

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CONTINUUM OF CARE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
October 6, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember, City of Phoenix,  
Chair  
\*Roberto Armijo, Community Information &  
Referral Services  
David Barnhouse, Governor's Office  
Brad Bridwell, US Vets  
\*Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections  
\*Kendra Cea, APS  
Amy Schwabendlender for Trinity Donovan,  
Valley of the Sun United Way  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember  
\*Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye  
\*Dina Higgins, City of Mesa  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-  
Vice Chair  
\*Stephanie Knox, Magellan Health  
\*Mark Ludwig, AZ Department of Housing  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department  
\*Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities  
Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus  
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County  
Gary Zeck for Darlene Newsom, UMOM New  
Day Centers  
\*Joanne Osborne, Councilmember of Goodyear  
\*Gina Ramos-Montes, City of Avondale  
Brenda Robbins, AZ Dept of Health Services  
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family  
Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
\*Margaret Trujillo, MG Trujillo Associates  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,  
Supervisor  
Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health  
Corporation  
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American  
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Levy, NOVA Inc.  
Donna Crews, Advocates for the Disabled  
Dan Massey, AZ Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
Kim Hohman, Governor's Office  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter  
Services  
Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa  
Terry, Araman, Lodestar Day Resource Center  
Ric Garza, City of Tempe  
Bruce Raden, Congressman John Shadeg's  
Office  
John Wall, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
David Bridge, Central Arizona Shelter Services  
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul  
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti  
Stacy Miller, Recovery Innovations of Arizona  
Mattie Lord, AZ Department of Economic  
Security  
Brandee Mead, Maricopa Association of  
Governments  
Andy Hall, AZ Department of Economic  
Security  
Geoff Davis, Southwest Behavioral Health  
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center  
Liz Morales, Arizona Behavioral Health  
Corporation  
Tom Hutchinson, A New Leaf  
Erik Strunk, City of Glendale  
Colleen Byron, Arizona State University  
Karen Emery, Maximus  
Linda Dillard, Goodyear  
Russell Evans, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Dottie O'Connell, Chicanos Por la Causa  
Greg Boone, Labor's Community Service  
Agency  
Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of  
Governments  
\*Those members neither present nor represented by  
proxy.  
+Those members present by audio or  
videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Greg Stanton, called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. He welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Service (CASS), spoke to the committee and provided statistics on the average number of men and women being served through CASS. He stated that he wanted to set the tone for the meeting. Mr. Holleran stated that they are seeing an overflow of men sleeping in the old CASS parking lot. The current conditions, market place events and onset of winter have them questioning at what point the shelter should limit the number of people sleeping in the parking lot. Mr. Holleran stated that many other service providers are dealing with similar situations in their own area of specialty. He stressed that they are very concerned because there is a greater demand for services and fewer resources.

3. Approval of the June 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Chair Stanton called for a motion to approve the June 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Councilmember Steven Frate, City of Glendale, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Michael McQuaid, Human Services Campus, seconded the motion. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. 2008 HUD Project Recommendations and Application Update

Brandee Mead, MAG, thanked all of the applicants for doing a great job on the 2008 HUD collaborative application process. She said there have been some changes to the electronic system and it is a long process but it is going well.

Ms. Mead discussed the 2008 HUD Stuart B. McKinney Project Recommendations. She thanked the Valley of Sun United Way and specifically Amy Schwabenlender for facilitating the process. She stated that the Ranking and Review Committee serves an important role in selecting the new projects being recommended to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funding.

The Ranking and Review Committee recommended three new projects for funding: Arizona Housing Inc.'s Vista Commons which is a Samaritan Housing Initiative providing eight housing units; Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation's PSH 2009 which is a leasing project for fifty housing units; and UMOM New Day Center's Next Step Housing which is a Rapid Re-housing/Transitional Housing project.

There were also 50 renewal projects recommended. However, renewal projects did not go through an extensive ranking process, as did the new projects. The new and renewal project recommendations represent a total of \$24,344,959 being submitted to HUD for consideration. This is an all-time high for the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness.

The next item discussed was the unmet need for 2008 determined by the Gaps Analysis Working Group. On August 18, 2008 the Gaps Analysis Working Group

met to review the homeless indicators for 2008 such as the number of people doubled up, overflow shelter numbers, number of clients calling in to the CONTACTS shelter hotline as well as the unmet need of those not able to find housing through the hotline. After the homeless indicators were presented and in-depth discussion, the Working Group made their unmet recommendation. Ms. Mead referred members to the handout reflecting the 2008 unmet need totals. The Working Group recommended that the unmet need totals reflected in the 2007 HUD application remain the same in all categories with the exception of Permanent Supportive Housing. The Permanent Supportive Housing unmet need for 2008 is recommended to increase to 3,000 beds for individuals and 3,000 beds for families.

Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County, asked whether or not the CASS overflow numbers were taken into consideration in the emergency bed count. Ms. Mead confirmed that they were considered.

Chair Stanton, as well as other committee members, commented that the numbers do not capture what is happening on our streets currently with the economy in the state that it is in. Amy St. Peter, MAG noted the concern from committee members and asked if they wished to make changes to the numbers. She stated that the community is seeing a lot of new people that are facing homelessness and improvements are not expected due to the economic forecast.

Chair Stanton stressed that we want to be as accurate as possible and questioned whether or not there is any flexibility in adjusting the numbers. Vice Chair Donald Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, suggested the committee propose a percentage increase to the recommended unmet need totals. He added that anything less than 20 percent may be too small of an increase.

Ms. Mead stated that hard data had been considered in making the unmet need recommendation. However, she added that changes could be made to the recommended number of beds if the committee elected to do so. Ms. Mead stated that the score in this area from HUD is based on the process the committee goes through in making their recommendation, not necessarily on the actual numbers presented.

Theresa James, City of Tempe, asked what the rationale was for not increasing the numbers for emergency and transitional beds. Ms. Mead responded that the Working Group decided to prioritize permanent housing. The rationale is that if the community had increased permanent housing beds, then clients could move through the system creating space in emergency and transitional beds. Amy St. Peter advised that the online application deadline has been extended from October 16, 2008 to a later date in October so the Working Group would have time to meet again if the Committee elected to do so.

Liz Morales, ABC, suggested that the Continuum determine whether to prioritize emergency beds or permanent housing beds.

Ms. Mushkatel suggested that if each category were increased proportionally, the philosophy would not have to change; the more people on the streets, the more that are in need for the next level of housing.

Ms. St. Peter advised that it would be a policy decision if the committee wants to prioritize permanent housing versus transitional housing or emergency shelter. It would be a different policy decision if the committee wants to increase all three areas. However, if all three areas are increase by 20 percent each, the committee will need to be prepared to defend the numbers to HUD.

Vice Chair Keuth clarified the direction for the Working Group to go back and look at the numbers again with focus being on the crisis of the economy and the likelihood that more people may experience homelessness. Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, suggested that the committee move quickly to reconvene the Working Group and revise the numbers given the economy and the increased numbers at CASS.

Brenda Robbins, Arizona Department of Health, made a motion to reconvene the Gaps Analysis Working Group to reconsider the numbers with the new information provided today. Amy St. Peter advised that approval from the Steering Subcommittee or approval from the whole Continuum of Care would be required. Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections Inc., seconded the motion and added that executive approval of the revised recommendation would satisfy the Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Stanton summarized that the committee will take another look at the numbers and adjust as necessary and then forward for Steering Subcommittee approval.

Ms. Mead reviewed the results of the handout on MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness 2007 Achievements. She then gave an overview of the goals and action steps identified for discussion and noted that the Committee is presenting the item for review and action.

The committee discussed whether or not the goals are realistic. There was concern that areas such as employment may be problematic given the current economical situation.

The committee discussed changes to the proposed numeric achievements in the following area: increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 19 percent, and decrease the numbers of homeless households with children.

Vice Chair Keuth expressed concern that the Continuum may not be able to meet the 12-month goals given the state of the economy. He suggested holding steady in some areas.

A committee member asked what the implications would be if we fall short of our expectations. Ms. Mead stated that the Continuum is expected to at least meet the national objectives. She added that implications are unknown if the five year and ten year goals are not met.

Committee members asked if there is a place for narrative on the goals and action steps. Ms. Mead replied there is not.

Ms. Robbins, Arizona Department of Health Services motioned to approve the actions steps with modifications made by the Committee. Councilmember Frate, City of Glendale, seconded the motioned and it passed unanimously.

**HUD 2008 Continuum of Care Action Steps**

**Create new PH beds for chronically homeless persons**

Action Step 1: Create 51 new PH beds for chronically homeless persons through the Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation PSH 2009 project.

Action Step 2: Allocate at least \$1 million of HUD funding each year for PH beds for chronically homeless individuals.

Action Step 3: Create eight new PH beds for chronically homeless persons through the Arizona Housing Inc. Vista Commons project.

**Proposed Numeric Achievement**

Timing	New Beds	Total Beds
Baseline (current level)		654
Numeric achievement in 12 months	58	712
Numeric achievement in 5 years	200	912
Numeric achievement in 10 years	250	1,162

(Average of 50 new beds per year.)

**Increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in PH over six months to at least 71.5 percent.**

Action Step 1: Projects falling below 71.5 percent will receive technical assistance to improve their percentage to meet or exceed HUD's national objective and a corrective plan will be developed. In 12 months, the project will be re-evaluated by MAG staff. Progress made on the corrective plan will be considered and the project will either be taken off probation, kept on probation or funding will be reallocated to another project in the Continuum of Care. This will be a Continuum of Care Regional Committee decision.

Action Step 2: During the local application ranking and review process, give five points to agencies that are meeting or exceeding the national goal of 71.5 percent.

Action Step 3: Identify local best practices in homeless persons staying in PH over six months. Hold a training session based on the local best practices for homeless persons successfully staying in PH for over six months.

**Proposed Numeric Achievement**

Timing	Percent
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Baseline (current level)	82%
Numeric achievement in 12 months	84%
Numeric achievement in 5 years	92%
Numeric achievement in 10 years	100%

(Average two percent increase per year.)

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**Increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from TH to PH to at least 63.5 percent.**

Action Step 1: Projects falling below 63.5 percent will receive technical assistance to improve their percentage to meet or exceed HUD's national objective and a corrective plan will be developed. In 12 months, the project will be re-evaluated by MAG staff. Progress made on the corrective plan will be considered and the project will either be taken off probation, kept on probation or funding will be reallocated to another project in the Continuum of Care. This will be a Continuum of Care Regional Committee decision.

Action Step 2: During the local HUD application ranking and review process, give five points to projects that are meeting or exceeding the goal of 63.5 percent. This will encourage applicants to increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from TH to PH.

Action Step 3: Identify local best practices in moving people from TH to PH. Hold a training session based on the local best practices for TH providers on successfully moving clients from TH to PH.

**Proposed Numeric Achievement**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Baseline (current level)	64%
Numeric achievement in 12 months	66%
Numeric achievement in 5 years	72%
Numeric achievement in 10 years	82%

(Average two percent increase per year.)

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**Increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 19 percent.**

Action Step 1: Identify at least three best practice strategies from projects that have a high success rate of homeless persons exiting with employment. Provide specialized technical assistance based on the best practices to applicants performing below 19 percent.

Action Step 2: During the local HUD application ranking and review process, give five points to agencies that are meeting or exceeding the national goal of 19 percent.

Action Step 3: Connect 200 individuals with employment through the employment center at the Lodestar Day Resource Center.

**Proposed Numeric Achievement**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Baseline (current level)	43%
Numeric achievement in 12 months	44%
Numeric achievement in 5 years	45%
Numeric achievement in 10 years	50%

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**Decrease the numbers of homeless households with children**

Action Step 1: Add 80 units for homeless families through the implementation of a Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Project.

Action Step 2: Expand Project Homeless Connect to take place at least quarterly throughout Maricopa County.

Action Step 3: Develop a cross-referral process that shortens the wait time homeless families have to enter shelter and ensures shelter placement is most appropriate in meeting their needs.

**Proposed Numeric Achievement** (Based on the number of families from the point-in-time count)

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Families</b>
Baseline (current level)	711
Numeric achievement in 12 months	711
Numeric achievement in 5 years	533
Numeric achievement in 10 years	267

5. Arizona Committee on Youth Homelessness

Mattie Lord, Arizona Department of Economic Security, discussed the Arizona Committee on Youth Homelessness. She said a small group came together six months ago and with a lot of passion and energy and the group began to grow. Ms. Lord asked for interest in chairing the committee and received response from Richard Geasland, Kevin Jackson and Nancy Panico. The committee now has 43 members with good statewide representation and includes three members from the Governor’s Youth Council.

Five priorities were identified at the September 3, 2008 meeting. The priorities established as well as the subcommittee meeting dates are listed on the Arizona committee on Youth Homelessness handout.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. at the Department of Economic Security.

6. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, provided a report of local events scheduled for the week of November 16-22, 2008. Some of the events planned are an Awareness Walk to the Capitol with Food Drive for Desert Mission, St Mary’s Food Bank Alliance, and United Food Bank, a Food Stamp Challenge and Faces of Homelessness Speaker’s Bureau.

A bookmark listing the planned events on one side and quotes from individuals who have overcome homelessness on the reverse side will be available. Brande Mead, MAG, will also be putting together a community wide calendar of events. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16 at 9 a.m. at the Valley of the Sun United Way.

7. Homelessness and Domestic Violence Collaboration Stakeholders Meeting Report

Brande Mead informed the committee that in June and September domestic violence

service providers and homeless providers met to discuss issues affecting both groups. The goal was to develop cross referral process that will shorten the time to enter into a shelter and to make sure individuals are entering the most appropriate shelter to meet their needs.

In June, emergency shelter providers came together to talk about the strengths of the current system, challenges, and improvement that can be made. They met again in September to look at process and discuss steps in moving forward. It was determined that the next step would be to develop a matrix of shelters and to improve the current referral system such as with training on appropriate ways to handle domestic violence calls through the CONTACTS shelter hotline.

Ms. Mead continued that a joint meeting between the MAG Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness is scheduled for December 4, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Mead asked the committee for their feedback on the process so far as well as for suggestions on topics and a location for the upcoming meeting.

Ms. Yazzie Devine suggested having the meeting at Native American Connections; the location holds about 75 people.

8. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Funding Discussion

Chair Stanton commented on the importance of this issue and making sure Arizona gets its fair share of LIHEAP funding. He stated that from the \$129 billion in emergency federal funding, Arizona received only \$390,000. This meant Arizona ranked third or fourth from the bottom of state funding. He said the Arizona Congressional delegation wrote letters asking for additional support. However, he added, that most of the money is allocated to the east coast due to the colder weather. He stated that Congress did pass a continuing resolution on the budget and he believes that Arizona will get more money than in past years if it holds.

Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, stated that the President signed a continuing resolution on September 30, 2008. Because of this, Arizona is due to receive \$28 million in additional LIHEAP funding. She added that across the country, the program is serving an additional two million people.

9. Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Update

Jacki Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, talked about the critical issue of the state of the state's budget shortfall. She stressed that these are unprecedented tough times and encouraged members to advocate for human services. She stated that the government is projecting a shortfall of \$800 million but in reality it could be even higher. Ms. Taylor asked that members remain engaged in this issue and suggested that they watch for advocacy alerts and are active this year in advocacy. She concluded that there is a need to work for simple preservation of the current health and human services budget, not increases.

Ms. Taylor distributed a brochure for The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness: Imagine HOPE: Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere. The conference is scheduled for October 27-28, 2008. Participation and attendance is strongly encouraged.

10. Announcements

Ms. Yazzie Devine asked who would be attending the next Arizona Town Hall meeting. Chair Stanton advised that the meeting is November 2, 2008; three members from the committee will be attending. Ms. Yazzie suggested that members work together on a collective agenda for the meeting and coordinate those efforts through Brande Mead, MAG.

Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, advised that they would run out of funds that help keep people housed by assisting with rent or utilities. Essentially, they will have used all of the funds within a six-month time period as opposed to it lasting twelve months in previous years.

Chair Stanton commented that Phoenix would receive about \$39 million in funding through the foreclosure bill. The amount is formula driven and Phoenix will be receiving the third highest amount in the country. He said the funds will be used to acquire housing in order to stabilize neighborhoods.

Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department, advised that the Magellan Inter-agency Council met last July. The next meeting will be November 12, 2008. He stated that additional details will be sent to members soon.

Theresa James, City of Tempe, encouraged members to participate in the next Tempe Project Homeless Connect on October 24, 2008.

Ms. Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way, mentioned the next North Phoenix Project Homeless Connect and encouraged members to participate in that as well.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at Maricopa Association of Governments in the Saguaro room.