

MINUTES OF THE  
MAG REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 2, 2015  
MAG Office Building, Ironwood Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Celeste Adams, Save the Family            | Elizabeth Herbert, City of Chandler        |
| * Zach Altman, City of Gilbert            | Prosecutor's Office                        |
| Prosecutor's Office                       | * Lynette Jelinek, City of Glendale Fire   |
| Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of          | Dept.                                      |
| Apache Junction, Vice Chair               | * Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic,     |
| # John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's | Area Agency on Aging                       |
| Office                                    | # Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, Inc.  |
| Candice Hewitt for Libby Bissa, City of   | Councilmember Suzanne Klapp, City of       |
| Phoenix Family Advocacy Center            | Scottsdale                                 |
| John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal  | # Lauren Valencia for Councilmember        |
| Justice Commission                        | Sheri Lauritano, City of Goodyear          |
| * Chief Steve Campbell, City of El Mirage | * Gabriel L. Lopez, City of Phoenix Police |
| Police Department, Chair                  | Department                                 |
| Serene Carney, Apache Junction Police     | * Gerardo Pena, Chicanos por la Causa      |
| Department                                | D.C. Ernst for Kerry Ramella, Phoenix      |
| * Michael Celaya, City of Surprise        | Fire Department                            |
| * Councilmember Samuel Chavira, City of   | Councilmember Terry Roe, City of           |
| Glendale                                  | Chandler                                   |
| Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's   | * Councilmember Lynn Selby, City of El     |
| Office                                    | Mirage                                     |
| Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City  | Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa        |
| of Tempe                                  | Police Department                          |
| # Maria Garay, Sojourner Center           | # Kathleen Sullivan, Town of Gilbert       |
| Donna Gardner, City of Avondale           | # Yvonne Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End  |
| Amy Offenbergl for Will Gonzalez, City    | Sexual and Domestic Violence               |
| of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office            | Vice Mayor Cecil Yates, Town of            |
| Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic    | Fountain Hills                             |
| Security                                  | Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal          |
|   | Services                                   |

\* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

# Attended by telephone conference call.

+ Attended by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Bordelon, City of Phoenix  
Jordanna Burkett-Crist, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Chief Paul Chagolla, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office  
Suzie Checkett, Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Judge Elizabeth Finn, Glendale City Court  
Teresa Fyffe, Phoenix Prosecutor's Office  
Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Bill Hart, Arizona State University, Morrison Institute  
Rosalie Hernandez, A New Leaf  
Judge Clancy Jayne, Maricopa County Justice Courts  
Alex Lestinsky, City of Goodyear  
Kim MacEachern, Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council  
Carl Mangold, Private Practice  
Anna McCray, City of Apache Junction  
Doreen Nicholas, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Iva Rody, El Mirage Police Department  
A. Sharon Taft-Wood, Private Practice  
Sandy Toale, A New Leaf  
Hilary Weinberg, Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Renee Werner, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office  
Rachel Brito, Maricopa Association of Governments  
Amy Robinson, Maricopa Association of Governments  
Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Robin Barker, Vice Mayor, City of Apache Junction, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Vice Chair Barker welcomed attendees to the meeting, and asked the committee members and attending audience to introduce themselves. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Regional Domestic Violence Council on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Vice Chair Barker requested audience members not exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

Hearing none, Vice Chair Barker moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Approval of the Regional Domestic Violence Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Barker called for any revisions and approval of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes from February 5, 2015. Hearing none, Vice Chair Barker entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice Chair Yates, Town of Fountain Hills, made a motion to approve the minutes. JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, seconded the motion. All voted and the motion passed.

#### 4. Committee Structure

Vice Chair Barker introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG. Ms. St. Peter asked those present to think back to where they were on January 27, 2000. Ms. St. Peter noted that current committee member Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, was present at the first meeting of the Regional Domestic Violence Council, and thanked Ms. Guild for her continued membership. Ms. St. Peter went on to note that historically the committee has had no structure to guide membership, and past membership has been derived from a number of disciplines. Those disciplines include police, prosecution, local businesses, faith based agencies, medical professionals, victim advocates, shelter and service providers, as well as government.

Ms. St. Peter expressed that the lack of structure has made it difficult to manage incoming membership requests, which are approved by the MAG Regional Council Chair. Ms. St. Peter emphasized that a membership structure is not meant to be restrictive, but is necessary due to logistical issues such as obtaining a quorum. Ms. St. Peter asked the committee to provide feedback on who should be on the committee, how many should represent each agency and what the criteria would be for determining multiple representation.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission asked if there were a particular reason that the businesses fell off, noting that some are still active in other committees. Ms. St. Peter noted that the council used to have Arizona Businesses Against Domestic Violence, but that group was transitioned over to the Arizona Foundation for Women. Ms. St. Peter explained that originally the committee had several focus areas which led to a varied membership, but as the focus areas changed, the membership changed with it. Ms. St. Peter gave the example that approximately four years ago there was a large focus on work with youth made possible by an Innovation Funding Grant from the Governor's Office, but the funding was not continued. The current source of program funding, a STOP Violence Against Women Grant from the Governor's Office on Children Youth and Families, had led to a criminal justice focus. Ms. St. Peter emphasized that the current source of grant funding is not the sole determination for the committee's focus, noting that there are funding opportunities, as well as involvement opportunities that do not require grant funding.

Ms. St. Peter also noted that varied focus areas can still be housed in sub-committees or work groups, referencing a previous work group focused on partnerships with healthcare providers, Health Cares about Family Violence. Ms. St. Peter explained these work groups are

determined by need and what is focused on by the committee is equally as important as who comprises the committee's membership, as each affects the other.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, asked Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, for her input on the committee structure as an original member. Ms. Guild expressed agreement with statements made by Amy St. Peter, MAG, noting that what she personally found to be the key purpose was that MAG is a forum where all the different city and towns could get together for a coordinated response. Ms. Guild went on to say that before any membership could be structured, the important first step would be to reassess the mission of the committee.

Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department, said that the mission of the council should be focused on prevention, which starts with school youth. Chief Stahl shared a story of prevention efforts he was a part of in the past, explaining the way programs with school youth were handled, and how school staff were trained. Chief Stahl expressed his sadness that the schools were not currently represented on the council.

Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services, called attention to the successes of the council, noting her appreciation for the coordination of regional protocols and the response to the way domestic violence cases are handled in the region.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, addressed the committee's comments stating that the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence is a part of the committee's mission noting the upcoming agenda item to discuss the annual update to the Regional Plan. Ms. St. Peter also noted that the Regional Plan will be reviewed for opportunities for areas of focus and membership. Ms. St. Peter mentioned that other tools such as the planning matrix from the Roundtable event held in December of 2014 would also be referenced when looking to establish committee structure.

Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security asked if the membership structure would be prescriptive. Amy St. Peter, MAG, explained that the structure would need to be prescriptive, yet due to the shifting focus areas would need to have some flexibility. Ms. St. Peter then asked the committee for their opinions on multiple memberships. Vice Chair Robin Barker said that it is important to consider the perspective of potential members noting that they may represent different goals or ideals while representing the same agency such as someone representing both a police department and the medical profession. Chief Steve Stahl added that the structure should take into consideration the composition of the smaller work groups to ensure that those who become involved, stay involved.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, then asked the committee for their opinions on term limits, and committee size. Vice Mayor Cecil Yates, Town of Fountain Hills, asked if there were other MAG committees that could be used as a guide when determining structure guidelines. Amy St. Peter, MAG, explained that there are some similar structures at MAG which have also undergone membership restructuring. Vice Mayor Yates, suggested looking to the other MAG committees as well as local and national Human Service committees. John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, added that he would like to see the medical profession

brought into the committee. Mr. Belatti explained that in his work with the East Valley Fatality Review Team has encountered several situations where it would have been beneficial to have an established relationship with the medical community. Ms. St. Peter thanked Mr. Belatti for his comments.

Ms. St. Peter, MAG, summarized the committee's comments noting that suggested agencies for membership would include representatives for the medical profession, Immigration and Naturalization Service or the consulate. It was also noted that it is important to keep the work mission focused, and maintaining the regional diversity, and maintaining law enforcement involvement. There was little support for term limits, and multiple representation for an agency would be considered if the representatives held differing perspectives. Also important was the need to utilize work groups for agencies not involved in the primary area of focus in order to maintain member involvement, and to conduct national research and literary review. Ms. St. Peter thanked Vice Chair Barker and the members of the committee for their input.

Vice Chair Robin Barker, Vice Mayor, Town of Apache Junction informed the council that Pinal County in its entirety is now a part of the MAG region, and asked Amy St. Peter, MAG, if Pinal County Agencies would be offered committee membership. Amy St. Peter, MAG, indicated that all Pinal County Agencies would be offered the opportunity. Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa added that as a part of Pinal County, he does take the work of the Regional Domestic Violence council back with him to disseminate at the Pinal County Law Enforcement Association meetings. Vice Chair Barker, asked Chief Stahl how the information was received, and Chief Stahl expressed that it is very well received. Chief Stahl added that Pinal County Guidelines very closely follow the Maricopa County Protocols.

Amy St. Peter asked the committee for volunteers to staff a membership sub-committee. Chief Steve Stahl, Maricopa Police Department; Maria Garay, Sojourner Center; Kathleen Sullivan, Gilbert Police Department; JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission; and Vice Chair Robin Barker, Vice Mayor, City of Apache Junction, volunteered to staff the membership sub-committee.

Judge Clancy Jayne, Maricopa County Justice Courts, added that Justices of the Peace have not previously been involved in the committee, citing it as a missed opportunity. Judge Jayne stated that the majority of orders are issued by the Maricopa County Superior Courts, and that many of these orders are not successfully served. Judge Jayne mentioned that there were significant system gaps that could be better addressed by bringing the Justice Courts to the table. Judge Elizabeth Finn, Glendale City Court, mentioned that there is a need to bring Justices of the Peace to the table, however there is an ethical conflict preventing sitting judges from participating in any committee that endorses a protocol. Judge Finn continued stating that although participation in the Regional Domestic Violence Committee is not possible, that there are other opportunities through community partnerships and grant funding opportunities to continue to drive the work to end domestic violence. Judge Finn offered the committee an example citing her successes working in Glendale to institutionalize a high lethality advocate position.

Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, asked if it would be possible for Judge Finn to sit on the committee as a non-voting member or if that would constitute an ethical dilemma. JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, asked if there was a governing body that could be approached for representation. Judge Finn reaffirmed that she would be unable to sit on the committee, but can still be a part of work groups in the vein of administration of justice, and dissemination of information.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, again thanked the committee members who volunteered to participate in the membership sub-committee and informed the council that any decisions would be brought before the committee for approval. Vice Mayor Barker thanked Amy St. Peter, MAG, and moved to the next agenda item.

#### 5. Annual Report

Vice Chair Barker invited Amy Robinson, MAG, to provide the committee with a report on the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report. Ms. Robinson explained the report addresses progress on the previous year's plans while outlining goals for the current year. The most recent annual plan was written in 2010 and annual reports are based on the fiscal year. Ms. Robinson stated that the plan is based on 15 different focus areas including sustainable funding, community engagement, prevention, protocol review, coordinated response and meeting housing needs among others. Ms. Robinson informed the committee that she would be reaching out to obtain prescribed updates, and asked if there was anything committee members would like to include in the annual report.

Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, stated that he would need more time to review previous reports. Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department asked if Ms. Robinson if she was looking for information from Fiscal Year 2014 or Fiscal Year 2015. Ms. Robinson replied by stating that the report was for Fiscal Year 2015 which started in the summer of 2014 and will continue until June 31, 2015. Vice Mayor Yates, Town of Fountain Hills, asked if the 2014 Annual Report was available online, Vice Mayor Barker reported the reports are available on the MAG website.

#### 6. Request for Quotations

Vice Chair Barker again welcomed Amy St. Peter, MAG, to address the council. Ms. St. Peter informed the council that the Request for Quotation had been issued, and asked for the committee's assistance in promoting the Request for Quotations to experts in local law enforcement. Ms. St. Peter went on to explain that a background in records or database management would be strongly beneficial. Ms. St. Peter added that because of funding constraints the work of the consultant must be completed in the calendar year.

Ms. St. Peter then asked the committee for volunteers to staff a review panel to assess the submissions once received. Once the consultant is selected, Ms. St. Peter informed the committee that she would then again seek their input to direct which individuals are contacted

by the consultant for interviews. Ms. St. Peter explained that the consultant would be conducting interviews in order to map the existing system, and cannot do so without the knowledge and expertise of current practitioners. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter requested that any forms used to facilitate the transfer of information be provided to the consultant as well in order to obtain the most accurate systems map as possible, as the process varies from one municipality to another.

Once the system has been mapped, Ms. St. Peter explained that the consultant would present viable solutions to address gaps and challenges identified by the consultant, and members of the committee would also help implement the solutions.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, asked for clarification on whether the consultant would be selected from the quotation submissions. Ms. St. Peter responded that the consultant would in fact be selected from the submitted quotations, adding that local expertise is needed. Ms. St. Peter informed the committee that the deadline for submissions would be 12:00 noon on Friday, April 24, 2015, noting that no late submissions would be accepted.

#### 7. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Presentation on Gender

Vice Chair Barker introduced Doreen Nicholas, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. Doreen Nicholas provided the committee with a brief presentation on Gender Sensitivity and Neutrality. Ms. Nicholas noted that strategy eleven in the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence is creating an ideal model for culturally competent prevention and intervention services, which discusses plans being underway to meet the needs of the Gender and Sexual Minority Community through housing services.

Ms. Nicholas noted that the discussion of the committee's history had brought back many memories, including the need for culturally competent services.

Ms. Nicholas mentioned that changes to the language contained in domestic violence statutes which removed the opposite sex relationship criteria, enabled law enforcement to act in a more culturally competent way. However, shelter and support services have taken much longer to adopt culturally competent policies. Ms. Nicholas emphasized the need to assess why services and shelters have not all instituted these inclusive policies.

Ms. Nicholas informed the committee of the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence's Gender and Sexual Minorities Committee, and invited those in attendance to join. Ms. Nicholas mentioned that the committee has discovered that there is a lack of information leading to stereotypes and misconceptions about the gender and sexual minority community, which ultimately hinder access to service.

Ms. Nicholas informed the committee that she would be providing an in-depth presentation at the next MAG Brown Bag Training Series, "Service Provision for Gender and Sexual Minorities and Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence". The presentation will discuss the difference between sex and gender, appropriate and respectful language, myths and

misconceptions, and understanding gender identity. Ms. Nicholas concluded by asking those in attendance whether or not they would be interested in attending the Brown Bag Training, and a majority of attendees indicated they would be interested in attending.

Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, asked what the target audience for the training would be. Amy Robinson, MAG, responded that this would be an inclusive multi-disciplinary training open to victim advocates, shelter and service providers, prosecutors, court staff, law enforcement, and the public. Vice Chair Barker thanked Ms. Nicholas for her presentation, emphasizing the importance of a culturally competent model.

#### 8. Felony Protocol Model

Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, provided the committee with an update on the Felony Domestic Violence Protocol Model. Mr. Eliason informed the committee that the updated Felony Protocol Model had been released and is available to view and download on the County Attorney's web page. Mr. Eliason demonstrated where on the webpage the protocol could be found, and mentioned the Child Abuse Protocol would be revised in 2016. Mr. Eliason noted that the Domestic Violence Protocol was last revised in 2005. The current revisions were collected through community meetings and a SharePoint site. Mr. Eliason mentioned that the biggest change made to the document was the focus on strangulation, with the addition of a dedicated chapter of the protocol.

Mr. Eliason mentioned that the protocol is a living document which will be updated again in the future. Presently the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is focusing on stalking, and expects to see revisions to the protocol in that area in the future. Mr. Eliason thanked the members of the committee for their dedication to the revision of the document.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission thanked Mr. Eliason and the County Attorney's Office for doing such a wonderful job on the revised protocol. Chief Steve Stahl, City of Maricopa Police Department, offered congratulations and asked Mr. Eliason if there would be training provided on the changes in the protocol. Mr. Eliason mentioned that no trainings are currently planned, but he would look into the possibility of coordinating some. JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission suggested checking with the Legal Advisors Group to facilitate the training. Chief Stahl, added that for smaller communities without victim advocates would be greatly affected by the changes to the protocol. Mr. Eliason thanked Chief Stahl and Mr. Blackburn for their comments, noting that he agreed speaking with the Legal Advisors Group would be a good opportunity.

Kim MacEachern, Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council (APAAC), offered to help disseminate the information through her organization. Mr. Eliason noted that he had spoken with another individual from APAAC, and plans for a training were underway. Amy St. Peter, MAG, added that the Misdemeanor Protocol Model will also be reviewed and potentially revised to ensure it aligns with the Felony Protocol Model as closely as possible, and would present any potential revisions to the committee for approval.

Vice Chair Barker thanked Mr. Eliason for his update, and proceeded to the next agenda item.

9. Success Stories

Vice Chair Barker invited the Council to share recent stories of success. Hearing none, she moved to the next item on the agenda.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Barker asked the Council for any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas.

Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, mentioned that there were two items he wished to discuss. The first being that the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is seeking to develop a partnership with a City Prosecutor's Office for a pilot program. The second topic Mr. Eliason wished to address was that there is a new program in Tucson which focuses on following up with recently released offenders to do compliance checks. Reports indicate a sharp drop in recidivism rates, and Mr. Eliason indicated that plans are underway to investigate the possibility of replicating the program here in Maricopa County.

JR Blackburn, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, added that the program sounded highly beneficial, and he would like to see it happen here. Amy St. Peter, MAG, noted that she and Amy Robinson, MAG, had met with Sergeant Terry Parish, Pima County Sheriff's Office to discuss the compliance checks program. During that meeting Sgt. Parish mentioned that the victim recantation rate had dropped significantly, and victims were feeling more protected than they had previously. Amy St. Peter, expressed that having such a program here would be very impactful.

Doreen Nicholas, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, echoed support for the program noting that it would increase offender accountability as well as victim safety. Judge Elizabeth Finn, Glendale City Court, informed the council that she does not support the program as it is currently due to the inability of patrol officers to verify that the release orders they are checking up on are still current and have not been amended, as the release orders are not stored in a central repository that is maintained to ensure accuracy. Judge Finn added that Glendale Court is interested in developing an electronic repository and transmittal system, but that they need IT support to make it a reality. Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, affirmed that the necessary information is not electronically available. Amy St. Peter, MAG, confirmed that Tucson is currently using a very paper heavy process. Ms. St. Peter also offered the use of MAG IT staff to assist with creation of this database and transmission system, and asked to speak with Judge Finn after the meeting. Renee Werner, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, added that some information about release conditions is available from the Victim's Notification Office at the County Sheriff's Office. Judge Finn, Glendale City Court, added that the issue is not only access to the information, but to ensure the information is accurate.

Iva Rody, El Mirage Police Department, added that there may be some benefit in considering the reports from the Valley's Fatality Review teams to inform the work. Carl Mangold, Private Practice, mentioned that the Tempe Chief of Police invited the new Arizona Attorney General to a meeting and discussed having a representative of the Attorney General's Office participate in the Domestic Violence Council Meetings.

Hearing no additional comments, Vice Chair Barker proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

#### 11. Comments from the Council

Council members were given the opportunity to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Domestic Violence Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless a specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Vice Chair Barker asked if there were any comments from the council. Hearing none, she moved to the next item on the agenda.

#### Adjournment

Vice Chair Barker thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2015.