

Context on the Speakers' Coalitions

Maricopa County Food System Coalition

Pooja Paode

- Year the coalition started:** 2015
- Why the coalition started:** Food is important here in Maricopa County, the fourth most populous and fastest-growing county in the US. The Maricopa County Food System Coalition (MarCo) was launched in 2015 to collaboratively address food system challenges.
- Current goal of the coalition:** MarCo supports the mission of an equitable, healthy, sustainable, and thriving local food system, currently through the development and dissemination of our regional food assessment.
- What types of entities are members:** Non-profit and foundation leadership (Vitalyst Health Foundation, Valley of the Sun United Way, St. Mary's Food Bank), county agencies (Maricopa County Department of Public Health), municipal staff (City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs), food equity advocates, academics, growers and organizations that support growers (i.e., University of Arizona Cooperative Extension).
- How the coalition operates:** Maricopa County Food System Coalition, or "MarCo", is an independent, voluntary coalition comprised of 225 individuals and 110 organizations advocating for the regeneration and advancement of a community-based food system in the region. We have three support committees (Program Support, Resource Development and Membership, Communications) and three work groups that focus on programmatic activities (Food Assessment Coordination Team – FACT, Policy Work Group, Urban Agriculture Work Group) that meet monthly. We engage in collaborative activities at monthly coalition meetings and use a consensus process to make key decisions.
- Notable successes:** Awarded a grant in 2016 from the Gila River Indian Community to complete the first regional food assessment – the assessment was just completed. Came to consensus on using "community food networks" as a framework to improve food systems across the county. First paid coalition member, the "Food Fellow" was initiated in 2017 and the program is entering its third year. Released multiple reports including a Community Food Networks Report, Community Food Conversations Summary Report, Public Policy Summary Narrative, and Economic Contribution Analysis of On-Farm Agriculture Report. Members of MarCo were a key part of the Local Foods, Local Places EPA grant awarded in 2018.
- Additional context:** As MarCo completes the first countywide comprehensive food assessment, the Coalition has begun its strategic planning process in order to set priorities and objectives for the next 3 years. Our strategic planning efforts will be informed by the food assessment and will be driven by the relationships that MarCo has established through our work.

Treat & Refer Program

Jesus Rivera

Year the coalition started: 2015

Why the coalition started: The program was started to positively impact patient care by providing alternative care options on 9-1-1 calls.

Current goal of the coalition: Our goal is to provide patient safety and quality of care by matching treatment, transport, and care destination options to the needs of the patient.

What types of entities are members: All members of the Surprise Fire-Medical Department participate in the Treat & Refer model which is overseen by our Medical Director Garth Gemar. We are also members of the Community Paramedicine Consortium West which includes key people such as Goodyear Fire Chief Paul Luizzi, Peoria Deputy Chief Jim Bratcher, Dr. Gail Bradley and Melanie Mitros from Vitalyst Health.

How the coalition operates: Our team provides quality assurance to identify necessary improvements while also developing methods to improve the level of training and service delivery to the community. Our program works closely with patients on 9-1-1 scene to assess, identify, treat and refer patients to appropriate resources that can better serve their needs at the time of the call. We work closely with behavioral health, urgent care and other health care entities to ensure proper service is being offered and delivered when appropriate.

Notable successes: We have been able to reduce emergency room utilization by navigating patients to more appropriate entities than can immediately serve their healthcare or mental health needs. We have received positive feedback and have found high success rates with patients involved in the program. We were able to reduce billed medical expenses by an estimated \$2 million dollars through 2018 in the City of Surprise alone.

Additional context: We believe this program is important to the community we serve because it provides value-added options when people call 911 for their medical concerns.

Cover Arizona

Allen Gjersvig

- Why the coalition started:** To inform and educate consumers and application assisters on the Affordable Care Act.
- Current goal of the coalition:** Continue to educate and inform in an ever-changing environment.
- What types of entities are members:** Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers, Maricopa County Public Health Department, Dignity Hospitals, Keogh Health Connection, Women's Health Connection, Empowerment Systems, First Things First, Pima Community Access Program and many, many more.
- How the coalition operates/how members work together:** We strive to provide accurate talking points and messaging about the ACA. The Steering Committee meets monthly, and educational webinars in collaboration with HHS Region IX are offered to anyone who wants to participate. Annually, a four-city tour is staged, and application assisters participate in a day-long educational event in preparation for the Marketplace Open Enrollment period.
- Notable successes:** Cover Arizona offers a single statewide 800 number and an online appointment scheduling system to make it convenient for consumers to find local help.
- Additional context:** Very few states have been successful with forming and sustaining a statewide coalition, several have tried and failed, others managed to operate a coalitional for a few years.

About Community Wealth Partners

Community Wealth Partners is a social impact consulting firm. We partner with nonprofits and foundations to strengthen nonprofit capacity, set strategy and make it happen, strengthen culture and navigate change, and learn and evaluate — all in pursuit of our partners' missions. We work by their side with a spirit of intense partnership to co-create solutions. But we don't stop there: we're relentlessly learning from our partners what it takes to make lasting change and creating resources so others can use those insights.

We were created by the nonprofit Share Our Strength to lift up what's working across the field. After partnering with more than 500 organizations over more than two decades, we know the work of social change isn't easy, but we're seeing partners make meaningful progress in tackling some of today's most daunting challenges.



Check Out Our Resources:

communitywealth.com/resources

Sign Up for Our Newsletter:

bit.ly/CWPnewsletter

Connect with Sara:

Sara Brenner, President
sbrenner@communitywealth.com