
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Continuum of Services Committee

February 25, 2009 Minutes

Chairs: Susanna Rodriguez, Val Quadros

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pantano Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Lp.

Report to TPCH General Meeting March 12th

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Report on 2008 CoC Awards■ City request for assistance in planning economic stimulus funds expenditures■ Report on NAEH Family Homelessness Conference |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Minutes of the January meeting were approved by consensus.

3. **2008 CoC Awards.**

- **Awards announcement.** The 2008 Continuum of Care (CoC) awards have been announced. TPCH's applications for the Bonus Samaritan Project and Rapid Re-housing Project were not funded. Susanna Rodriguez reported that she has had a conference call with the Arizona HUD representatives, who do not yet have TPCH's applications scores and are unsure when the scores will be available. The representatives were unaware of why the Samaritan Bonus Project was not funded. Susanna noted that TPCH's Rapid Re-housing Project application was one of 212 applications, of which only 23 were funded.

It was noted that Shelter Plus Care projects received decreased funding based on the lowered fair market rental rates in Pima County, while leasing projects received a 4% cost-of-living increase (which had not been applied during the past 10 years.)

Beth Carey noted that the total of awards within the TPCH continuum increased by \$24,517 over the previous year.

Participants discussed whether money from the recently enacted economic stimulus package would result in future HUD awards. Steve Nelson noted that most of economic recovery monies will go to local jurisdictions and must be spent by September 2011. This would appear to make funding of new, ongoing programs unlikely because the funding would not be sustainable. Susanna noted that the Ron Koenig, from the city, and others have put forth the idea of having a group from TPCH work with the City and County to plan how to use the expected economic stimulus monies.

- **Next step.** Susanna will present Ron Koenig's idea at General Council and seek volunteers to work in a committee or workgroup with the city and county regarding economic stimulus expenditure planning.
- **Feedback sessions.** Susanna reported that HUD has emailed an announcement of teleconference feedback sessions on the electronic application process as follows: Tuesday, March 17th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., for Continuum of Care representatives; and Wednesday, March 18th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. for project applicants. It is assumed that stated times are for the Eastern Standard Time zone. Each continuum feedback session is limited to 20 participants. Two representatives from each agency are allowed in the project applicants' session.

Participants discussed their views of the electronic application process, and how TPCH and its members can best participate in the feedback sessions

- **Next steps:** a.) Susanna will represent TPCH at the continuum feedback session.
b.) Susanna will contact HUD to ask them to register for TPCH participants and host the feedback sessions so the maximum number of individuals can listen.

3. **2009 Homeless Street Count.** Mary Pat Sullivan reported. The preliminary report shows an overall increase of homeless persons of 22%, from 1,108 in 2008 to 1,348 in 2009, despite the fact that Operation Deep Freeze was in effect on the preceding night. One question is currently being answered, which may increase the final number by up to 10 individuals. A narrative report has been outlined but is not yet complete.

She noted that Street Count volunteers offered the following recommendations for helping the community cope with this increase their debriefing meeting: increase volunteerism year-round to meet needs; increase efforts to inform the community about the Street Count and homelessness in general; hold general volunteer orientations throughout the year; and increase basic needs availability, perhaps through faith-based or TPCB media campaigns.

She added that the debriefing also produced the following recommendations for next year's Street Count: institute flexible start and end time to allow urban teams to begin before dawn, while teams with quadrants composed largely of washes and campsites after dawn; continue to increase both the total number of volunteers, and the number of homeless and formerly homeless street-wise volunteers; identify Team Leaders and make team assignments earlier; and consider a second count in summer.

4. **2009 Application Preparation.** Sally Dodds reported.

- **Preparation Status.** Sally distributed a status report on application preparation. LeCroy & Milligan has issued a call for APRs and logic models, and received 13 of the expected 24. Steve Nelson noted that many projects would currently be using the same logic model as was submitted with the previous application. APRs are due at various times and may or may-not be the same as were used in the previous year. Sally stated that it is best to have both documents electronically. Due to the fact that the HUD electronic application restricts the user's view of material submitted, they may not be available from the application. Sally noted that when they plugged the APRs received into the appropriate spreadsheet, there were discrepancies in the way the spreadsheet automatically computed percentages and the percentages as calculated in the original documents.
 - **Next steps.** Sally will send another request to HUD grant recipients for electronic submission of their logic models and most recent APRs.
- **PIT Surveys.** Sally noted that there are two remaining non-responders to the point-in-time shelter survey: Comin' Home and The Giving Tree. Mary Pat agreed to submit Comin' Home's survey by end-of-business on Friday. Linda Kot noted that she cleared up the misunderstanding by Giving Tree's Libby Wright about address submission (Agency address is fine. Addresses of domestic violence shelters are not required.) When both PIT survey numbers are in, the CoC consultants can begin work on the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) and gaps analysis.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Dia Barney will contact Libby to ask that she submit the Giving Tree shelter survey by end-of-business on Friday.
 - **b.)** TPCB Administrative Coordinator will email Sally the final Street Count numbers.
- **Timeline.** A timeline for this year's application preparation was distributed and discussed. Sally asked about the committee would like the gaps analysis process to be conducted this year. Participants discussed the issue. It was noted that while the HUD application actually calculates a gap based on the number of available shelter beds versus the number of homeless persons, the gaps analysis process can be valuable for planning and refining services.
 - **Next step.** The gaps analysis process will be discussed at the March CoS Committee meeting.
- **Review Committee.** It was noted that HUD requires the continuum to review and rank projects.
 - **Next step.** Susanna will contact last year's CoC consultants for the list of review committee members.
- **HIC.** The co-chairs and CoC consultant will meet regarding the Review Committee and the HIC on Tuesday. Sally reported that she understands there were errors in the 2008 HIC.

- 5. Social Security Number (SSN) Verification.** Beth noted that all federally-funded housing programs except Shelter Plus Care (SPC), Supported Housing Projects (SHP), and Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) have received notification from HUD that participants must have either U.S. citizenship or legal immigration status, and that agencies must verify clients' SSNs. Everyone should be aware of the ruling, and the fact that it might be extended to the currently excluded programs. It was noted that at least one agency has heard from a possessor of a "green card", that the individual believes herself excluded from Section 8 because she is not a citizen. It will be important for TPCH to verify that programs understand that legal immigrants are eligible.

- **Next step.** Beth will forward the link to the federal register announcement to the TPCH Administrative Coordinator for distribution.

- 6. State/Local Budget Cuts.** Leslie Carlson requested brief reports from participants about how they are being impacted by these budget cuts. Steve Nelson noted that the Pima County administrator has said that the county's Outside Agency funding will be cut this year.

Jennifer Andersen noted that New Beginnings for Women & Children's transitional housing clients will be severely impacted for DES cuts. The elimination of child care for some income levels and increase in co-pay for the lowest income levels may make it impossible for some of these clients to continue working and remain in the transitional housing program. Linda Kot noted that the Primavera Foundation is seeing the same thing. Beth added that, for programs where a client can remain in housing while not employed, either additional subsidies will be needed or fewer people will be served. Barbara Montrose noted that, due to DES budget cuts, CPSA service agencies can no longer provide many needed and helpful services to people with behavioral health coverage who are not officially classified as seriously mentally ill.

The consensus was that agencies are seeing more newly homeless persons, especially families, and need to adjust the ways in which they address this population, which is significantly different from the longer term homeless population. There appear to be increases in the numbers of homeless youth and homeless veterans, too.

It was noted that the local FEMA Board will have increased funding this year, but does not plan on taking new applications. Homeless Veterans Reintegration funding is also increasing.

Participants discussed the fact that approximately \$1.5 billion (roughly nine or 10 times the currently funding level) was included in the economic recovery legislation for homeless prevention, and re-housing. The funding will be distributed through the existing ESG grant system. Leslie emphasized that the legislation requires the use of HMIS, giving TPCH a huge opportunity to work collaboratively, and emphasized the value of forming a committee to work with the city/county to plan the best use for economic stimulus ESG funds. Mary Pat noted that TPCH must show that planning and service delivery is done in a unified way, without duplication of services, to all funding sources.

- **Next steps. a.)** Val will send the DES budget cuts breakdown to Settle who will distribute to list serve.

b.) Linda, Jennifer, Beth, and Dia will volunteer for the joint TPCH-City/County work group on planning for ESG needs and expenditures.

- 7. National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference on Families.** Jennifer Andersen reported on this conference held recently in San Diego. She noted that funding and planning for the ESG funds in the economic stimulus package was a major conference discussion point. She attended a workshop on a HUD-commissioned study, received but not yet published by HUD, on the efficacy of transitional housing (TH) programs. The charge was to examine programs in six or seven cities by following 300 TH clients. The basic finding was that, overall, TH works about 86% of the time. The factors having the greatest impact on TH clients' success were the local job market, and the length of time a client was homeless. The longer an individual was homeless, the less likely he or she was to succeed through a TH program. The study found that personal barriers (such as substance abuse) were not predictive of whether the client would succeed.

8. Old Business.

- **Goals and objectives.** Deferred to March.

9. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 25th, Pantano Room, City of Tucson Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Jennifer Andersen	New Beginning for Women & Children	jandersen@nbwctucson.org
Lori Block	ICH	Lori.block@ichtucson.org
Beth Carey	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lacarlson@cox.net
Sally Dodds	LeCroy & Milligan, CoC Consultants	sally@lecroymilligan.com
Kelly Evans	Emerge!	kellye@emergecenter.org
Linda Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Michael Mandel	Primavera Foundation	mmandel@primavera.org
Barbara Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@cpsa-rbha.org
Steven Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov
Val Quadros	La Frontera	vquadros@lafrontera.org
Susanna Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Mary Pat Sullivan	Comin' Home	mpsullivan@cominhome.org
Steve Wind	LeCroy & Milligan, CoC Consultants	steven@lecroymilligan.com