



**Minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting with Local Coalition Leads**

January 19, 2017

*PRESENT:*

- Karia Basta (ADOH)
- Joy Johnson (ADOH)
- Glennifer Mosher (ADOH)
- Michele Meyerkorth (ADOH)
- Candee Stanton (Consultant)
- Cindy Furrh (Apache/Navajo)
- Ella Mercer (Apache/Navajo)
- Kathy Calabrese (Cochise)
- Sandi Flores (Coconino)
- Valarie Donnelly (La Paz)
- Jennifer Burch (Mohave)
- Terry Baughn (Mohave)

- Suzanne Payan (Pinal)
- Eliza Louden (Yavapai - Verde Valley)
- Erin Cochran (AZCEH)
- Shantae Smith (CIR)
- Michelle Thomas (CIR)
- Adriane Clarke (DES)
- Alfred Edwards (DES)
- Betsy Long (DES)

*ABSENT:*

- Nick Wood (Yavapai - Prescott)
- Brenda McAdams (Yuma)

Karia Lee Basta welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

Karia explained once again the reasons for the reorganization of the BOSCO. Mainly, reduction in homelessness is not as substantial as it needs to be. The numbers show it. We have five (5) years of data and the number of people experiencing homelessness has not decreased at a significant rate. It appears we are not working as collaboratively in our communities as we need to be in order to bring these numbers down. Lack of affordable housing, rents going up, having to adhere to low FMR's are some contributing factors.

Karia also asked, "What do you need to get out of these meetings to take back to your communities to help end homelessness?" The following was voiced:

- Contacting the LIHTC properties to see if they would be able to “overlook” previous felonies. Is there a way to do an amendment or supply a letter of recommendation to the property owners to see if this guideline could be “relaxed”? We need landlord advocacy.

*Action Item: Invite Tom Simplot to the April meeting.*

- The connection made as a whole to communicate, network, and discuss what is working, what is not working, and having other areas share best practices.
- The strategic plan has the local continuums working on the common goals of the state. Having goals and benchmarks gives direction.
- Sometimes we get too busy trying to fit people into the “box” and we get “strangled” by the bureaucracy. HUD has a one (1) size fits all philosophy that does not work. There is more power in groups.
- Would it be possible for DES to get feedback from the communities it serves when creating RFPs? Even though it is governed by procurement for the RFPs, DES would like to receive feedback and staff will be going out to the communities to see what works and what does not.
- The behavioral health system is extremely overtaxed. Homeless shelters seem to be devalued. The process to house a person is complex.
- It would be beneficial for the State to come out to other locations (i.e. Yuma, Flagstaff) to get public feedback. It is frustrating that CDBG funds are not easily accessible. We each know our own communities better than anyone so we should be able to voice our concerns. La Paz County feels representation is inadequate. Making a living in Coconino County and the lack of affordable housing is causing people to go to Navajo County. Coconino County also has an issue with dynamic pricing (a formula that causes the rental rates to change daily).

Advocacy and networking are the major outcomes of these meetings. If you have suggestions, issues, topics, etc. that you would like to discuss at the quarterly meetings, please let Karia know as these meetings are for you! The support we have from each other and the partnerships we develop will aid us in serving those in need.

It was discussed that AZCEH needs to look at other areas of the state besides Maricopa and Pima Counties. Initiatives need to be statewide. The rural victims of homelessness are not recognized or acknowledged. The rural leaders need to be advocates in getting their people active and show support. Erin of AZCEH reported getting people to register for training is difficult. Trainings (housing based case management, motivational interviewing, coordinated entry) have been scheduled but sessions were cancelled due to lack of participants. The cost can be a burden for the smaller entities in the more rural areas. If we could use a local trainer that might lower the costs.

*Action Item: At the April meeting, discuss doing a focus group on rural issues at the AZCEH Conference in October.*

The expectations of the COC and the requirements under the HEARTH Act were covered. Mohave County would like DES to attend their meetings. The By-Name List, Case Conferencing, and Coordinated Entry all go hand in hand to assist those experiencing homelessness. The contracts with local coalitions need to be finalized and this will set the benchmarks. Coordinated Entry is important as this will assist in serving the clients. How it works is a local decision but HMIS, VI-SPDAT, and referrals in HMIS must be used.

Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and Gila Counties are not represented here. We have done a PIT Count for the past five (5) years and these counties have reported numbers. Do we have any information on tribal numbers? Do they participate in the PIT Count? No. With twenty-two (22) tribes, it is too difficult to get a count organized. Most of the tribes do belong to the ITCA. We would like to see the tribes engaged.

Sandi shared how Coconino County is using Coordinated Entry. They use a two (2) front door entry - individuals and families - and work with local churches, shelters, etc. to get people into the system. Coconino County has buy-in from the community leaders stating funding will not be given if Coordinated Entry is not done.

*Action Item: Sandi will share the forms she uses.*

Connecting entities engaging with those that are resisting is important. A discussion is needed with the RHBA's on how the money is distributed and is there an expectation to enter into HMIS. If behavioral health has housing dollars, how do we ensure we are not serving the same clients? This is where Case Conferencing comes into play.

*Action Item: Invite Joann Hatton from AHCCCS and Patti Scott-Lopez from Cenpatico to the April meeting.*

Using the core competencies of Diversion, Motivational Interviewing (getting the individual engaged to get "honest" answers) and VI-SPDAT are an essential part of Coordinated Entry. We need to expand the tools and training to be successful.

*Action Item: Navigation training can be provided by the AZ Coalition for Military Families.*

If training is provided, lots of notices (at least six (6) weeks) is needed with a reminder sent at three (3) weeks. More use of technology (webinars, Skype, etc.) is also needed.

*Action Item: Karia and Erin will work together on scheduling training. Trauma Informed Care was a suggested topic.*

### DES:

Alfred stated DES wants to do the right size/right fit with RRH. Up to one-hundred percent (100%) rental assistance is available for the first three (3) months. Just because you have the ability to assist, that does not mean you automatically give the full amount for the three (3) months. Assistance may be given for up to nine (9) months with special consideration for up to twelve (12) months. Progress with individual's stabilization must be evident for the additional assistance. Betsy is committed to getting out and meeting with the communities. Sandi is spearheading coordination with the RRH providers to develop standards so all providers are administering RRH the same. The ADOH Participant Survey has been merged with the DES Participant Survey so be sure to use this combined form. This form needs to be completed monthly for DES and quarterly for ADOH.

### HMIS:

The System Performance Measures are reports that are run by ADOH or CIR. Measure 4 is only for HUD funded projects. As the local COC leads, access is needed to the entities in their geographic areas to view the report cards. This data can be used to encourage improvement or share best practices. Being really good at ninety-eight percent (98%) is not the goal; one-hundred percent (100%) needs to be the goal. There is a Coordinated Entry Training Video available (named Case Management: 203). When ServicePoint 6 comes out in a few months, new training will be provided. Please be sure you are using Version 2 of the VI-SPDAT.

*Action Item: VI-SPDAT training needs discussed at the April meeting as a refresher is needed.*

Candee reviewed the Meeting Roster form. Please do not change the format. The template for the Strategic Action Plan mirrors the document with the HEARTH Act information. Use this as a guideline for activities. Each local COC needs to complete a Strategic Action Plan.

*Action Item: Submit your Meeting Roster form to Candee ([candee.stanton@gmail.com](mailto:candee.stanton@gmail.com)).*

*Action Item: The Strategic Action Plan for each local continuum is due by the July meeting.*

*Action Item: Candee will include the local leads when sending the surveys for the sheltered count as the local leads might be able to assist in getting data.*

The meeting was adjourned and a thank you and wishes for safe travels were extended.