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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Homeless Youth Committee

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### November 5, 2010 Minutes

Co-Chairs: Irene Timms and Laurie Mazerbo

<b>Next Meeting:</b> December 3, 2010, 9:00 – 10:00 pm CUP, 3552 N. Stone Avenue
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<b>Report to TPCH General Meeting</b>
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| ■ Event results; school liaison interaction |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Kathy Wooldridge moved and Lucia Ortiz seconded that the minutes of the October meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.** .

2. **Old Business.**

- **Awareness Event.** Kathy Wooldridge distributed copies of the flyer for the November 13<sup>th</sup> Home Is Where The Art Is Event. Participants discussed arrangements and catering payment (to be completed today).
  - **Next step.** a.) Members will distribute the event flyers.
    - b.) Laurie and Kevin will pick up the event meal about 4:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the event and deliver it to Skrappy's.
    - c.) Kevin will arrange for water pick-up or delivery.
    - d.) Youth On Their Own (YOTO) will deliver sodas at Skrappy's the day before the event.
    - e.) Kathy will check with Skrappy's partner Whole Foods about providing desserts for the event.
- **School liaisons.** Mary Beth Santillan, McKinney-Vento liaison for the Amphitheater School District, said that she will lunch with other McKinney-Vento liaisons and invite them all to participate with the committee and TPCH at that time. It was suggested that the two groups routinely share information electronically.

Participants reviewed the general requirements of the HEARTH Act for increased collaboration among service agencies and schools.

Participants recounted that calls from schools are sometimes from school personnel who are not familiar with local services and reflect a lot of misinformation among school personnel.

Jayne Song-Gin said that YOTO has volunteer liaisons in the schools and that they will hold their quarterly meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 -10:30 a.m., at the Catalina High School wellness center. All community partners from the committee are invited to attend and speak with the YOTO liaisons about their referral processes and available services. Mary Beth noted that she heard that Gospel Rescue Mission (GRM) Women's and Children's Shelter had refused to help two 18-year-old girls referred for shelter on the grounds that they were still in school, but that she had heard at other times that students had been sheltered. Consensus was to ask about the GRM policies. Further consensus was that there is very little shelter for students 18-years-old and over; and that more emergency shelter spaces, including low demand shelter spaces, for homeless youth are urgently needed.

**Old Business/School liaisons cont'd.**

Laurie noted that the City of Tucson has offered to transfer properties to Our Family Services CUP program, but that the agency has been unable to accept because it cannot find funding for staff to operate those properties. Participants discussed the some possible strategies to obtain and operate such housing, including providing house parents with housing in lieu of salary, and collaborating to provide needed operating funds.

- **Next steps. a.)** Laurie will seek an appointment for committee representatives with Gospel Rescue Mission's executive director regarding their policies for sheltering students age 18 and over.

**b.)** Committee members will attend the YOTO liaison gathering as they are able.

- **Youth Guide.** Kevin noted that the committee published a youth guide, similar to the TPCCH *Need Help* pamphlet with Every Voice In Action some years ago, and noted that it would be a good idea to update and reissue such a guide, including only TPCCH voting members.

Irene Timms moved to update the Youth Guide and distributed it electronically. Yee Sun Armstrong seconded. **Motion passed.**

It was suggested that the committee further consider cost sharing to print copies of such a guide.

- **Next step.** Committee will consider sharing print costs at a future meeting.
- **Aging out of foster care.** Kevin reported that he has made contact with the State Committee on Youth Homelessness. He and Laurie are attending those meetings and will bring concerns and questions about the current information given to youth aging out of foster care about their access to mandated ongoing support services to that committee's attention.

He noted that youth who declined or are dropped from after-care benefits can go back and request those services within a deadline.

- **Committee name change.** Kevin reviewed the Executive Directors Workgroup suggestion that the committee change its name to Youth Committee to reflect the HEARTH Act emphasis on prevention. It was discussed late in the previous meeting, after a number of members had to leave. That discussion revealed strong objections to changing the name, and a desire to avoid inadvertently taking focus away from the issue. Those present wished, however, to hear from those who had to leave before the discussion. Further discussion revealed a consensus to retain the current name.

**3. New Business/Announcements.**

- **Upcoming YOTO events.** Jayne noted the following YOTO events: Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, a benefit yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at YOTO. They will also sell plates hot dogs & hamburgers; the school liaison meeting noted above; and the YOTO Student Holiday Party, Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Sunlight Chapel, near Grant and Silverbell Roads. The function is totally supported by donations. Members who serve YOTO students are asked to encourage them to attend.
- **Skrappy's Thanksgiving.** Kathy said that they have not yet decided whether the Skrappy's Thanksgiving meal will be at Skrappy's or at her house, but that some meal and event will be offered. Skrappy's youth and volunteers will meet Wednesday to decide. She suggested perhaps doing a number of season-turning outdoors events – cookouts or picnics – for homeless youth to acquaint them with local services.
  - **Next step.** Kathy will pass on information about the Skrappy's Thanksgiving event.
- **Homeless Services Event.** Laurie noted that she received an email regarding a group of students from the Pima County Community College SSE 210 Community Organization class who are organizing "A Hand up for the Homeless" at Santa Rita Park on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. They will have free food, music and entertainment available to individuals and families who are homeless, and invite other organizations to participate. The purpose of the event is to provide information to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
  - **Next steps. a.)** Laurie will email Settle Madden the contact for this event.

**New Business/Announcements cont'd.**

- **Eon's Annual Harvest Meal.** There will be a home-cooked meal at Eon Lounge prepared by volunteers from PFLAG and SAGA on November 22<sup>nd</sup> for however many youth care to attend. About 60 youth attended last year, and were able to carry out "to go" boxes. The meal is open to ages 13-23. Because the volunteers are adults, it is a multi-generational event with a home-like atmosphere. Starts at 5:30 p.m. at Eon Lounge, 430 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

The preceding week is Transgender Awareness Week with a range of events around town culminating on the 20<sup>th</sup> with Transgender Day of Remembrance at Catalina Park.

- **Next step.** Kevin will send the Eon calendar to committee members.

- **Financial Literacy.** A financial literacy workshop on how to open a checking account and keep savings funded by Management International and Consumer Credit Counseling Services will be next Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Open Inn 630 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **2011 Homeless Street Count.** Laurie noted that, as 2011 Homeless Street Count co-chair, she would like to see a number of youth volunteers involved with the count. The commitment requires are an approximately two-hour training plus 2-4 hours of evening counting, which will almost certainly include a short survey this year. Participation can be used as for community service hours. The count will be either Tuesday or Wednesday, January 25-26 2011. Kevin recommended that volunteers be at least 15 years old.

Laurie also noted that HUD's guidance suggests that, this year, persons up to age 24 be counted as youth.

4. **Next Meeting.** Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-10:30 a.m., at CUP, 3552 N. Stone Avenue.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Charlie Alcaraz	Sin Puertas-Pima Prevention Partnership	calcaraz@thepartnership.us
Yee Sun Armstrong	Open Inn	yarmstrong@openinn.org
Sarah Castelhana	YOTO	scastelhana@yoto.org
Kevin Jackson	Wingspan/Eon	kjackson@wingspan.org
Laurie Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Lucia Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory Academy	lcortiz@yahoo.com
Mary Beth Santillan	Amphi School District	mbsantillan@amphi.com
Kim Sisson	Stand Up For Kids	kim.sisson@comcast.net
Jayne Song-Gin	Youth On Their Own	song-gin@yoto.org
Irene Timms	La Paloma Family Services	irene@lapalomakids.org
Kathy Wooldridge	Skrappy's	skrappys@hotmail.com