

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL & CONTINUUM OF CARE
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MINUTES

DECEMBER 6, 2007

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Chairperson
Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
- *John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission
- *Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center
- *Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- *Suzanne Cohen, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- Councilmember William Conner, El Mirage
- *JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
- Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler
- Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- *Cindy Hallman, Marley House
- Councilmember Brenda Holland, Goodyear
- Linda Melendez for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise
- *Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Department, Vice Chair
- Dennis Davis for Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department
- *Candace Johnson, Prehab of Arizona
- Sarah Youngblood for Lillian Johnson, Community Legal Services
- *Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
- Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
- Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale
- *Jodi Beckley Liggett, Arizona Foundation for Women
- Councilmember Betty Lynch, Avondale
- *JoEllen Lynn, American Express
- Kendra Leiby for Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- *Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office
- Stephanie Olohan for City of Goodyear
- Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
- Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
- John Pombier, City of Mesa
- DC Ernest for Kerry Ramella, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
- *Sandra Renteria, Phoenix Police Department
- *Tina Solomon, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office

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

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERS

ATTENDING:

- Councilmember Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Chair
- Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services
- *David Barnhouse, Governor's Office
- Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
- Brad Bridwell, U.S. Vets
- *Kathryn Brown, Arizona Department of Corrections
- Kendra Cea, APS
- Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
- *Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
- Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
- Billie Cawley for Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus
- Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries
- Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services
- Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
- *Annette Stein, Maricopa County Human

Way

Erik Strunk for Councilmember Steve Frate, Glendale
Maricela Flores for Arjelia Gomez, Chicano por la Causa
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Vice Chair
*Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise

Services

Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates
* Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

OTHERS PRESENT

Christine Anderson, St. Vincent de Paul
Mike Bell, St. Vincent de Paul
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Chris Fike, Elim House
John Rowan, Goodyear Police Department
Frances Ortiz, Jewish Family and Children's Service
Kay Radwanski, AZ Supreme Court
Jessica Deutsch, United Methodist Outreach Ministries
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocate for the Disabled
Amy Meyertholen, Catholic Charities
Lorie Simms, Chrysalis
Barbara Jones, Surprise Police Department
Julia Matties, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
Kay-Willow Kaemmerr, Southwest Behavioral Health Corporation
Christy Gibbons, HomeBase
Les Presmyk, Town of Gilbert
Michele Lechuga, Family Connections
Lesa Gladston, Family Connections
Lindsay Simmons, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Mike Levy, NOVA Safe Haven
Elizabeth Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation
Steve Gervais, Pinnacle West
Michelle Thomas, Young Women's Christian Association

OTHERS PRESENT

Lousie Johnson, Eve's Place
Gail Loose, Tumblewee
Linda Dickerson, Department of Public Safety-Victims of Crime Act
Kate Henderson, Department of Public Safety-Victims of Crime Act
Marcie Kay, Glendale Fire Department
Linda Scott, Jewish Family and Children's Service
Christopher Magee, Recovery Innovation of AZ
Fran Garrett, Harmony House
Terri Leveton, Changing Lives Center
Chris Groninger, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education
Amber Moss, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education
Rebecca Flanagan, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Kristen Kennedy, City of Glendale
Bruce Raden, Congress Shadegg
Maribel Castro De Colores
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services
Carolyn Sands, Family Connections
Jovita Hernandez, Family Connections
Margot Cordova, Native American Connections
Pam Johnson, GRIC

1. Call to Order

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council Chair Mayor Mary Manross called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. She welcomed everyone and introductions ensued. MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Chair Councilmember Greg Stanton acknowledged the diversity of those in attendance. He commented on the importance of having a mixture of elected officials, nonprofit providers and others coming together for collaborative efforts focused on homelessness and domestic violence issues. Councilmember Stanton gave a brief overview of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and its responsibilities, including coordination of the HUD application. He commented that the region has received more than its fair share of homeless services funding due to the professionalism of the MAG staff and Continuum of Care members.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Facilitated Paired Discussion

Chair Stanton introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who facilitated an Appreciative Inquiry exercise with committee members. Members of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council paired up with members of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for one-on-one interviews highlighting their successes in working with domestic violence and homeless related issues. Ms. St. Peter thanked both the committees attending and others for the experience and knowledge they brought to the meeting. She then led the group in a brief Appreciative Inquiry exercise with the goal of learning more about each other and sharing stories of successes in the area of homelessness and domestic violence. Ms. St. Peter explained Appreciative Inquiry as the study of what gives life to human systems when they are at their best to harness strengths and maximize benefits. Committee members interviewed each other using specific questions regarding their participation on either the Regional Domestic Violence Council or the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness, and what resources they brought to the committee either as a member or a non-member.

Ms. St. Peter led a group discussion on peak experiences. Examples of peak experiences shared by the group included working on an ordinance for orders of protection, having a forum for discussion, working with members in the community who are compassionate, the Continuum of Care's role in collaborating with other entities to address heat-related deaths in the community, and engaging youth through youth councils, Web of Friends Web chat, the Youth Empowerment Project Public Service Announcement (PSA) Competition and annual homeless street counts and the homeless immersion project.

Ms. St. Peter asked the group for discussion on what is working well in the community. Examples that emerged were working together as a team, receiving support on these issues from the cities, the diversity of the group, and the passion people bring to the table.

Ms. St. Peter continued the discussion with wishes for the groups. The following examples were presented: focus on the impact of homelessness and domestic violence on child welfare, counseling, parenting skills, focus on the need for more funding for domestic violence providers, the development of transitional housing, more affordable housing, additional services for homeless men, women and children, greater awareness of the success and outcomes of each of the committees, more emphasis on prevention, funding for sustainability, more support from the business community, a centralized calendar for all human services, continued use of media, more creative leadership.

4. Program Model: Shelter Without Walls

Chair Manross introduced Linda Scott, Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS), who provided a presentation on services provided to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and homelessness through the Shelter Without Walls program. Ms. Scott provided an introduction to the program. JFCS has served the community since 1935. In 1998, the Shelter Without Walls Program was developed to provide non-residential services throughout Maricopa County. The program is staffed by three domestic violence advocates. The program includes two components: a phone service and wrap around services. The program currently provides services for 250 families. The program doesn't provide shelter, but partners with the City of Phoenix to provide clients with shelter for up to one year. Mentor programs are provided for up to a year.

Ms. Scott explained that Shelter Without Walls provides domestic violence victims and survivors with an array of resources. Funding is available to assist with down payments and security deposits for securing housing. The program strives to assist families in maintaining a sense of normalcy while taking actions to leave an abusive situation. Many of the program's clients choose not to enter a residential shelter because they don't want to take their kids out of their schools or lose their employment. The program serves both men and women survivors.

Ms. Scott commented that homelessness is a real threat for those who are trying to leave an abusive household. Many victims will return to their abusive situation repeatedly because they don't want to leave their home and their sense of security. Victims typically don't leave their situation when they lack money, transportation and they don't want to take their children to a shelter. Victims will often have to leave with nothing.

Ms. Scott added that foreclosures are also a real threat to women who choose to stay in their homes. She stated that 50 percent of surveyed cities reported domestic violence as a cause for being homeless. These individuals and families need

assistance in finding permanent safe harbor. Ms. Scott shared her support for creating a community wide response, which has begun through this joint meeting. Moving forward, Shelter Without Walls plans to assist people with accessing affordable housing, expand its prevention programs and work with teens on developing healthy self-images.

5. Immersion and Awareness Activity Presentations

Chair Manross, introduced Steve Gervais, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, who reported on his recent homeless immersion experience at Steele Commons, a permanent supportive housing program. Mr. Gervais said that his experience was very meaningful and he was very impressed with the Steele Commons model. Mr. Gervais explained that he didn't feel comfortable pretending to be homeless so he went into the experience as an observer. During his experience, he explored the intake process, talked with people living at Steele Commons, and became familiar with what it might be like to be going through the programs offered by the provider. He commented that his experience made him realize that anyone could become homeless. He added that he was very impressed throughout his entire experience with the level of genuine concern and commitment by staff. Mr. Gervais said that he wanted to explore other ways that the business community could become involved. He emphasized that he is encouraged by the work being done by the providers and that a lot can be accomplish by working together.

Chair Stanton reported that he took part in a homeless immersion experience of his own in 2005. He said that he felt that taking part in a homeless immersion experience was key to bringing the issue of homelessness to the community, especially to increase public awareness on the solutions. Chair Stanton added that community leaders are being asked to take part in the immersion experience so that they can better understand the issues that exist for people who are experiencing homelessness and hopefully become more involved. He said that he hopes that the discussion of the immersion experiences will encourage others to participate in their own personal homeless immersion experience in an effort to bring the attention closer to home.

Chair Manross explained that she also participated in an experience. She spent time observing staff at United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM) New Day Center complete a discovery interview with a homeless family that had experienced domestic violence. She said that the experience opened her eyes and provided her with insight to what it might be like to be a victim of domestic violence and also be homeless. She further explained that the client she observed was a mother of three children who were all under the age of 20 months. She added that many services were available but the mother still didn't have clothes for an interview or transportation to get her kids to daycare so that she could go on a job interview. Chair Manross emphasized that the staff person leading the interview did a wonderful job helping the mother gather resources and find support but that it was clear that there was a transportation barrier. She expanded that there is a need for public education of the issues in order to be successful in breaking the cycle. Chair Manross thanked the providers for their

great work and the respect they bring to their jobs. She suggested that members of the legislature take part in an immersion experience.

6. Program Model: United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM) New Day Center

Chair Manross introduced Darlene Newsom, Executive Director of UMOM New Day Center, who presented on the shelter's services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and homelessness. Ms. Newsom said that she runs a program located at 34th Street and Van Buren and an overflow shelter in the downtown area. She said that there is currently a waiting list for childcare. She added that their program was awarded faith-based funding set aside by the governor's office for 56 individuals. She said, in her opinion, shelter is important but the most important tool are the wrap around services her program for homeless families. Ms. Newsom stated that they conducted a survey asking for feedback on services that are needed for people experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. The survey revealed that the services needed for people experiencing domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness are basically the same. She said that the two committees can make a big difference for families in need.

7. Discussion on Successful Models for Individuals and Families Experiencing Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Chair Manross explained that the purpose of the discussion on successful models for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and domestic violence is to highlight elements that can be replicated regionally. However, due to lack of time, she suggested that this agenda item be postponed to another meeting.

8. MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council 2008 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Chair Manross presented a draft quarterly meeting calendar to the MAG Domestic Violence Council for approval. The calendar includes dates for 2008 meetings, as well as tentative topics to be discussed at the meetings.

Chair Manross called for a motion to approve the 2008 Domestic Violence Council calendar. Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale, moved to approve the motion. Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. The 2008 quarterly meeting calendar was approved as presented.

9. Comments from the Regional Domestic Violence Council and Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

None were made.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The MAG Human Services Networking Event followed with regional human services resources and the opportunity to network from 3:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.