

**Maricopa Association of Governments  
Regional Domestic Violence Council  
Appreciative Inquiry Interview Guide – For DV Survivors**

*Conducting the interviews*

Thank you for interviewing people to help develop the next Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence! Your participation will ensure the plan builds on the strengths and successes of the last ten years. This guide will offer tips for the interviewing process.

As the interviewer, your main task is to gather detailed stories, quotes and ideas. Please take notes about the interviews and submit them by **January 29, 2010**. Experience shows it will be harder to remember the important details as time passes.

Please schedule the interviews as soon as possible. In-person interviews are ideal for gathering information and building relationships. If you are faced with the choice of conducting an interview by phone or not conducting it at all, please feel free to improvise as needed.

Here are some tips on how to conduct an effective appreciative interview. Please contact Renae Tenney at [rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov) or at (602) 452-5041 with any questions. Please send in your interview notes by **January 29, 2010**, by email, fax: (602) 254-6490, or mail to 302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Thank you again!

*What to do if people refuse to be interviewed*

If someone prefers not to be interviewed, please offer to send them the questions so they can respond on their own. It may help to let them know that an interview will take no more than 45 minutes to one hour of their time.

*Tips*

- Use the DV Survivor Interviewer Guide while conducting the interviews with survivors of domestic violence. Space is provided after each question for you to take notes and some question prompts are provided to assist you during the interviews. The more highlights recorded, the richer the story is when analyzed with others. Do not take verbatim notes.
- Be genuinely curious about the interviewee's experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
- Please review the interview questions before you start. It helps to be familiar with the specific language and the flow of the questions.
- If people want to think about their answers, please give them the option of looking over the questions in advance of your interview.
- Here are some possible questions to use in follow up to encourage deeper sharing by the interviewees:
  - Tell me more.
  
  - Is there an example? How did the story begin?

- Why do you feel that way?
  - Why was that important to you?
  - How did that affect you?
  - What was your contribution?
  - What was the organization doing that helped you achieve this?
  - What do you think was really making it work?
  - How has it changed you?
- Let the interviewee tell his/her story. Please do not tell your story or give your opinion about the interviewee's experiences.
  - Listen for meaningful quotes, stories, positive experiences and visions for the future. Take notes in ways that help you to remember the highlights, the quotable quotes, mini-stories, major themes/concepts.
  - Some people will take longer to think about their answers than others. Allow for silence.
  - If somebody does not want or cannot answer any of the interview questions, it is okay to let it go.

**Maricopa Association of Governments  
Regional Domestic Violence Council  
Appreciative Inquiry Interview Questions - DV Survivor**

**Name of Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Interviewee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Interview:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in this interview process. As someone who has been personally touched by domestic violence, you can play an important role in identifying what is most helpful to those leaving a violent situation. Thank you for your willingness to share your experience so others may receive the help they need to be safe.

Although changes have been made in addressing domestic violence in our community, there is still a lot of work to be done. Information is being gathered from survivors of domestic violence as well as professionals helping those currently experiencing domestic violence to help identify what is already being done well and what should be done in the future. Thank you for participating in this effort.

Services for Domestic Violence

- 1) Tell me about a positive experience in which one or more systems you accessed for help were responsive to your needs. Examples of systems include criminal justice, law enforcement health care, community organizations, and/or faith communities. What happened in this experience? What made it positive for you?
  - What did the organization or agency do to make this positive outcome possible?
  - What did you do that helped achieve this positive outcome?

2) What would you say were the *three most important* things that helped you stabilize after the abuse?

3) Imagine it is four years from today and the three most important things that helped you are available to all women who experience domestic violence. What has changed?

4) Was it difficult for you to access shelter or services? What helped you to connect with these resources?

5) Can you describe a time when your abuser was held accountable for his/her actions? How was your abuser held accountable? What happened?

- What did the organization or agency do to make this positive outcome possible?
- What did you do that helped achieve this positive outcome?

Prevention of Domestic Violence

6) What is being done the best in our community to prevent domestic violence?

7) What three wishes do you have for the way domestic violence survivors are served in Arizona? What three wishes do you have for preventing domestic violence in Arizona?

Additional Comments

8) Is there anything else you would like to share?

Please contact Renae Tenney, MAG Human Services Planner I, with questions at [rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov) or 602-254-6300. Interview notes should be sent to Renae by **January 29, 2010** via email, fax (602-254-6490), or mail (302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003).

**Thank you!**