Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2026

This meeting was conducted in person and virtually.

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Tamara Bridwell, Maricopa County	Not Present
Tim Burch, Co-Chair, City of Tempe	Present
Councilmember Wally Campbell, City of Goodyear	Not Present
David Crummey, PNC Bank	Present
Elizabeth da Costa, AHCCCS	Present
Jason Flam, City of Mesa	Present
Friend Kenny, Youth Action Board	Not Present
Emma Garcia, Valley of the Sun United Way	Not Present
Councilmember Doreen Garlid, City of Tempe	Not Present
Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, City of Phoenix	Not Present
Gabriel Jaramillo, Vitalyst Health Foundation	Present
Benjamin Jeffrey, MACV Foundation	Not Present
Matthew Kelly, Co-Chair, Mercy Care	Present
Tianna Matthews, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office	Not Present
Rachel Milne, City of Phoenix	Not Present
Gabe Priddy, Phoenix Rescue Mission	Not Present
Arianna "Nikki" Ramirez, Copa Health	Present
Amy Schwabenlender, Keys to Change	Present
Nathan Smith, CASS	Present
Amy Sullivan, City of Peoria	Present
Charles Sullivan, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation	Present
Maria Wildey, Community Bridges, Inc.	Present

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) Board was called to order by Co-Chair Kelly at 1:33 pm. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum of members was present.

2. Call to the Audience

Co-Chair Kelly asked MAG staff whether any public comments had been received. MAG staff confirmed that there were no public comments received and no one had offered public comments at that time.

3. Appeals Submitted for Local Applicants

On June 29, 2026, the Board approved the scorecards and priorities to support the Rank and Review Committee (RRC) to develop a recommended list of local applications for the 2026 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The local application process opened on July 1, 2026, and closed on July 24, 2026. The RRC initially met from August 5 to 7, 2026, to score applications, interview new applicants, and develop a priority listing. Rank and review was suspended when HUD suspended the 2026 NOFO on August 7, 2026. Upon re-release of the NOFO on September 18, 2026, the RRC reconvened on September 22, 2026, to prepare final recommendations, and the Board approved the priority listing that same day. On September 24, 2026, UMOM New Day Centers (UMOM) and Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI) each filed appeals of the priority listing. Per Board policy, the Board's Appeals Committee reviewed both appeals on the morning of September 25, 2026, and presented recommended changes for the Board's consideration and final approval.

Natalie Davenport, MAG Senior Planner, presented the Appeals Committee's findings and two proposed priority lists for Board consideration. The Appeals Committee was composed of three non-conflicted board members: Amy Sullivan (City of Peoria), Benjamin Jeffrey (MACV Foundation), and Elizabeth da Costa (AHCCCS). The re-released NOFO carried a submission due date of September 30, 2026, creating a compressed timeline for the Board's action.

Regarding the UMOM appeal, the Appeals Committee found merit in two scoring errors in sections B3 and B4 of the Permanent Housing Renewal Scorecard. MAG reviewed and corrected the methodology, applying score updates to all affected projects; six projects in total had scores impacted, with changes ranging from zero to six points. The corrected scores did not alter the overall ranking order previously approved by the Board. The Appeals Committee also found merit in UMOM's concern that the Board's stated priority to place one Family Permanent Housing project in Tier 1 may not have been fully addressed by the RRC, and brought that question to the full Board for determination rather than resolving it at the committee level.

Regarding the CBI appeal, the Appeals Committee unanimously denied it. CBI's CFH Transitional Housing Program's costs were found to be approximately four times the average of comparable projects at full budget, and approximately twice the average when Supportive Services were excluded, raising cost reasonableness concerns consistent with HUD's published standards. Accepting the CBI project would have displaced four other projects, and the RRC was found to have acted within its purview in applying cost reasonableness as a factor in project placement.

The Appeals Committee presented two options for Board consideration. Option 1 retained the original approved ranking order with only the corrected B3/B4 scores applied. Option 2 additionally moved the UMOM Next Step Housing 3 project to Tier 1 to more directly satisfy the Board's Family Permanent Housing priority, which would require moving the A New Leaf Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing project to Tier 2. Natalie Davenport clarified that under Option 2, JUSTA Center, the only sober living project meeting HUD's definition, could still be funded, and the revised list represented a potential net gain of up to 70 beds compared to the original RRC list (a possible increase of 55 rapid rehousing units and 15 transitional housing units, contingent on applicant acceptance of proposed budget reductions).

Board discussion addressed several dimensions of the two options. Members asked whether there would be any net loss of funding between Tier 1 and Tier 2 under the revised list; Natalie Davenport explained that transition grants cannot modify original budgets, but new and renewal projects can accept budget reductions, and that the revised list allowed full use of Tier 1 with a comparable approach at the bottom of Tier 2 for Mercy House Living Centers. Co-Chair Kelly asked whether UMOM and Mercy House Living Centers had been consulted about proposed budget reductions; Natalie Davenport confirmed those would be proposed changes and that the applicants had not yet been asked. Members also asked for a practical assessment of how much of Tier 2 would be funded. Natalie Davenport presented a slide showing total CoC funding available for the competition at $4.4 billion and explained HUD's intended funding order: CoC planning grants, Tier 1 new and renewal projects, DV Bonus projects, permanent housing for families, and the transitional housing and supportive services-only set-aside — after which a deficit was anticipated, meaning Tier 2 projects beyond the set-aside were unlikely to receive funding. A Board member asked whether the sober living project's position had changed under the revised list; Natalie Davenport confirmed it had not, and that its placement in the consolidated application reflects the CoC's ranking rather than HUD's funding decision.

Discussion also addressed whether the Board's original priority to place one family permanent housing project in Tier 1 was satisfied by a domestic violence-specific family project or required a broader family permanent housing resource. Elizabeth da Costa argued that restricting the Tier 1 family resource to a domestic violence-only program would leave the Family Housing Hub waitlist without a general CoC referral resource for families not in a domestic violence situation, and that the current NOFO's DV Bonus project category already provides a separate pathway to build domestic violence capacity. Amy Sullivan noted that the corrected scores did not change the overall ranking order the Board had approved just days prior, and expressed concern that reordering the list created a risk of additional appeals and funding deficits in Tier 1 and Tier 2.

Prior to the vote, Co-Chair Kelly identified the following members as conflicted and asked them to refrain from voting: Nathan Smith, Amy Scwabenlender, Nikki Ramirez, Maria Wildey, and Charles Sullivan.

Elizabeth da Costa moved to approve priority list number 2, the Appeals Committee's recommended revised priority listing, adding the UMOM program to Tier 1 and adjusting the listing accordingly. Gabriel Jaramillo seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Co-Chair Tim Burch, David Crummey, Elizabeth da Costa, Jason Flam, Gabriel Jaramillo, Co-Chair Matthew Kelly, and Amy Sullivan. Nathan Smith, Amy Schwabenlender, Maria Wildey, Charles Sullivan, and Nikki Ramirez recused from the vote. No members voted against the motion.

The Board thereby approved the revised priority listing to be submitted with the region's consolidated application to HUD under the 2026 NOFO. Budget reductions for the added rapid rehousing project and for Mercy House Living Centers are to be proposed to those applicants as part of the consolidated application process. A Board vote on the consolidated application was anticipated on September 29, 2026, with a target submission to HUD that same afternoon.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Kelly confirmed that no other agenda items remained. Co-Chair Kelly acknowledged the Appeals Committee's approximately 3.5-hour meeting earlier that day and thanked Board members, the Appeals Committee, and MAG staff for their work under the compressed timeline of an emergency Friday board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm.

These meeting minutes were initially drafted using artificial intelligence (AI) and have been reviewed, edited, finalized, and verified for accuracy by MAG staff.