
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

General Council Meeting

December 11, 2008 Minutes

Co-Chairs: Linda Kot, Dia Barney

<p>Next Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2009, 3:00-4:30 p.m. room 1108, Abrams Public Health Center 3950 S. Country Club Boulevard</p>
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1. **Minutes.** Mike Carmack moved and Val Quadros seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**
2. **Presentations:**
 - **Chairpersons' Report.**
 - **Handclaps.** The co-chairs offered thanks and congratulations to all the agencies and volunteers who are putting forth extra efforts to make the holidays special for those who are homeless and at-risk.
 - **John Enos Retirement.** The co-chairs noted that HUD's Arizona Officer John Enos plans to retire at the end of January. A presentation plaque from TPCH has been prepared and a card will be passed at the January meeting.
 - **Change next meeting date to January 15th.** Nick Jones moved that that the next TPCH General Council meeting be held one week later than usual, on January 15, 2009. Steve Nelson seconded. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**
 - **Transportation Grant Funds.** There is a total of \$13,235. To date, \$1,823 has been distributed in the form of 1,121 two-ride and 82 monthly bus passes. The goal for the funds is to serve 20 agencies. Ten agencies have been served to date. These funds may also be used for taxi rides or gas vouchers. Agencies applying for funds must match the amount of transportation funds requested.
 - **Next step:** The Transportation funding request packet will be emailed to the TPCH list serve again.
 - **Housing AZ Youth Demonstration Project.** Kevin Jackson reported. The Arizona Committee on Youth Homelessness was created this year to provide information to DES regarding youth homelessness and how to improve services to homeless youth. Meetings have included 40 agencies and government entities. Focus groups with youth have also been held. This work resulted in a proposal for the Housing Arizona Youth Demonstration Project. It will be a two-year project receiving \$1 million total each year. Each of Arizona's three continua of care will tailor the project to its specific needs. The money comes from state Housing Trust Funds, from which \$1 million for the state-wide effort has been allotted. A description of the demonstration project was distributed to participants.

The Governor's Council on Homelessness and the Governor's Council on Children have given support to the demonstration project. All three chairs of the Arizona Continua of Care agreed to a Survey Monkey survey for gathering feedback.

 - **Next step:** The project description and Survey Monkey link will be emailed to the TPCH list serve.
 - **Increase in Consumer Movements due to FMRs.** Deferred to the CoS Committee report.

Presentations cont'd.

- **Project Hospitality.** Don Blascak reported. He noted that there had been some confusion about the referral of clients to Project Hospitality, in which homeless men are housed and fed the evening meal at local faith congregations. He noted that candidates to participate in Project Hospitality must be clean and sober homeless men with identification and TB cards, who are on a case plan. They must continue to see their case manager weekly and remain compliant with their case plan while participating. Clients may be referred by phoning the Salvation Army, 520-622-5411, and speaking to Cindy Chandler or Lori Robinson. Project Hospitality is ideal for individuals awaiting benefits and/or transitional housing, or seeking affordable housing. There are waiting lists for both Project Hospitality, and One Step Beyond, a similar program for veterans only.

Acceptance into Project Hospitality is based on the case worker's recommendation and bed availability. Guests remain in the program as long as they are progressing on their case plan and seeing their case manager regularly. A guest can be removed from the program for misbehavior (such as openly using alcohol or drugs), or for abuse of the Project Hospitality privilege (such as abusing staff, volunteers, or the congregational facilities).

Case managers must submit a Project Hospitality Referral Form by fax to Salvation Army at 520-624-2960.

Copies of the form and presentation were made available to participants.

- **Next step:** Referral form will be distributed to the TPCH list serve and posted at www.tpch.org

4. Committee Reports

- **Emergency Services.** Don Blascak reported. He noted that it came to the committee's attention recently that one agency reported withholding blankets from clients who presented as intoxicated or high. He noted that TPCH is merely the custodian of the blankets, and that the Emergency Services Committee therefore presents the following motion: It is TPCH's policy that FEMA blankets are to be provided to all persons who are cold without restriction. Each agency agrees to this policy by accepting blankets for distribution,

Barbara Montrose and Pat Carnes seconded. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**

Don noted that the committee oversees three winter shelter programs: Project Hospitality, One Step Beyond (both of which are operating), and Operation Deep Freeze (which has not yet been called). Two new churches coming on to the Project Hospitality and One Step Beyond programs. He is additionally working with two congregations to allow Red Cross sheltering services for persons homeless because of emergencies, such as residential fires.

Case managers are sought to volunteer for Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) for two-week periods. Agencies must name a specific individual, who will be phoned when ODF is called. The goal is to invite ODF participants into services and case management. The case manager on duty visits the ODF shelter on ODF nights. Case managers are still needed for three of the six available coverage periods.

- **Continuum of Services.**
 - **CoC Consultant hiring.** Val Quadros reported. The CoC Consultant request for proposal has been posted since December 1st. Eleven applications have been received to date. The Committee therefore presents a motion that the General Council authorize the CoS Committee to interview and hire the 2009 CoC Consultant. It was noted that the interview and hiring process is open to all interested parties whether or not they are members of the CoS Committee. Barbara Montrose seconded the motion. **Motion passed with one abstention.**

Continuum of Services cont'd.

- **Consumer movements due to FMRs.** Barbara Montrose noted that in the month of October in Pima County alone, a total of 65 Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) clients – approximately one-quarter of participants – exceeded the FMRs by no more than 10% and did not have to relocate. As their leases come up for renewal and exceed the FMRs, they will be forced to relocate, causing unusual outlays from grant funds for moving expenses and deposits.

Ron Koenig noted that there are a number of rental companies with large vacancy problems and he is willing to connect CPSA and other agencies in touch with property management firms that are seeking to increase their occupancy rates.

Gary Bachman noted that the Pima County Housing Search administrator will be visiting Tucson this month and may be able to set up an improved search tool.

Barbara noted that FMRs are based on two-bedroom units, while many CPSA clients are specifically seeking one-bedroom units. Contact him at ron.koenig@tucsonaz.gov.

- **2009 Street Count.** Mary Pat Sullivan reported. The annual sheltered count will be held the evening of Tuesday, January 27th, and the Street Count on the morning of Wednesday, January 28th. The Street Count Work Group plans to do the usual observational count by quadrant plus do a pilot counting center at Primavera R&R. They have also discussed doing the Street Count in connection with Tucson Homeless Connect in 2010, and possibly providing satellite transportation sites. Leslie Carlson is researching best practices. There will be two, two-hour trainings centrally located. They are looking at doing a third, two-hour training in the northwest of the metropolitan area to help get a better count of the many homeless persons who appear to have moved into that area.

The new co-chair is Laurie Mazerbo of Our Family Services.

Don reported that the 2010 census will include a pre-dawn canvass of homeless persons, and asked whether the group has considered working with the Census Bureau. The work group has discussed doing so.

- **HMIS.** Karen Caldwell reported. Implementation is moving along well. Approximately 500 clients have been entered to date with good data quality. Permanent Supportive Housing Programs were trained this week. In January or February, there will be an HMIS demonstration at the General Council meeting. The HMIS User Group meets tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. in the Kino Service Center Computer Lab. All agencies should encourage all staff who are using the system to attend.

The next HMIS Committee meeting is January 22, 2009 at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Avenue.

- **Discharge Planning.** Nick Jones reported. The committee may not meet again until January. Please watch the weekly announcement
- **Education.** Theresa Ragsdale reported. She noted that the committee has received a letter from in-kind sponsor Comcast, which aired a promotion for the 2008 Annual Conference 417 from August 8th to 22nd, to more than 8,000 homes. Comcast notes that they are interested in doing so again in the coming year. The committee is working on the theme for the 2009 conference, Friday, September 25th.

The next meeting is Monday, December 29th at the Primavera Foundation, 702 S. 6th Avenue.

Committee Reports cont'd.

- **Homeless Youth.** The last meeting was December 5th. The committee chose November 14th 2009 as the date for the next runaway prevention month event, and June 2009 as the target date for the Interagency Program Training for school McKinney-Vento representatives. The committee is seeking a room at a school or public library that is cost-free.

The next meeting is January 2, 2009, 9:00 – 10:00 pm at La Paloma Family Services Menninger Community Center 240 W. Navajo Road.

The Young Adult Guide (YAG) group will meet January 14th, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Intermountain at Broadway and Pantano. Jessica Gunnell is gathering information for the planned online guide. If you haven't been contacted, please email tucsonyag@gmail.com

- **Membership.** Adam Ragsdale reported. The committee has sent out four reminder letters to agencies that have lagged in General Council attendance. He reminded all agencies that have not yet done so to fill out membership forms to update the TPCH Member List.
- **PTEH.** Linda Kot reported. The current chair has resigned, so a new chair or co-chairs, as well as additional members are needed. Interim co-chairs are in place. During January, the committee will assist with the initial meeting of the PTEH Task Force and with the Annual Homeless Street Count. She noted that the Committee is the liaison between TPCH and the PTEH Task Force.

The next meeting is February 12, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Sentinel Building.

- **Tucson Homeless Connect.** Don Blascak reported. The next meeting is December 18th. 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Pantano Room, City Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

The committee is currently concentrating on lining up the providers, and meeting the providers' needs for privacy, in order to properly set up the facilities at Trinity Presbyterian Church. They are also seeking from agencies that cannot attend: resources, such as brochures; and or material contributions such as comfort kits. He noted that the Gospel Rescue Mission has offered to upgrade the personal computer system on Trinity's north side in order to assist both the church and the Tucson Homeless Connect activities.

Trinity has taken on Mentoring Kids USA and SISTERS Project guidance and Counseling of female ex-offenders.

5. **Announcement.** The Tucson Homeless Memorial. Friday 19th 4-5:30 Pauper's Field, Evergreen Cemetery, Everyone encouraged to attend.
6. **Next Meeting.** The next General Council meeting will be Thursday, January 15th, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in room 1108 of the Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Boulevard.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance:

Gary	Bachman	Pima County CDNC	gbachman@pima.gov
Jodie	Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Dia	Barney	COPE	dbarney@copebhs.com
Don	Blascak	American Red Cross	dblasca@comcast.net
Lori	Block	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Charley	Bowker	Family Promise Tucson	bowksaz@msn.com
David	Buer, ofm	Franciscans	
Jane	Burch	New Beginnings for Women and Children	jburch@nbwtucson.org
Karen	Caldwell	Primavera Foundation	kcaldwell@primavera.org

Attendance cont'd.

Beth	Carey	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Leslie	Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lacarlson@cox.net
Mike	Carmack	Transitional Living Communities	macarmack@yahoo.com
Pat	Carnes	COMPASS Health Care	pcarnes@compasshc.org
Annie	Crandall	A New Hope for Tucson	anniecran@comcast.net
Eric	Cross	CODAC	ecross@codac.org
Liz	Crump	Our Family Services	
Kelly	Evans	Emerge!	kellye@emergecenter.org
Lavonne	Gaddy	City of Tucson	
Anna	Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention Services	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Gail	Gibbons	Arizona Department of Economic Security	ggibbons@azdes.gov
Meghan	Gilliland	Emerge!	mgilliland@tucsoncenters.org
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Olivia	Gutzman	CPSA	olivia.gutzman@cpsa-rbha.org
Andy	Hall	Arizona Department of Economic Security	jahall@azdes.gov
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
John A.	Hudson	Pima County CDNC	jhudson@pima.gov
Kevin	Jackson	Our Family Services	kjackson@ourfamilyservices.org
Nick	Jones	Old Pueblo Community Services	nickjones@helptucson.org
Ron	Koenig	City of Tucson	ron.koenig@tucsonaz.gov
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Don	Logue	Symmetric Solutions	dlogue@symmetricsolutions.com
Jeffrey	Lopez	A New Hope for Tucson	anewhope1@cox.net
Mattie	Lord	Arizona Department of Economic Security	mlord@azdes.gov
Mark	Ludwig	Arizona Department of Housing	markl@housingaz.com
Bill	Magnotto	La Frontera, Inc.	bmagnotto@lafrontera.org
Kira	Maynard	New Beginnings for Women & Children	kmaynard@nbwctucson.org
Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
John	McGurk	Transitional Living Communities	tlctucson@gmail.com
Red	Mehle	Transitional Living Communities	
Araceli	Mendoza	McKinney-Vento Rep., Sunnyside SD	
Rosanna	Mendoza	TMM Family Services, Inc.	rrodriguez@tmmfs.org
Barbara	Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@cpsa-rbha.org
Steve	Nelson	Jackson Employment/Pima County	snelson@pima.gov
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	
Renée	Peyton	Pima County Health Department	renee.peyton@pima.gov
Val	Quadros	La Frontera	vquadros@lafrontera.org
Adam	Ragsdale	Primavera Foundation	aragsdale@primavera.org
Theresa	Ragsdale	Primavera Foundation	tragsdale@primavera.org
Scott	Rich	Symmetric Solutions	hmissupport@gmail.com
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Phyllis	Russell	Esperanza en Escalante	prussell@eee.tuccoxmail.com
Chad	Sanders	The Giving Tree	
Patti	Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Comin' Home	mpsullivan@cominhome.org
Ken	Walker	PPP/CoC Consultant	kwalker@thepartnership.org

