

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2008**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix, Chair  
Roberto Armijo, Community Information & Referral Services  
Kim Hohman for David Barnhouse, Governor's Office  
\*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way  
\*Brad Bridwell, US Vets  
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections  
Kendra Cea, APS  
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Eric Strunk for Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember  
\*Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-Vice Chair  
\*Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
\*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department  
\*Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities  
David Bridge for Mike McQuaid, HSC  
Gina Ramos-Montes, City of Avondale  
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries  
Connie Stepnitz for Brenda Holland, City of Goodyear, Councilmember  
Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services  
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family  
\*Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS  
Jacki Taylor, ACEH  
\*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates  
\*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Supervisor  
Elizabeth Morales for Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation  
\*Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Nancy Barkley, MAG  
Sheila Bates, House of Refuge East  
Mike Bell, St. Vincent De Paul  
Jessica Berg, Lodestar DRC  
Tim Cole, City of Phoenix  
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the Disabled  
Elizabeth Cranmer, Area Agency on Aging  
Bahney Dedolph, Catholic Charities  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Randy Gearhart, Phoenix Shanti  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
Nancy Gerlach, Lodestar DRC  
Christy Gibbons, HBYS  
Sherry Gray, SBH  
Walt Gray, St. Vincent De Paul  
Donna Greenspan, Chrysalis  
Andy Hall, DES  
Gwen Henderson, WINR  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Jeff Jamison, City of Phoenix  
Christopher McGee, Recovery Innovations of Arizona  
Brande Mead, MAG  
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County  
Joe Razo, Basic Mission  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Michelle Thomas, YWCA

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Donald Keuth called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No audience comments were made.

3. Approval of the January 28, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Keuth called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2007 meeting minutes. Mike McQuaid made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Elizabeth Morales seconded the motion; the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. 2008 Homeless Street Count

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented the results of the January 29, 2008 street count. Ms. Mead explained that all 25 municipalities participated in the homeless street count. Ms. Mead said there was a total of 2,426 homeless men, women and children found during the street count. She added this was an overall decrease of 15 percent from 2007 to 2008. She said 71 percent of the people found were located in the city of Phoenix. Phoenix had a 23 percent decrease from 2007 to 2008. Ms. Mead said it is important to consider other factors like the weather in looking at the results of the homeless street count. It rained several days leading up to the street count and many encampments were washed away from the rain. She explained this may have pushed people out of areas that are normally heavily populated. Ms. Mead continued another factor was there were several new volunteers and coordinators this year and this may have impacted the count.

Ms. Mead stated the homeless street count results were presented to the MAG Intergovs earlier in the month. Ms. Mead said there was also a homeless shelter count that took place on January 29<sup>th</sup> as well, the shelter count was coordinated by the Department of Economic Security (DES). Ms. Mead introduced Mattie Lord, DES, who spoke about the results of the shelter count. Ms. Lord stated that 4,458 homeless men, women and children were counted in the Emergency and Transitional shelters on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Darlene Newsom asked if numbers from the Arizona Department of Education have been considered to determine the number of people who are doubling. Ms. Lord said she would contact the Department of Education and see if it is possible to get those numbers. Jacki Taylor commented it was concerning to see the count numbers decreased since many homeless shelters are always running at capacity. Ms. Lord responded that people are being shifted from emergency to transitional and ultimately into permanent housing. Vice Chair Keuth thanked everyone for their support and hard work and participation in the Homeless Street and Shelter count.

5. 2007 HUD Application Federal Feedback and 2008 Application Process

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented feedback gathered from the 2007 HUD application. Ms. Mead reported that 49 projects were awarded funding. She added that the highest Continuum of Care score was 94.5 and the funding

line was 90.25. She continued several continuums did not meet the funding line and therefore not awarded their funding. Ms. Mead stated the MAG Continuum score was 92.25, 2 points over the funding line. She said the Continuum scored 8 out of 8 in the planning and structure area. Housing and service needs scored 11.75, which shows we did well. In the area of strategic planning the score was 8.5 out of 10; she indicated this could be an area for improvement. She continued scoring for removing barriers was 15 out of 18 and 9 out of 12 on housing emphasis.

Ms. Mead added last year the Continuum was closer to the funding line, this year showed an improvement. However, the competition is becoming increasingly more competitive and it is necessary the Continuum continues to show improvement.

Ms. Mead provided an update on the 2008 application process. She indicated the process will be much later this year because HUD is moving toward an electronic application process. She said HUD expected to hold trainings in April and May and the NOFA should not be released any earlier than July 1, 2008. Ms. Mead suggested for all potential applicants to obtain the Duns and Bradstreet number and register with the Central Contract Registration online. She added Letters of Intent are due to MAG by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

6. HUD McKinney-Vento 2008 Application Ranking and Review Process

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Theresa James, City of Tempe to discuss the 2008 local HUD application review process. She asked for feedback from the committee on ways to improve the process and make it more meaningful. Ms. James some suggestion were to look at performance indicators from the APR's, look at dollars allocated to each project compared to the dollars used by the project and to look at each project's goals. She explained the Planning Subcommittee discussed these evaluation areas and talked about streamlining the local process. She said the Planning Subcommittee also discussed looking at projects that are not performing well and offering them technical assistance. She said if performances did not improve after a significant amount of time and help, funding may be allocated to another project.

Ms. Newsom commented many clients are receiving disability and are not employable. She indicated her concern over their performance on employment. Ms. Morales said in the area of cost effectiveness of the grant, sometimes fund utilization can be difficult. She suggested the review committee look at the type of funding source and how it is managed. Amy St. Peter explained John Epler, MAG Consultant, is currently providing technical assistance to agencies in hopes to improve their performance for this year. She added MAG will host a workshop in the next month to provide agencies with assistance so the Continuum can improve as a whole.

Amy St. Peter stated there are some areas for improvement. She said the Continuum needs to be aware of how to help the projects that are not doing well or how to replace those projects with ones that are performing well to stay competitive in the HUD application process. She added a committee vote will be needed to approve the evaluation process. Vice Chair Keuth stated it is important for the Continuum to give

projects the ability to make improvements but it is also important for the Continuum to score well overall. He requested members who have other suggestions or comments to please relay them to MAG staff to improve the application process.

7. Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness State Agency Improvements and Barriers Discussions

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Darlene Newsom, UMOM, who provide an update on the process of gathering feedback from the Continuum on State agency barriers and improvements for the Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness. Ms. Newsom referred to a handout that documented all of the feedback gathered over email and at the Planning Subcommittee meeting. She said the areas were narrowed down to 10 at the state level. She indicated representatives are gathering feedback from each of the three Continua's in the State and the feedback will be presented to the Interagency Council.

8. Regional Plan Stakeholders Group Update

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Brand Mead, MAG, who provided an update on the progress of the Regional Plan. Ms. Mead said the Stakeholder's group has been meeting monthly working on developing action steps for the plan. Ms. Mead said the focus areas are on communication and collaboration, housing and support services, prevention, leadership and community support and funding. The goal of the stakeholders group is to have the draft plan done by June of 2008.

Ms. St. Peter thanked Mike McQuaid for donating funds to provide lunch for the four hour long Stakeholder's meetings. Ms. Mead said the Stakeholder's group will look at short term and long term goals and the overall vision of the Continuum. She said the Stakeholder's group will be looking at a timeline and a roadmap to the future broken down into months and years. She added Implementation Teams will be put together to focus on a specific areas once we complete the plan and begin the implementation phase. Ms. Mead indicated the next Stakeholder's meeting is on Friday and encouraged members to participate.

9. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, who provided a legislative update on issues related to homelessness. Ms. Taylor said that as of Friday the leadership is coming close to the end of the state budget discussions and it does not look good. She had heard the housing trust fund is slated at a \$10 million cut. She said that the one million dollars may be safe, but the general assistance is up for grabs. Ms. Taylor said the 2009 budget is looking at a \$1.6 billion dollar deficit and is growing. She added the need to hold firm to the principle to not compromise the cuts to the social services budget. While demand continues to increase and Congress is considering appropriations there is a need to infuse funding into our state. She continued there is a need for at least two-billion in funding while the state is slated for only \$1.6 billion. Ms. Taylor encouraged member to have a voice for the people who have no voice.

10. Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination Conference

Vice Chair Keuth introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who informed the committee on the Housing and Transportation conference. Ms. St. Peter announced MAG is hosting a Housing and Transportation Conference at the Desert Willow Conference Center on April 8, 2008. She said speakers are flying from Washington DC as well as local experts to discuss how to better plan for housing and transportation. She added the Arizona Community Foundation is providing scholarship for this event. She encouraged everyone to sign up for the conference adding the purpose of the event is to look at how we can better serve our clients.

11. Announcements

Ms. Morales announced ABC is hosting a housing together network, to build a stronger network of developers and providers. She also announced there will be a walk this Saturday for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She asked members to contact her if they are interested in walking

Ms. Taylor announced the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness will host the third annual Spring Fling and silent auction in April 2008. She encouraged members to attend.

Vice Chair Keuth announced this Saturday is Earth Hour Day to focus on the issue of global warming. He said Phoenix is taking part, residents and businesses are encouraged to turn out their lights off for an hour from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MAG.