terros, but they do not provide the services for DV or children who have witnessed DV. Emergency DV shelters provide some supplemental services that address addiction, but they are not focused on long term recovery in an emergency shelter setting. Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Family Connections can help with some Child Protective Services (CPS) cases, as well. The planning group is looking at how to address those who fall through cracks of the current system.

There are 18 agencies who serve on the planning group. They include homeless shelters, DV emergency and transitional shelters, Southwest Human Development, Humana Mental Health Foundation, Thomas Pappas School, Empact, United Methodist Outreach Ministries, Sojourner Center, Homeward Bound, Vista Colina, Childhelp USA, the City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, the Children's Advocacy Center, the YWCA Haven House, Fresh Start Resource Center, the AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and DES, among others.

There is an evaluation team from the ASU School of Health Care and Innovation that is also helping with the project. She distributed a copy of the needs assessment and asked members to fill it out if they provide services like those explained above. During the first quarter of the grant period, they focused on the executive level, current collaborative relationships and how to improve those. The next step is to get feedback from clients. The assessment asks seven basic questions and the goal is to get the perspective of both clients and staff. She offered to share the results of the project with the Council when it is complete. She added that the focus is on families in the Greater Phoenix area, so areas in the far East and far West Valley are not included in the needs assessment. Chair Manross thanked Ms. Leveton for her presentation.

#### 5. Goals for FY 2008

Chair Manross asked Ms. Grantham to briefly review the discussion of goals and projects for fiscal year 2008 from the last meeting. Ms. Grantham referred the members to the handout that listed the three projects that were discussed, the estimated resources needed for each, and the tentative timeline for implementation. Chair Manross noted that the first project proposed, which was to research best practices on service delivery for DV victims and families who have substance and/or mental health problems, would potentially dovetail well with the Phoenix Rescue Mission's Innovative Planning Project. She asked the Council to consider not duplicating work that is already being done, however. She went on to say that the second project, which was to study local batterer intervention programs to determine which models have been most effective and led to the least amount of recidivism, would also be very interesting because she is eager to know more, as would police departments and courts. The third project, to conduct a capacity study of pro-bono and low cost civil legal services, may not be as difficult, though also interesting.

Terri Leveton remarked concerning the first proposal on best practices for co-occurring issues, she has been involved in this type research for 12 years. There are best practices identified already, but something to consider is that much of the current research recommends a 12 to 15 month program. The Council may want to think about realistic funding sources if this type of program is identified and recommended. Most likely, funding may need to be from private donors, which may not be available locally for this type of service. Presenting best practices that cannot be delivered may be less useful than some of the other proposals. The planning project they are

currently working on will not present a program model, but will show gaps in resources and give recommendations to improve upon existing resources.

JoAnn Del-Colle said that she worked with the Morrison Institute while she was at the Governor's Office on their DV related research for the Layers of Meaning and Rest of the Story papers. She recently met with Nancy Welch from the Morrison Institute and talked about doing an assessment of intervention programs. It is true that no one seems to know the results of these programs, but offenders are still sent to them all the time. She suggested that the MAG DV Council consider partnering with the Morrison Institute on the batterer intervention study, even if not right away. They have experience in doing assessments and this kind of partnership might provide access to Innovative funds through the Governor's Office. Working with the Morrison Institute would likely take the project statewide, which would strengthen a proposal's chance of receiving funding. Jeremy Arp agreed that this type of study proposal would likely qualify for Innovative planning money. Ms. Del-Colle suggested that taking the time to plan the research project might strengthen the final product, rather than jumping immediately into local research.

Bill Hart from the Morrison Institute agreed with Ms. Del-Colle's comments. He explained that the Morrison Institute is now in the middle of a statewide research project in which they are interviewing and surveying judges, probation officers, prosecutors, and victims, asking them how well the court system is responding to DV cases. Though not complete, they have done about 50 interviews so far and 600 surveys. There is a lot of skepticism about what goes on in batterer intervention programs. The researchers have asked if these programs work. Most court officials say no, while others say they don't know. Mr. Hart added that he doesn't think anybody knows for sure if these types of programs work, but would love to find out. Some interviewees have said that they knew of individual cases in which intervention programs seem to have worked, but overall, they have very little confidence in these programs. In some areas of the state there are not any programs available at all, or the offender may have a suspended driver's license and can't get there. DV offenders might get diversion with 26 weeks of treatment. If they violate again, they may get 26 weeks again, or possibly even 52 weeks. Either way, they're being sentenced to the same treatment over and over without any evidence that it has any impact.

Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, agreed that it is hard to see what works, how it works, and when it works. She noted that Chrysalis runs a 52-week batterer intervention program. She invited Council members to come and observe one of their groups, as long as they attend a few at a time. Their participants usually have felony convictions and are mandated to treatment for the full 52 weeks. She stressed that this type of project would be important because it goes back to the issue of offender accountability and whose responsibility is it to ensure that offenders are held accountable for their actions. She recognized that these kinds of programs are quite controversial, but added that they can work if the person is sufficiently motivated to change.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, said that for MAG to get involved in a statewide study of batterer programs, they would have to engage the other Councils of Government across the state. If they wanted to form a partnership, then as a group they could address the statewide issues.

Connie Phillips noted that all of the project proposals are of interest and would be helpful, but asked the Council to consider what they would do with the information after the studies are complete. She said that it sounded as if best practices have already been identified for serving victims with co-occurring issues. For the second and third proposals, it will be useful to have the information if members are committed to creating the resources and making change.

Chair Manross added that elected officials want and need to see which programs have been tested and proven to provide effective treatment and services before allocating new funding. With this kind of research, agencies and individuals can provide information to elected officials about the most effective programs with a corresponding explanation of what makes them effective. Elected officials need this kind of information because they receive many requests for funding. The projects with the most information and research are more likely to receive funding.

Christy Moore noted that the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence does a legislative survey every year and last year's survey demonstrated that legal needs is one of the top priorities for victims. The Coalition could potentially use the information from the civil legal services project to lobby for the escrow trust account bill that did not pass this year. A research project in this area would be extremely beneficial next year at the legislature. Laura Guild asked if these research studies would be led by MAG staff by utilizing interested parties through a stakeholder group. Ms. St. Peter answered yes.

Chair Manross suggested that legislation is required to move on recommendations that may come from the third proposal. She said that the Council could focus on this proposal this year and use the results at the legislature next year. At the same time, the Council could be looking ahead to how they can get grant funding for the intervention program study. Ms. St. Peter urged the members to think about how they can have the most impact right now, even though each proposal is important. Chair Manross told the Council members how she had just recently talked to a DV victim who had to flee her situation and how she mentioned it was hard to get legal support after getting away from the physical threat. Ms. St. Peter added that when MAG did focus groups at Sojourner Center, the participants brought up the need for affordable legal services, and bilingual legal services in particular. Connie Phillips suggested that the Council remain informed about the activities of Ms. Leveton's group and the results of their needs assessment. She agreed with Ms. Del-Colle about taking a longer-term approach to the batterer intervention study. Patricia Klahr noted regardless of which one is selected, the Council should not lose sight of the others.

Chris Groninger, AzCADV, offered that the third proposal on the availability of civil legal services could include working with victims who often represent themselves during legal proceedings. Connie Phillips added that none of the projects are ever fully complete in that they need continuous attention. It would be good to annually assess the state of the community response to DV and see how things are going.

Chair Manross asked Ms. Grantham to recap from the minutes the discussion so far. Ms. Grantham noted that the option that appears to have the most potential for immediate positive impact is the capacity study of legal civil services due to the Coalition's activities at the legislature in this area. The first project on co-occurring disorders has been addressed already to some extent and may be looked at again when Ms. Leveton's group's planning process is complete. The batterer intervention study should be pursued as well, though possibly with a longer time-line to encompass one year for planning and one for execution. Connie Phillips made a motion to adopt the third proposal, to conduct a capacity study of pro-bono and low cost civil legal services as the priority project for FY 2008. Councilmember Betty Lynch seconded her motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Jeremy Arp, Arizona Governor's Office, provided the Council with an update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. Mr. Arp said that the last Commission meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The Commission will meet again July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Governor's Executive Tower on the second floor from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Commission members were encouraged to attend. Mr. Arp stated that the Governor's Office will host the White House Conference on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Conference will include seminars on domestic violence and asset building.

Mr. Arp stated that there have been staff changes at the Division for Women. The changes are as follows:

- a. Maria-Elena Ochoa was hired as the GOCYF/Division for Women Director. She is the former Chief Operating Officer of Valle del Sol and brings over 20 years of social service experience.
- b. Maureen "Mo" Domogala has been hired in the Division for Women as the Senior Coordinator for Community Initiatives in efforts to expand the Division's scope to include other issues affecting women.
- c. Evelyn Buckner vacated her position as STOP Program Administrator in early April. The Governor's Office is hiring for the vacant position.

Mr. Arp stated that Maureen Domogala will administer the Innovate Prevention Grant. The RFGA will post in the coming weeks on the Governor's updated website at [www.azgovernor.gov/cyf](http://www.azgovernor.gov/cyf).

7. Outcomes of Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence

Teresa Grantham provided a brief summary on the outcomes of the 2007 Walk to End Domestic Violence, held on April 28. She stated that the Active.com donation center will remain open for donations through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Donations are being accepted the following ways: online through Active.com, mailed directly to the Arizona Foundation for Women, or hand delivered on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Foundation office. Ms. Grantham stated that due to weather conditions on the day of the event, many people were unable to attend; therefore, many people were also unable to pick up their t-shirts. The last t-shirt pick up will be on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The final data on funds raised from the event will be released in June after the Active.com donation center officially closes. Ms. Grantham added that the Foundation is also asking people to send in pictures from the Walk. They will be using them in the newsletter and posting them on the website. Chair Manross noted that although there was a dust storm on the afternoon of the Walk, the weather was nice by the time the Walk started at 6:30pm. She thanked the members for their participation and support of the event.

#### 8. Legislative Update

Chris Groninger, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, provided an update on domestic violence related items before the State Legislature. She stated Senate Bill (SB) 1006, which would allow DV victims to protect their motor vehicle records from public access was signed by the Governor. SB 1020 requires that sentences given for certain violent offenses committed while incarcerated be served consecutively rather than concurrently. It was also signed into law by the Governor. SB 1424 was also signed and will lengthen the amount of time from five to seven years for the three strikes rule to apply to misdemeanor domestic violence charges. Very significantly, SB 1227 was also passed and signed by the Governor. This bill is the Landlord Tenant Act and was a key goal of the Coalition this legislative term. It allows DV victims to terminate their rental agreements upon notice and demonstration of DV without penalty. At the end of the negotiation process, the Multi-Housing Association was supportive of the bill and helped to lobby for it. The Coalition and the Association are working together now to get information out to landlords and property owners about the new law.

House Bill (HB) 2733, the bill on escrow interest on trust accounts, was not heard in Senate, but it made it through the House. The Coalition plans to revisit this bill next year. It would allow a percentage of interest on escrow accounts to be used to create and sustain a civil legal assistance fund, as well as support housing and affordable housing initiatives. Ms. Groninger noted that this piece of legislation was related to the project selected by the Council for FY08. SB 1021 was refused in the House Judiciary Committee and would have increased and defined the penalties for intentional strangulation and suffocation offenses per domestic violence. This also will be revisited in the next session. HB 2756 would allow victims of DV time off of work without penalty to obtain or retain protective orders. It is awaiting a final read in the House and is expected to pass.

Budget negotiations are ongoing. Both the House and Senate budget versions have \$3 million for new emergency shelter DV beds. The strangulation bill and interest on trust accounts are priorities for next year. The Coalition is getting ready to do their annual legislative priorities survey. Seventy-six percent of respondents last year were from Maricopa County. The highest priority last year was to address the civil legal assistance needs. In every previous year the survey had indicated that the state budget was the highest priority. She asked members to look for the survey, which will be coming out in mid-June.

Last week, the Coalition participated in Crime Victims' Rights week with the Legislature, the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. AzCADV focused on bringing the perspective of DV victims to legislators. The campaign included passing out white flowers for lapels, ribbons provided by Corrections, and time clock stickers with national statistics. On the third day, the Coalition displayed the new silent witness cutouts on the lawn, and gave legislators paper-doll silent witnesses. Every member could be seen with paper-dolls and/on flowers. Chair Manross commented that it is wonderful to see the awareness being raised with legislators. She thanked Ms. Groninger for her hard work.

9. 2007 Regional Human Services Summit

Amy St. Peter presented an update on plans for the 2007 Regional Human Services Update. She stated that the Summit will take place June 7<sup>th</sup> at ASU West from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. She said that Mayor Manross will be speaking in the morning along with Mayor Lopez-Rogers from Avondale and Councilmember Stanton from City of Phoenix. Rick Lowe, founder of Project Row Houses, will be the plenary speaker. Through his project, he combined economic development, art, and housing with great success in Houston. The goal of the Summit is to develop projects that address needs with the resources on hand. Ms. St. Peter asked the Council members to register soon as space is limited to 150 people. Costs are kept low due to sponsorships from DES, APS, SRP, Value Options, ASU, and the Council of Human Services. She stated that the registration form can be downloaded online. Christy Moore asked how many registrants had signed up for the DV breakout sessions. Ms. St. Peter replied that DV and the civil legal system had low registration and she did not know the status for DV and homelessness offhand. Ms. St. Peter encouraged members to sign up soon if they are interested in either of these two topics.

10. Stakeholder Groups Updates

Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) Youth Policy Stakeholder Group

Ms. St. Peter provided the update from the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholder Group. They completed the public service announcement (PSA) competition in March. She said the winning entries would be shown in a few moments. First, the Council was asked to review and approve the Frequently Asked Questions, or FAQ, about reporting teen dating violence. The purposed for this piece of the project is to let teens know how to report violence and what the consequences might be in order to help them be more comfortable coming forward, rather than putting up with abuse. Once complete, the FAQ will be added to the Web of Friends site. To date, feedback about

the site has been very positive and many people are using it. She referred members to the FAQ and asked if there were any changes.

Councilmember Betty Lynch suggested defining mental abuse in the first paragraph because it is so prevalent and not as easy to see as physical abuse. Ms. St. Peter agreed and said that the FAQ could begin with definitions of the different kinds of abuse, then move on to the questions and which types of abuse can be reported. Chris Groninger noted that the legislature may eventually revise the DV definition to include dating relationships. Ms. Grantham noted that the final product will be distributed online only, so it will be easy to update as needed.

Councilmember Phil Lieberman said the FAQ was very well done and suggested that it be disseminated widely to all the schools. He moved to approve the FAQ with the suggested revision. Councilmember Betty Lynch seconded the motion. The FAQ was unanimously approved. Councilmember Lynch asked that the FAQ be distributed to the municipal youth councils and Councilmember Lieberman suggested distribution in elementary schools.

Councilmember Trinity Donovan asked if there were anymore Web of Friends promotional cards available. Ms. Grantham said there are none left at the moment, but 10,000 more have been ordered. They should arrive in about two weeks. Staff is keeping of list of requests that will be filled when they arrive.

Ms. St. Peter noted that the PSA competition was recently completed and a public recognition event was held for the winners at the Harkins Theater in the AZ Mills Mall in late March. She thanked the sponsors of the project and the event, including the Governor's Office, Value Options, Harkins Theaters, and the Phoenix Suns. She then played the first, second, and third place storyboard PSAs for the Council. In introducing the video PSA winners, she thanked Councilmember Donovan who connected staff with Rick Engellman, the media arts teacher at Chandler High School. All of the video entries came from this school. MAG will professionally produce the first place winner in the video category, which is the next step in the project. The Council then viewed the three winning video PSAs.

Ms. St. Peter explained the feedback received through message testing the video PSAs with youth focus groups. The high school group was dominated by boys and they clearly preferred the second place winner. Their suggestions to improve the first place winner were: to add more people so dating violence looks more common, improve the music, make it faster paced and more exciting. Ms. Grantham noted that the junior high aged group liked both the first place and second place winners. Their suggestions for improving the first place entry were very similar. Chair Manross said she liked the music, but would suggest adding to the final text frame "for peer support and information." She also would not recommend having the shadow hitting scene in live action. Councilmember Lynch agreed that it is better to keep that scene in shadow because that is where DV and dating violence happens – in the shadows.

Laura Guild asked if staff showed all three PSAs to the focus groups or just the first place winner. Ms. Grantham explained that all three video entries were shown. The groups were not told which won first, second and third place until after the feedback was received. She added that staff is now seeking a school to re-shoot the first place winner and she asked any members that have connections at schools to please contact her. The first choice date for the re-shoot is May 25, but if that is not possible, May 21, or May 16 or 17 in the morning would also work.

11. Comments from the Council

JoAnn Del-Colle announced that Dr. Anu Partap, a former member of the Council, had her baby yesterday after a difficult pregnancy. Both mother and baby are fine and her new daughter is named Aria.

Chair Manross thanked everyone for coming and for their input. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 12. She asked anyone that knows they cannot be here to please inform staff as soon as possible.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next Regional DV Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.